



ANNUAL REPORT 2013 & 2014

CONTENTS

CEO's Review - <i>Ms. Mary Flaherty</i>	01
Chairman's Remarks - <i>Mr. Richard P. Treacy</i>	03
Clinical Services - <i>Ms. Monica Murphy</i>	
Therapy	04
Helpline	09
CASS	13
CASATS	17
Advocacy & Media Report	19
Fundraising Highlights	22
Statement of Accounts	27

CEO'S REVIEW 2013-2014

Ms. Mary Flaherty

EMERGING FROM RECESSION AND ITS IMPACTS

Looking back over 2013 and 2014, they were years marked by recession and impossibly difficult budgetary pressures. CARI, since the onset of the recession in 2009, had attempted to maintain services and staffing at the maximum level possible and minimise cuts. Despite that, cuts to both were on-going and cash flow and security were a constant threat. In 2013, the board was advised clinically by therapy staff of the need to ensure security for the work with our vulnerable child clients and the staff; even if at reduced level. The Board decided to return to a policy of retention of a cash reserve which it had had pre-recession. The Board also decided to utilise contract therapists around a core of CARI therapists to allow increased clinical output and capacity to respond to fluctuations in income.

THERAPY PROVISION REDUCED

The impact of all these cuts are clearly seen in the clinical statistics with significant reductions in therapy hours being provided by CARI over both years covered in this report. However, both fundraising and statutory income seem to have stabilised and some growth in private income has been evident in these years. CARI is hopeful that 2015 will see an increase in therapy hours provided and clients seen.

HELPLINE STABLE

CARI's National Helpline continued to provide support to over 1500 callers each year, emerging relatively unaffected from the recession. Indeed, one of the positive impacts was the availability of very high quality helpline staff via the CE scheme and some first class volunteers. We were lucky to attract many fine volunteers to many services, such as Therapy and Helpline; and to develop our first fully volunteer delivered service, namely the Child Advocates service to support young victims of sexual abuse and their families when they attend for Forensic Medical Examination and Treatment.

ACCOMPANIMENT SERVICES GROW

Indeed, against a general background of cuts and reduced funding, CARI is delighted to report steady growth in numbers of children being supported as witnesses in court via our Court Accompaniment Support Service (CASS). 2013-14 witnessed the launch of a new service which attracted new revenue streams against the general trend. We are now offering an accompaniment service supporting children attending the Child and Adolescent Sexual Assault and Treatment Unit in Galway (CASATS). Led by CARI staff, it is fully delivered locally by local volunteers. In addition, it represents a welcome reversal of the geographic consolidation necessitated by the recession which saw CARI withdraw from offering outreach in Cork, Navan and Wicklow in 2010 to concentrating all resources in Dublin and Limerick since 2012.

CHANGING ENVIRONMENT - ESTABLISHMENT OF TUSLA

CARI welcomed the formation of Tusla and attended the meetings held by Gordon Jeyes with the Community and Voluntary Forum. CARI also participated in the Ferns 4 Working Group and later Implementation Group tasked with developing a plan for a comprehensive services for child victims. While actively participating in its deliberations, CARI continued to question the viability of making any improvement to the fragments and undeveloped service on a resource neutral basis which was the stated parameter in which the above committees operated. It is not a surprise that the result was stagnation and indeed reduction in services. However, hopefully the work of these committees may mean that we will be in a good position to attract development funding in future services plans. We have, in 2015, agreed to be part of the new National Steering Group for Sexual Abuse Services and we are active in a working group trying to agree on an appropriate response to historic allegations of abuse; a group that includes the adult services and the statutory sector to name just two of our collaborations.

CARI AND BETTER OUTCOMES - BRIGHTER FUTURES

At end of 2014, CARI commenced drafting a new strategic plan. During 2014, the government produced the first overarching policy frame work for children and young people aged 0 to 24 years. Entitled "Better Outcomes Brighter Futures 2014-2020", the purpose of the Framework is to co-ordinate policy to achieve better outcomes. It behoves all of us in the voluntary sector to take note and operate within this framework.

In particular, it establishes new cross government structures to realise improved coordination of policies and services for children and young people. CARI, in its new strategy, is committed to "connect" as envisaged in the policy, nationally and locally, to use all of our resources to effectively support children informed by a shared vision. We have - in the spirit of the policy - agreed to be part of the new National Steering Group for Sexual Abuse Services and we are active in a working group trying to agree on an appropriate response to historic allegations of abuse; a group that includes the adult services and the statutory sector to name just two of our collaborations



CARI AT THE CENTRE OF NEW CSA SERVICE?

In addition, we look forward to our therapy centres in Dublin and Limerick becoming a central part of a national network of specialised therapeutic services for child victims. We hope to revive our outreach programmes to reach areas not now served by any specialised service. CARI's Helpline, Advocacy and Outreach Training programme aim at earlier intervention and prevention, the primary objective of the Government Policy.

QUALITY AND OUTCOMES WILL BE KEY

We will seek to ensure that all elements of this policy find expression in our new strategic plan. We welcome working with others to agree quality and outcomes measures to ensure that our services are high quality, effective, efficient and trusted. Our service is founded on a deep respect for children's resilience and ability to heal and we will work hard to ensure that we maintain a culture that listens to and involves children and that respect, protects and fulfils the rights of children; thus embodying all key elements of "Better Outcomes Brighter Futures" into our own strategic plan and work.

To conclude, 2013 was an extremely difficult year and I thank all staff for working with and simultaneously challenging the way CARI was negotiating the recession. What emerged by 2014 was a decision to have a smaller but more financially secure CARI, providing certainty and safety for staff and our vulnerable clients. Thanks to the staff and all who worked with me through this difficult time. **As our Chair, Mr Richard P. Treacy, finally retires after such an extended period as a Member and Chair of the Board. I would like to put on record my own thanks to him for his loyal and devoted service to CARI. He steered it through good times and bad and gave unstintingly of his own time, talent and experience. His seriousness and purpose and commitment of time are a model for Board members in any sector.** He and I also give credit to the other Board Members for their often thankless, usually challenging but critical supporting role.

