



Making hospital a happier place for children through play and advocacy

Annual Report 2019

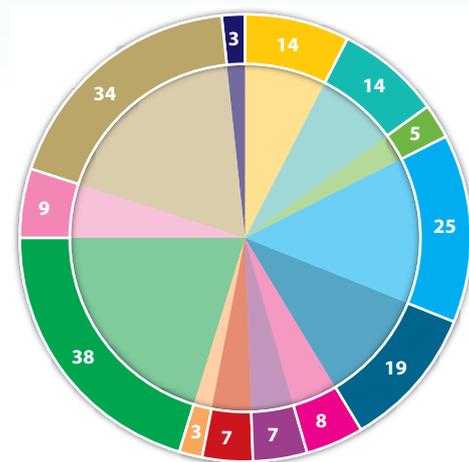
VOLUNTEER PLAY SERVICE

Volunteer Update

485 volunteers at 31 December 2019 186 new volunteers placed in 2019

Volunteers placed 2019

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ● Mayo | ● Cork | ● Sligo |
| ● Galway | ● Kilkenny | ● Crumlin |
| ● Drogheda | ● Limerick | ● Tallaght |
| ● Wexford | ● Waterford | ● Temple Street |
| | | ● NRH |



38 new shifts, covering evenings and weekends, were added to Children in Hospital Ireland's play and recreation services in hospitals across Ireland during 2019. Much of this expansion is thanks to a grant received from the **DM Thomas Foundation**.

Just Ask Volunteer Service at CHI at Crumlin:

From January to December 2019 our volunteers assisted with 9,577 "asks"



BLANCHARDSTOWN UPDATE

The new Paediatric Outpatient and Urgent Care Centre at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown opened on 31 July 2019. Ten daytime volunteers have been available to welcome families and to help create a more relaxed atmosphere as children wait to receive services.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

Our Volunteer Appreciation Day took place in Richmond Barracks on 15 June 2019. It was a fantastic day of sunshine, laughter, and new ideas. The day featured two workshops – one on the theme ‘Enhancing Play Volunteering to Work with Teens’, developed in conjunction with volunteers and Foróige, and the other on ‘Communication Skills for Play with Children with Communication Challenges’, delivered by Speech and Language Therapist, Moyna Noble.

TEEN PROJECT

In 2019 we placed a focus on working with teens in hospital with the support of a grant from the Dublin Bus Community Spirit Awards scheme. We worked in partnership with Foróige Youth Service to develop a short training programme for volunteers. We also bought teen friendly resource material to distribute to the hospitals.

We hope that this renewed emphasis on teens in hospital will bring a renewed set of skills and resources to the young people in hospital and will aid in providing a response to some of the findings in the Joining the Dots survey. [Link to view survey results](#)

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS

Children in Hospital Ireland has embarked on a process of quality assuring our volunteer processes and procedures through engagement the Investing in Volunteers award scheme. This will be a 12 month process and we hope to complete it in summer 2020.



RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND NETWORKS

RESEARCH: CHILDHOOD ILLNESS, FINANCIAL STRESS

In May, we commenced research into the non-medical costs to parents of having a child in hospital. The study involved an on-line survey of parents (to which there were 317 responses), as well as interviews with parents, social workers in CHI at Crumlin, CHI at Temple St and Sligo University Hospital, and staff in childhood illness support groups. The report of the study will be launched in 2020.

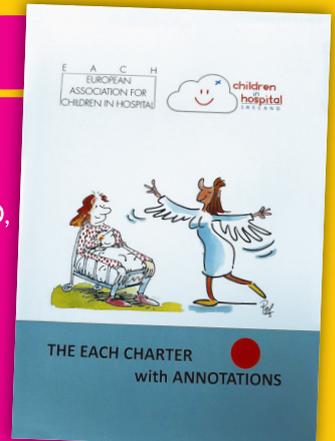
Network of Childhood Illness Organisations

Under the What Works Network Support Fund we set up a Network of Childhood Illness organisations. This is now an established network with the mutual purpose of sharing knowledge and experiences to maximise our capacity and bring an added value to our work. The network will meet approximately four times per year.



EACH

In October 2019, Anna Gunning, CEO, and Maura Lavelle, Marketing & Development Manager, attended the committee meeting and conference of the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH). Children in Hospital Ireland will host the EACH committee meeting in 2020.



ANNUAL LECTURE

The 2019 Annual Lecture was held in April, the theme being 'The Experience of Teens in Hospital'. The main presentation, by Adam Harris from AsIAm, was followed by responses from a panel of speakers. The event was well attended and provided valuable insights for our continuing work on services for teens in hospital.



AGM 2019

Our AGM was held in September in the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital. It was followed by a presentation on a memoir project by 'Fighting Words' and the Dublin Dockers Project and a talk by Mary O'Connor, former CEO, on the history of Children in Hospital Ireland and her memories of working for the organisation. This was to set the scene for marking our 50-year anniversary in 2020.



TOWARDS OUR 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1970-2020



START OF MEMOIR

This project commenced in the second half of 2019 and will culminate with the publication and launch of our Memoir – stories from the past five decades. The process involves contacting and meeting with as many

as possible former members, volunteers and hospital staff along with current members and associates to share some of their memories and experiences. ([Link to Irish Times article](#))

REACH & COMMUNICATIONS:

Our facebook page has 6,367 followers – with an average increase of four new followers per week. Our followers liked, reacted, commented or shared our stories 25,600 times during 2019.

Our twitter followers have grown significantly since 2018 and now number 1,282. In 2019 our tweets made over 80,000 impressions.

PR activity resulted in:

- 1 TV interview on RTE Six One News
- 4 x features in national press: 2 x Irish Times, The Sun & The Journal.ie
- 4 x features in regional press
- 4 x regional radio interviews



Income	€
Government and Public Grants	€129,809
Other Grants	€90,548
Donations & Fundraising	€55,293
Membership	€6,763
Other	€683
Total Income	€283,096
Expenditure	€
Cost of Raising Funds	€3,805
Activities and Programmes	€39,211
Staff Costs	€187,931
Other Staff Costs	€2,656
Office Costs	€32,110
Professional Fees	€7,931
Governance	€3,676
IT & Communications	€2,723
Total Expenditure	€280,043



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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