**Mary Flaherty BA, H Dip Ed, MSc in Psychoanalysis
CEO**

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

RICHARD P. TREACY



In 2012, I announced my intention to resign from the board having served over ten years as Chairman and longer as a member. However, I deferred implementing that decision as I wished to hand over the organisation in a stable financial and organisational state. At the end of 2014, I can safely say that that has been achieved and I am finally relinquishing the role of Chairman of CARI at the forthcoming AGM.

I look back with pride on the development of the organisation from a volunteer provided service to a professional therapy organisation; employing over 30 staff at its height and supporting two CE schemes; providing opportunity for another 30 trainees in all parts of the organisation and offering CARI a chance to punch above our weight in the voluntary sector.

While the need was always greater than the resources available to meet the demand, thousands of children and families have been supported throughout the trauma of child sexual abuse in the unique CARI way - child centred, non-directive and systemic. I am also reducing my other charitable activities at this time and I wish CARI the very best in the future. Again, I record my thanks to all who made it happen, Board members, past and present, management over the period and the staff and volunteers. I'll remember especially the wonderful, resilient child clients who can and do move from the darkness of their abuse experience to the light of normal childhood development.

Mr Richard P. Treacy Chairman CARI



FORMER NATIONAL CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF CARI APPOINTED AS NEW OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN

In February 2015, former National Clinical Director of CARI Dr. Niall Muldoon was appointed as the new Ombudsman for Children. Dr Muldoon was previously the Director of Investigations at the Ombudsman for Children's Office.

There had been 97 applications for the post, with Muldoon being chosen by the Public Appointments Service. Children were directly involved in the final assessment and interview of shortlisted candidates.

He is a registered clinical and counselling psychologist and has worked in the area of child protection for nearly 20 years.

STAFF (CEO's Office)

- Mary Flaherty - BA, H Dip Ed, MSc in Psychoanalysis
CEO
- Fiona Reeves - Accounts Technician
- Nuala Duffy - PA (CE Participant)
- Rita Boyle - PA (Volunteer)
- Sinéad Dockery - Press and Information Officer
(CE Participant)
- Adare HRM - External HR

General Staff

Housekeeping and Maintenance is provided to a high standard by CE trainees John Byrne and Elaine Fleming in Dublin and Michael Cussen, John Finn and Delia Sheridan in Limerick.

CLINICAL SERVICES

THERAPY

CHILDREN AND FAMILY IN CARI – REFERRAL PROCESSES

Children are referred to CARI for post assessment therapy by a variety of referrers, statutory and private. Three core criteria must be met before the child commences therapy. The child must be safe from all ongoing abuse, must wish to attend and must have a supportive ally in the process which can be challenging. CARI is focused on healing the hurt of child sexual abuse and is not involved in assessment or evidence gathering.

The therapeutic intervention may take place in a variety of ways, depending on the needs of the child and his/her family:

- Individual work with the child/young person
- Individual work with the parent/carer
- Dyad, triad or family sessions
- Group work with children/young people
- Group work with parents/carers

CARI strives to provide, in so far as is possible, separate therapists for family members attending the service. The therapists come together after each session to review the work to date and to plan for the next session.

THE CHILD AND THE CARI WAY

The therapeutic process enables the child, or young person, to make sense of his/her experiences, become aware of the impact on themselves, connect with their ways of coping, and begin the process of integration, thus allowing healing to occur. The uses of creative mediums facilitate the child's recovery.

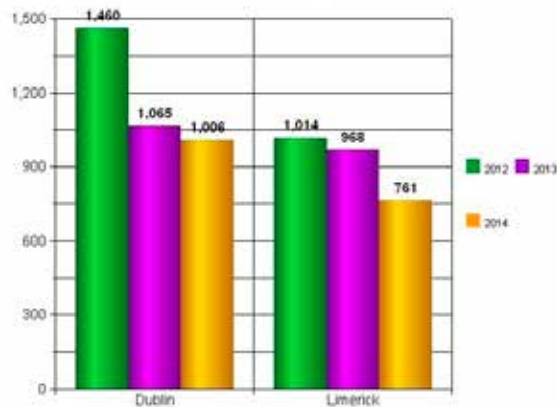
The developmental needs of the child are always considered and the intervention is developed using age-appropriate language and activities. Therapy with children is facilitated using a variety of mediums e.g. play, art, drama and sandplay. In the safety of the therapy sessions, these media allow the child to express symbolically some of their fears and feelings about their experiences and to find suitable ways to integrate them. Play is a powerful medium for children to process traumatic and confusing experiences, in keeping with their stage of development.

The child determines the pace of the work and the child's needs determine the agenda and mediums utilised. Healing occurs in the context of the relationship between the child and the therapist. Therapy addresses any unresolved issues and areas of distress or conflict in the child's life.

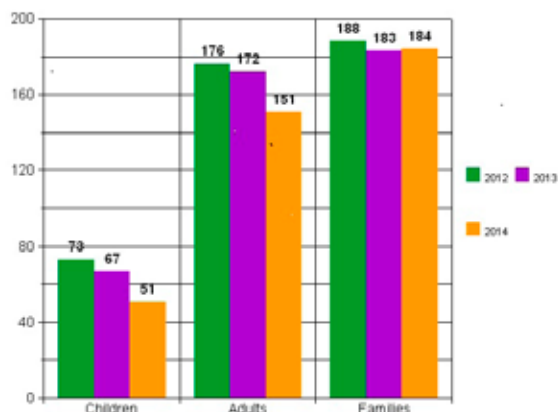
THERAPY STATISTICS 2013/2014

The following graph of Therapy Hours for 2012, 2013 and 2014 shows that there was an 18% drop in therapy hours provided between 2012 and 2013. There was a further 13% drop between 2013 and 2014. This gave an overall drop of almost 29%. As a result, we were forced to offer significantly less therapy hours due to staff reductions and thus, had waiting lists in both Dublin and Limerick. It is unacceptable that children who have been abused can be waiting up to 12 months due to the cutbacks referred to earlier.

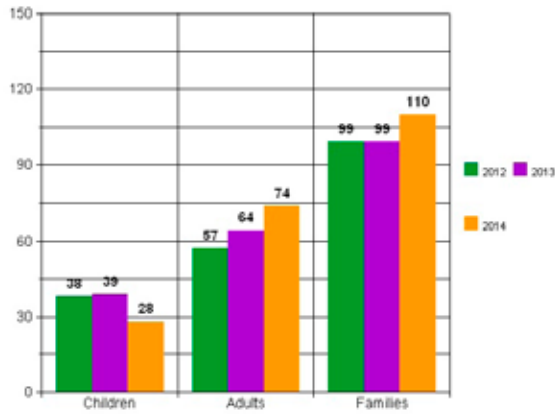
National Therapy Appointments



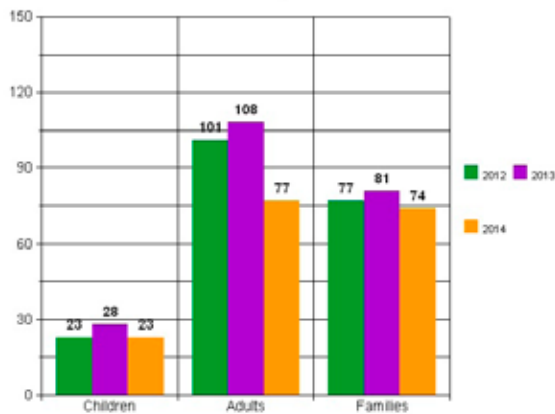
National Client Attendance Dublin & Limerick



Attendance of Children, Adults & Families Dublin



Attendance of Children, Adults & Families Limrick



ISSUES ARISING IN THERAPY 2013 / 2014

THE JUSTICE SYSTEM CONTINUES TO FAIL VICTIMS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

CARI has always endeavoured to be a voice for their child clients and there have been a significant number of clients and families expressing dissatisfaction with their experience of the legal system. When sexual abuse occurs the child victim may be the only witness and the child's statements may be the only evidence. Child sexual abuse cases can be very difficult to prove largely because cases where corroborating evidence exists are the exception rather than the rule.

DELAYS IN COURT PROCEEDINGS IMPACT VERY SEVERELY ON CHILDREN

As a result, only a small percentage of child sexual abuse cases ever get as far as trial and when they do children find it a very difficult process. The legal system repeatedly fails to recognise the needs of child witnesses or to implement the necessary reforms to bring about improvements for vulnerable children. This is even more pronounced when the child involved has special needs or mental health issues.

The delays getting cases to court leave children waiting and worrying for a significant proportion of their young life, at a crucial stage for their emotional, social and cognitive development. The psychological effects on children are often profound and include nightmares, self-harm, and suicidal ideation, inability to concentrate in school and constant fear and dread of the upcoming trial. This is often compounded by delays and postponements of trials.

“My life is on hold, it’s holding me back moving on with the next chapter of my life.”

Client aged 14.

MANDATORY SPECIALIST TRAINING FOR JUDGES NEEDED

As adults we often find courts a frightening experience. The fear for children of seeing the alleged offender in court is often terrifying and cannot be underestimated. Children are then subjected to gruelling cross examinations by defence barristers for a long period. The defence lawyer can discredit the child's evidence, yet the child has no legal representation. Clients constantly share their fears and experiences of the legal system and unfortunately not many are positive.



In all other professions, adults who work with children must undertake training and abide by ethical codes for the treatment of children. The needs of children who have experienced child sexual abuse and the requirements of justice for all needs be advanced. The Irish Criminal Justice system is an adversarial system and the victim is not directly a party to the proceedings.

Although it has improved in recent years and some recognition may have been given to victims' rights it is far largely geared towards the rights of the alleged offender.



“The cross examination was worse than the rape.”

Client aged 16.

DPP DEMANDS RELEASE OF CHILD THERAPY NOTES

During these years, there was growing pressure from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to release confidential child therapy notes. The release of therapy records is contrary to CARI's best clinical opinion. This situation has become very concerning as such requests have become routine practice rather than in exceptional cases, as was the case in the past.

RELEASE OF NOTES A FURTHER VIOLATION OF THE CHILD

CARI has been campaigning on the issue of client confidentiality for many years. CARI believe to allow the alleged abuser's legal team access to these private files is a further violation of the child. CARI is committed to protecting the child's right to privacy and healing. CARI is a therapeutic, post assessment service and is never part of the evidential information gathering process. CARI's contract with clients does not include release of records to Third Parties. Psychotherapy/Counselling notes are subjective third party records of private and confidential sessions. These notes are not recorded with the purpose of gathering evidence.

RELEASE OF NOTES SHOULD BE EXCEPTIONAL

In exceptional circumstances, CARI has on occasion deferred to our client's wish to have therapy notes released to the DPP in criminal proceedings, not with standing our general policy on release. For CARI these exceptions are informed by consideration of the client's age, mental capacity, mental health, capacity for balanced decision making and any threat, to life, health or duress to the client. We also take account of collateral professional opinions, where available, from other health practitioners in those considerations.

WILL THIS CHANGE LEAD TO DEFERRAL OF THERAPY?

We are now forced to look at possible alternatives. In the case of Criminal Proceedings, one possible alternative is to wait until after criminal prosecution, to begin therapy. This would be grossly negligent of victims of child sexual abuse given that such proceedings, in our experience, generally take a significant amount of time to get to Court. The danger is either clients will not want to attend therapy as a result of this or they will not want to report these horrendous crimes.

JOINT CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT NOTES

CARI along with St. Louise's Unit and St. Clare's Unit (statutory child sexual abuse assessment units) believe that releasing therapy notes is not in the best interests of the child. In these new developments in Court Practice we do not, regretfully, see any attention to the rights of privacy and healing for children subjected to sexual abuse. Adult sexual abuse services have joined this campaign also. The group takes the view that therapy notes should be privileged in legal proceedings. We are currently in negotiation with the Office of the DPP to try and find some resolution to this issue; interim guidelines are being worked on.



CRIMINAL LAW (SEXUAL OFFENCES) BILL 2014 OFFERS SOME HOPE

In November 2014, Minister Justice and Equality Frances Fitzgerald published heads of a new Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2014. New provisions are to be introduced regarding evidence by victims, particularly children. Part 5 of the General Scheme "sets out a number of sensitive amendments aimed at minimising the trauma on victims of sexual offences, particularly children." Head 52 specifically addresses the situation regarding the disclosure of third party therapy or counselling records in sexual abuse cases. The Bill proposes that in future the appropriateness of disclosing such records will be a matter for the court via a pre-trial hearing. While this bill doesn't offer the full privilege, this new piece of legislation offers some improved protection.

IF CHILDREN DON'T ACCESS COUNSELLING

The children who come to CARI have been through a terrible trauma. Adults, often those charged with the care of these children, have hurt them in ways that are for many unimaginable. If left unsupported these children often struggle to cope with day to day life. Children as young as eight years present with thoughts of suicide, self-harm and mental health issues. Many struggle at school as a result of their experiences. When left untreated they can go on to develop problems with addiction, social skills and many other things that can make life difficult and sometimes unbearable. We have an opportunity to change that bleak outlook.



"Coming to CARI has changed my life. I sometimes think that the therapists in

CARI have no idea as to how important and effective the work that they do is. Like brain surgeons or cardiologists they heal their clients and make life worth living again."

CARI Client

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IS A PREVENTABLE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

Child sexual abuse untreated can lead to huge problems in later life. Timely appropriate intervention can ensure that childhood is restored and children develop into normal productive and happy adults.



We are taking positive steps in moving beyond the history of child sexual abuse in Ireland. It is now accepted that child sexual abuse is a common experience in Ireland. We need to learn from the mistakes of the past. Ireland needs to move from a society that failed its children and progress as a country that value its children, as children are the future of this country. It is time that childhood is given as high a priority as adulthood. Children need to be given the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

TIMELY ACCESS TO THERAPY CRITICAL - CHILDREN ARE RESILIENT AND DO RECOVER IF THERAPY OFFERED

With the right intervention the prognosis need not be so gloomy. Children are extraordinarily resilient and given an appropriate therapeutic space they can go onto lead a fulfilling life defined not by their abusive experience but rather by their innate personality and uniqueness. CARI believe this is their right.

LACK OF SERVICES REMAIN SHOCKING SCANDAL IN 2014

Over the last 20 years, Ireland has witnessed huge change in relation to sexual abuse. There have been numerous high profile child abuse scandals. The issue of child sexual abuse became high priority in the media. Cases involving the clergy, institutional abuse and children in care suddenly became shocking and have dominated headlines. An issue that was rarely discussed suddenly became topical and was out in the public arena. This was our opportunity to learn from our mistakes and better protect our children in the future.

However in 2014, CARI found it was yet again being forced to reduce therapeutic services due to lack of funding. The lack of services for children who have experienced child sexual abuse is a shocking scandal. While the focus was on historical abuse, the children who are still being abused today are still being ignored. There are huge gaps in the provision of services. Where you live in Ireland may decide whether a service is available or not. Therapy services are inconsistent across the country.

CONCLUSION - CARI'S CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR TODAY'S VICTIMS OF CSA

The demand for therapeutic services exceed capacity which means many children do not get the help and support they need to overcome their experiences of child sexual abuse. Therapeutic services for children who have experienced child sexual abuse are urgently needed at a regional and national level. In the absence of structured government funded services, CARI have to bridge this gap. It feels like we are swimming against the tide for funding. Children and young people have to wait a considerable length of time to access too few and distant services; early intervention is what is needed. Budget restraints, not analysis of need dictate the service delivery. We have had numerous reports through the last number of years that highlighted the systemic failures to children. The failure to respond adequately to the needs of children and young people who have experienced child sexual abuse is harmful to the child's physical and mental health and safety. Victims of child sexual abuse are encouraged to report the crimes against them – but when they do, they can often find themselves isolated from family and friends, with little or no support from the authorities and the legal system that are supposed to help them.

National apologies for past practices ring hollow when children continue to be abused by an inadequate system. The sad irony is that the lack of services and practice is harming a new generation of forgotten children to whom a national apology will one day be owed.

Monica Murphy MA Psychotherapy, BA, Accred. Supervisor

Therapy Team List

NATIONAL HEAD OF THERAPY – MONICA MURPHY

Monica holds a Master of Arts in Humanistic and Integrative Psychotherapy (University of Limerick) She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Counselling and Social Studies (Cork Institute of Technology). She is an accredited psychotherapist and Supervisor with the Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (I.A.C.P.). Monica Murphy has been working with CARI since 1997. Monica started on the Helpline before moving into therapy. Monica worked in CARI's Cork therapy service for 12 years. She has also been part of the outreach team providing training on the issue of child sexual abuse and child protection. Monica has a wide range of experience in the area of trauma and child sexual abuse. She has previously worked in pre-school education and private practice.

Dublin Therapy Team

- Bonnie Kavanagh - *Therapy Team Leader Dublin*

Psychotherapists

- Louise Patterson
- Orlagh Curran
- Deirdre Ronan (To February 2014)
- Louise Jacobs (To May 2013)

Volunteer Psychotherapists

- Noreen Breen
- Lisa Lennon

Student Psychotherapists

- Ines Muller
- Ruth Feighery

Limerick Therapy Team

- Monica Murphy - *National Head of Therapy* (from March 2014)
- Majella Ryan - *National Clinical Director.* (to March 2014)

Psychotherapists

- Doreen Morgan (To September 2014)
- Siobhán Whyte
- Cathy O'Donoghue

Therapy Support

- Teresa Sheedy - *Team Leader*
- Josephine Killeen - *CE Participant*
- Lisa McCarthy - *CE Participant*

CLINICAL SERVICES

HELPLINE

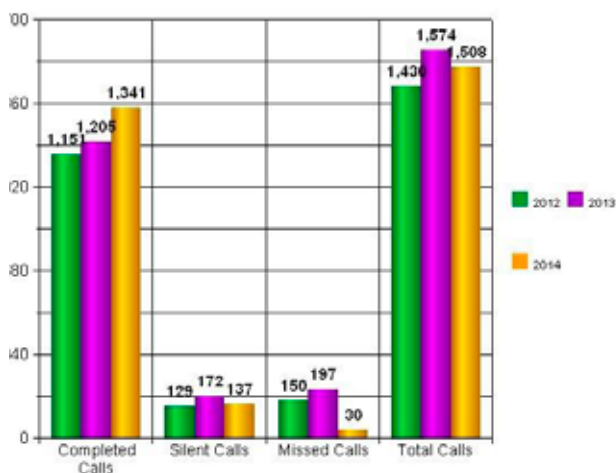
WHO USES THE HELPLINE

The Helpline is a confidential source of information, advice and support for adults, professionals and members of the public, and young people concerned about abuse. It is used by both adults and children, members of the general public and professionals – teachers, Social Workers, solicitors, Gardaí etc. from all parts of the country. The helpline can be contacted Nationwide for the cost of a local call on 1890 92 45 67. It is operated Monday to Friday 9:30am – 5:30pm. The Helpline is often a client's primary point of contact with CARI.

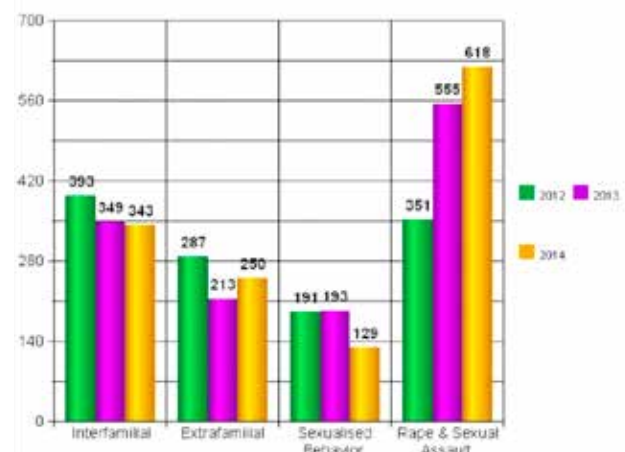
HOW THE HELPLINE ACTUALLY WORKS

The Helpline is used to access information on how to respond to child sexual abuse. Callers can explore concerns, feelings, and fears around child sexual abuse, and other forms of child abuse, in safety and anonymity. It can facilitate referrals to appropriate services, including CARI. It also provides emotional support (to current or past clients). Through the Helpline, people can access other CARI services or parenting information and advice. The helpline can be used to explore concerns about the safety of a particular child, or to explore the emotional and / or behavioural problems of a particular child. The Helpline is also used by adults who experienced sexual abuse in their own childhoods, some telling of their experience for the first time; others wanting to identify sources of support and counselling for themselves.

TOTAL NATIONAL HELPLINE CALLS



PRIMARY CONCERNS OF CALLERS

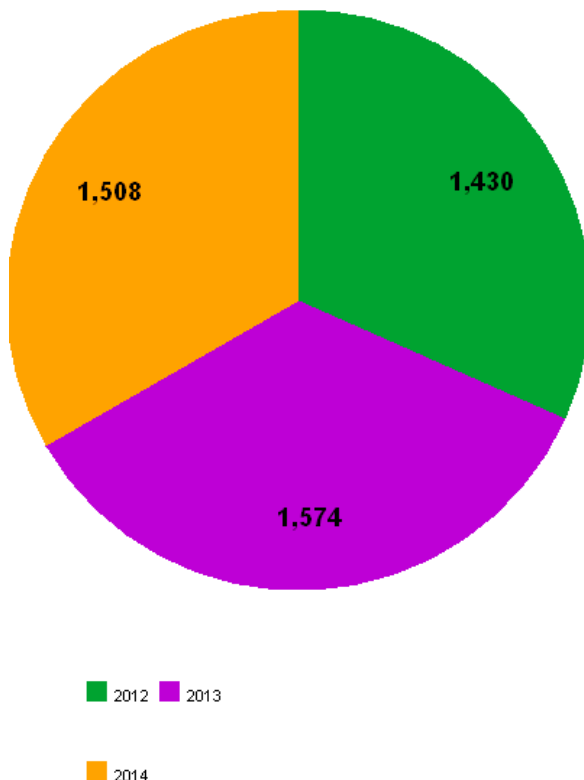


In **2012**, CARI recorded an increase in calls to the helpline in relation to rape and sexual assault of teenagers, where the alleged perpetrators were also teenagers. These figures steadily increased in **2013** and now worryingly show an overall **43%** increase by **2014**. Many of these assaults are perpetrated by groups of adolescents. Teenagers stated that their sexual assault was witnessed and sometimes encouraged by other teenagers. They reported being further traumatised by the fact that these assaults were viewed and discussed by their peers on social media sites, which often led to the isolation and bullying of the victims. Interestingly, the figures for sexualised behaviours in the same time frame have decreased. There is a potential correlation between the decrease in figures for sexualised behaviours and the increase in sexual assault figures in this time frame.

POTENTIAL REASONS FOR THE INCREASE IN SEXUAL ASSAULT OF TEENAGERS BY TEENAGERS

- CARI Helpline operators have identified a number of significant potential reasons for the noted increase in these figures.
- Helpline Operators' assessment and recording of recounted incidents of *sexual abuse of teens* by teens, as distinct from *sexualised behaviours*, has developed in line with the current specific guidelines on *sexual assault* and *sexualised behaviour*, alongside current education, training and policy perspectives in these areas. Behaviours recorded in the past as *sexualised behaviour* are now more appropriately named as *sexual assaults*.
- Children and young teens by nature of their age and standing in society can be vulnerable and often isolated at their greatest time of need.
- The potential for unaddressed sexualised behaviours in very young children, to develop into rape and sexual assault at a later stage, is significantly higher, than for those children who receive the appropriate support services, at the appropriate time, for such sexualised behaviours.
- There appears to be a deficit in the education and monitoring of children and young teens in relation to internet safety.
- Young Persons have easy access to the internet and porn sites. The prominence of material concerning sex and sexuality, negatively influences their perspective on sex and sexuality, and their respect for self and others.
- CARI recommends an intervention/prevention approach in dealing with these issues. Such interventions and preventions include the implementation of a national education programme for teachers and parents. This uniform approach has the potential to provide a dual supportive approach in meeting the needs of children and parents.

HELPLINE CALLS AVERAGE 1,500 PER YEAR



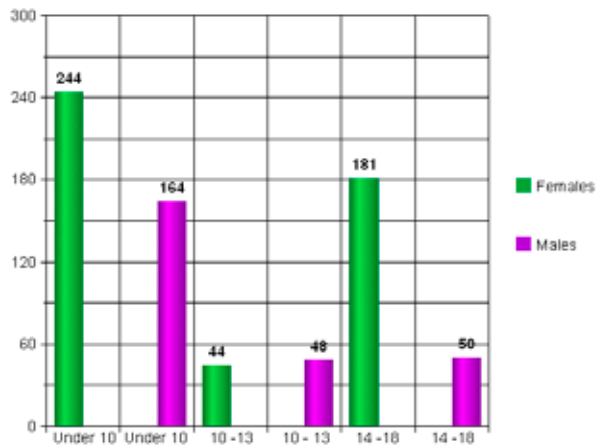
MOTHERS - MAIN CATEGORY OF CALLERS

Since **2012**, CARI helpline has received approx. **1500** calls per annum. An overview of the statistics for the past 3 year highlights that mothers are the main callers to our service with interfamilial abuse the main categories of callers. In **2014**, CARI Helpline operators began to collate other issues presenting for families alongside their experiences of sexual abuse. Of note was high incidence of domestic violence, drugs and alcohol use. Cases that warranted referral for legal support were significant with separation and divorce, custody and access issues as the main foci. In **2014**, CARI noted that **528** cases availing of support from the Helpline had links with child protection agencies.

FEMALES UNDER THE AGE OF 13 MOST AT RISK

There is no distinction between the incidents of abuse in single parent families and or married and cohabiting couples. The majority of our calls relate to females under the age of 13, closely followed by males in the same age bracket. Our statistics match the figures of rape and sexual assault on teens as females from the ages of **14 - 18** made up over **21%** of all our calls.

Child & Age Category



Interestingly the above graph highlights that the older the male the less likely they are to experience abuse, whereas, females still remain at substantial risk between the ages of 14 – 18.

SILENT AND SUICIDAL CALLERS

CARI helpline operators quite often find themselves supporting callers who are very distressed. And our statistics show high figures from silent callers and callers who are suicidal or who present with self-harming behaviours. These callers quote feelings of not been heard or believed and they are often survivors of abuse in their own childhood.

HELPLINE ISSUES ARISING FROM NEW TECHNOLOGIES - MISUSE OF APPS & INTERNET

Within the last two years, CARI has received an alarmingly high rate of phone calls regarding grooming and inappropriate attacks on children and young teens through the use of Apps and the internet. Young people are coerced into meeting a person that they have chatted to and may fall victim to sexual assault or rape or when a young person sends a photo of themselves to friends or strangers (these photos are often posed naked or in a sexual manner). They are then informed subsequently that the photo has been seen by a number of their friends, or has been posted on a social site.

Parents are struggling to support their children through these incidents and have stated that they feel they are not skilled as parents to deal with these issues. The child is often impacted on many levels and have issues attending school, they experience bullying by peers and in severe cases are feeling suicidal or have developed self-harming behaviours.

CARI HELPLINE CONCERNS AROUND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY TECHNOLOGY?

Technology is extended to include all computers, mobile phones, tablets, game consoles (Xbox/PS3) and other digital devices. It is possible for children to access the internet through these devices by connecting to WIFI or using data (Data is a prepaid internet allowance on a device). Children and young teens have full access to social networking sites, chat rooms, uploading, sending and commenting on images and videos.

APPS

There are thousands of Apps developed and designed for children and young teens. These include **Facebook, Instagram, Tinder, Kik and Snapchat**, to name but a few. When used correctly Apps provide a fun and safe environment. It is important therefore that parents know and understand the safety features required for children and young teens. Although the above mentioned Apps are used a lot there are hundreds of other Apps that need to be monitored.

ONLINE GROOMING

Grooming is defined as deliberately befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child to lower the child's inhibitions in order to sexually abuse the child. This is extremely common at the moment and until the government put strategies in place to combat it then our children and young people remain very unsafe whilst online.

We understand that the teens need to fit in with their peers and that social networking is a big part of how they communicate with each other. As professionals however working in the area of child protection, we feel we must advocate for change in our education system. We are in a different era and perpetrators of sexual abuse have found a new and devastating way to gain access to children's lives. The anonymity that the internet provides to perpetrators of abuse is frightening.

In the past, we struggled to believe that children were primarily abused by someone that they knew, advocating stranger danger, as it was easier to believe that strangers abused our children and not someone that we knew, loved and trusted. It is vital that we understand the impact on a child or a young person whose naked pictures have been put onto the internet, never to be erased, or the young person whose new friendship slowly begins to make them feel uncomfortable, because they are being encouraged to perform sexual acts.

Cyber sexual solicitation is the use of electronic mediums to identify, “groom” and entice individuals to perform sexual acts on or offline. This has gradually become one of the many difficulties facing young children and teens in our society today. One of the other stark realities is that the effects of shame and guilt leave young people feeling unable to access support.

“I couldn’t talk to my parents they haven’t got a clue”.

“I didn’t want my friends to think I was a whore”.

Teen Helpline Caller

Most teens describe denying the seriousness of the abuse as a means of coping. Not until feelings of depression, withdrawal from friends and family, and /or self – harming behaviours are noticed by others, is the abuse discussed.

Parents are struggling to support their children through these incidents and have stated that their child is refusing to go to school, won’t leave their bedroom, have been bullied by peers and in severe cases are feeling suicidal or have developed self-harming behaviours.

AVAILABLE/ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

The internet has the potential to offer children a wide range of opportunities - to learn, to develop new skills, to make and keep in touch with friends, and to have fun. For lots of young people fitting in and having fun can be their main priority. Staying safe and noticing dangers however is not necessarily high on their agenda. For this reason, information concerning the above identified Apps together with guidelines for safe internet use by children and young people are available and accessible to parents, guardians and allied professionals on the CARI website at www.cari.ie

INTERAGENCY TRAINING AND CO-OPERATION

In 2013 – 2014, CARI Helpline facilitated a number of inter-agency training days.

Helpline Staff List

- Marie Greenan-Byrne - *Helpline Team Leader*
- Grace Jordan - *On Secondment to CASATS*

Helpline Operators – CE

- Valerie Walsh
- Martina Corrigan
- Muriel Byrne
- Sinéad Manoharan
- Kim Cromwell
- Lisa Lennon

Volunteers

- Nicola Sisk
- Sharon Cagney
- Julie Hanrahan



CLINICAL SERVICES

CASS (COURT ACCOMPANIMENT SUPPORT SERVICE)

BACKGROUND

CARI began to provide its Court Accompaniment Support Service to child witnesses in 2005. Now running into its 10th year, CASS is celebrating its most successful year to date. The service aims to provide both emotional and practical support to children who are witnesses in criminal trials. It is the only service to specifically support children who are giving witness testimony within the Criminal Justice System throughout the State.



THE SERVICE PROVIDES THREE MAIN STRANDS OF SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

PRE-TRIAL PREPARATION

Cass support begins with pre-trial preparation. It is our experience that children and families can have a lot of anxiety around having to go to court. Some of this anxiety can stem from not knowing what to expect in that experience. We bring both the child and their family in to visit the courthouse where they will be giving evidence.

We will show them the video link room should they be giving evidence through video link. We will also show them an empty courtroom, answering any questions that they may have about the process ahead. This allows children to have a visual of what their court date will be like, which reduces a lot of anxiety.

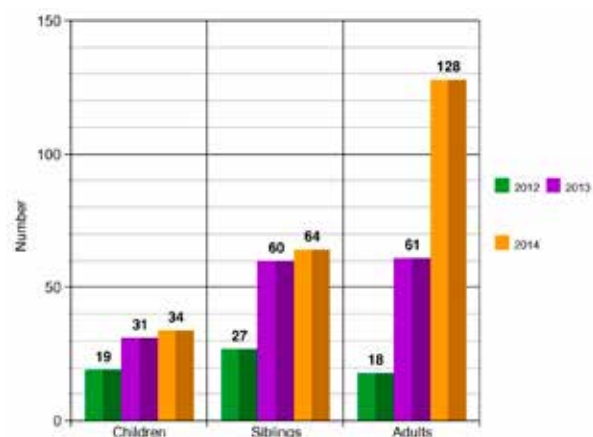
TRIAL ACCOMPANIMENT

The second strand of this service is trial accompaniment. We accompany both children and their families to court during the trial. We stay with them for the duration of the trial facilitating them in what they need. We provide both emotional and practical support as well as explaining legal terminology where needed.

POST-TRIAL SUPPORT

We also provide post-trial support where needed. Our experience has told us that for some families, the criminal trial may be the first time for many to speak about what has happened to them. This can be for some a very upsetting time. We advise and help families link in with support structures should they need them after the trial is over. We stay linked in with all relevant professionals that are dealing with the family including An Garda Síochána, social workers, psychologists and therapists. We do this so that we can provide the best possible support for the child and their family.

People Supported in 2012, 2013 & 2014



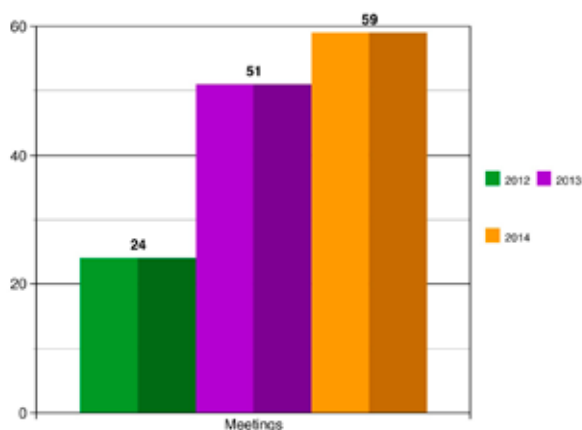
ADDITIONAL STAFF RECRUITMENT – CE

At the end of 2012, we recruited a new Court Accompaniment Officer through the FÁS Community Employment Scheme. This much welcome addition enabled us to push our service forward with respect to providing support on a wider scale. Our statistical analysis for 2013 / 2014 shows the significant increase in support that we were able to provide.

We supported 152 children and family members in 2013. In comparison to the 64 children and family members supported in 2012. This additional resource enabled us to provide support to an additional 88 children and family members. We were delighted to see such a significant increase in support. This figure reiterates for us that with resource investment into this vital service our ability to provide both emotional and practical support for children greatly improves.

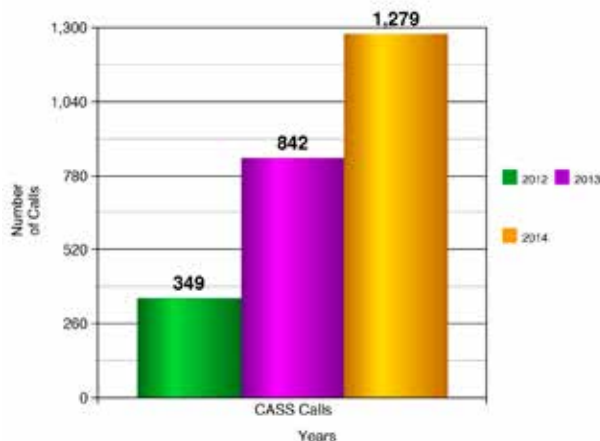
With respect to those supported by our service, there was also a consistent increase in 2014. There was a 10% increase in children supported and a 7% increase in siblings supported. CASS also supported an additional 67 family members in 2014 making that an increase of 110% on 2013. This increase has had a significant impact on service resource. With more family members attending court cases, we have had to have two accompaniment officers assigned to them. This is to facilitate family members within the victims' rooms and the family members in the court.

Meetings 2012, 2013 & 2014



Meetings within CASS can be defined as either pre-trial visits or trial accompaniment visits. There may also be an occasion when we may have to meet with the family separate to trial and/or other professional bodies directly related to the case. In 2012, our meetings totalled 24 in comparison with 2013 where we had a total of 51 meetings. Additionally, our phone support saw another dramatic increase with a total of 349 calls made in 2012 compared to 842 calls that took place in 2013.

CASS Calls 2012, 2013 & 2014



Throughout 2014, there was a consistent increase across the board with respect to CASS activity in 2014. There was an additional 437 calls made giving our calls - a 52% increase on 2013. There was a 14% increase in our meetings.

OUTCOME OF CASES RECORDED IN 2014

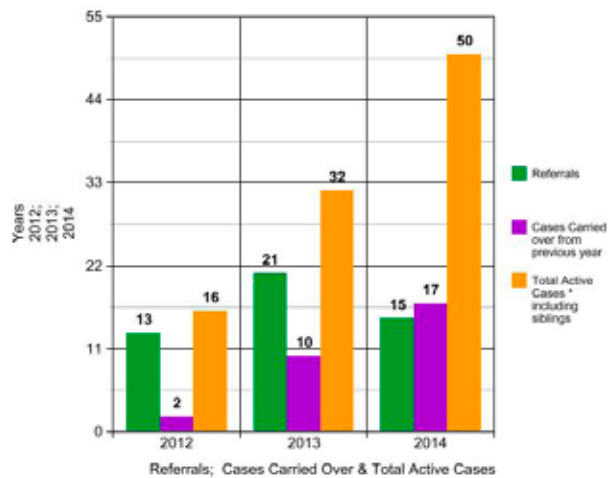
Of the cases that were dealt with in 2014 nine were found guilty. Six pleaded guilty. Three were found not guilty. Twelve are still pending. Two cases did not make it to a jury. One was a hung jury and one resided within the family court.

OUR THANKS TO REFERRERS AND FUNDERS

The increase in activity highlights the demand for our service, it also shows how utilised the service is with the correct investment. We could not have provided this vital service on such an increased scale if it wasn't for those agencies who referred families onto us. We would especially like to thank **St Clare's Unit in Temple Street Children's Hospital, St Louise's Unit in Crumlin Children's Hospital, Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, An Garda Síochána specifically the Garda Victims Liaison office, V-SAC, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, One in Four** and the Court Support Services for all of their support to us over the last year.

We would also like to sincerely thank our funders, the **Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime (CSVC)** who have consistently given their backing and support in so many ways. We are so grateful to our funders and to those who refer to us for their generosity of help and support.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS ARISING FOR CASS



COURT DELAYS

In 2013 CASS supported a total of 31 children going to court to give witness testimony in criminal trials. Of those 31 cases that were due to go to trial there were 12 cases that were due to begin trial but were put back on the day. Cases carried over from a previous year is illustrated in the graph above.

In cases like this families have organised themselves to be at court, sometimes travelling long distances. When travelling from other parts of the country families may have had to secure accommodation and organise leave from employment. Children have gone through the emotional and practical process to ready themselves for giving witness testimony. More importantly they may have readied themselves for the experience to be near an end. However, for one reason or another, the trial is then pushed back to another date. In 2013 just under 40% of the cases that we were directly supporting had their trial pushed back.

It is the experience of CARI that this is a consistent issue that children and their families face. There are a variety of reasons why trials are put back. These reasons range from having insufficient resources to conduct a trial to completion to different factors that pertain directly to the case.

CARI fully appreciates that it is inevitable that some cases will need to be rescheduled for another date. When cases are put back they can at times be put back for a significantly large amount of time. This has a very real impact on the child who is in a stage of rapid change and development.

One such case from 2013 was put back because there was insufficient time to begin and conclude the case before the court term concluded. This reschedule was necessary given the time constraints however the case was then rescheduled to take place 11 months later. This is a particularly lengthy amount of time for a child to wait.

There are two potential and significant consequences that can happen in cases which are subject to long delays; one relates to **developmental change** the other to **legislative protection**.

DELAYS COMPOUND DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES

A case that did go ahead for trial in 2013 was a case in which the child in question was eight at the time of reporting the crime; they were sixteen giving their evidence. Again in this case, there was an issue which resulted in the case being put back for 11 months. By the time the child gave evidence in court that child was literally double their age from the time of reporting the crime.

An eight year old child is developmentally very different from a 16 year old young adult. One must consider what potential issues may arise with respect to someone being cross examined on evidence they submitted eight years previously with that amount of developmental growth in between. Another consideration must be given to the emotional and psychological impact of having a case 'hang over the heads' of a family for that length of time.

DELAYS MAY REMOVE LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION

Long delays can also cause another specific impact from a legislative standpoint. Long delays can result in a change in the way a child may have to give their evidence. Section 13 of the Criminal Evidence Act 1992 allows for children under 17 years of age and people with intellectual disabilities to give evidence from a separate room using a video link. When a child turns 18, evidence is then given in the courtroom.

Excessively long delays can and have resulted in a child who is a minor at the age of reporting a crime becoming an adult at the age of giving their witness testimony. In cases such as these, a child no longer has the legislative right to give their evidence through the medium of video link. This can be particularly stressful in interfamilial cases as the child may not only have to share the same physical space as the accused but may also have to give their evidence in front of their own family members, some of whom may be there to support the accused.

A child who is an adult at the time of giving evidence due to these delays, no longer has the right to use the video link facility to give their evidence. We at CARI believe that this must be taken into consideration when issuing a new date for trial. Additionally, provisions should be in place to facilitate a child in these circumstances. Excessive delays are unacceptable in cases where children are the primary witness/victim.

INTER-AGENCY WORK AND AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES

The profile work done in 2014 included our annual advertisement with the **Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW)**. They sent out a mail shot to all social workers in Ireland and uploaded our service onto their website for three months. This has always been a great aid to us with respect to raising awareness with social workers about our service. We also had our details circulated to all the **specialist interviewers within An Garda Síochána** who interview children. This was done through Inspector Lorraine Stack from the Victims Office of the Gardai.

OUTREACH

We also did some outreach work in 2013 / 2014 - giving a talk to UCD as well as providing some talks through the **'From Me to You'** Project. (**'From Me to You'** is a Student Training Programme in the form of a fundraising package given to transition year students). We gave talks to local schools and Whitehall College of Further Education who requested our **Criminal Law** talk.

POLICY WORK

The **Victims' Rights Alliance** is a group set up to work with the government in helping Ireland implement the new EU Directive on Victims' rights which is due to be completed by November 2015. Currently, there are no representatives in the group that work with children. It was suggested that our membership would be of importance as CARI work directly with children who are witnesses in the criminal justice system. **The Victims' Rights Alliance** agreed that a children's voice is needed in the group and would like CARI to become members to represent children's rights in the criminal justice system.

This group has been requested by the Minister for Justice to work in conjunction with the Government in helping to implement this EU Directive. As the only group member who is speaking on behalf of children we have an important voice at this table. 2015 will be an important year with respect to this policy change within the State.



CLINICAL SERVICES

CASATS (CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SEXUAL ASSAULT TREATMENT SERVICE)

NEW PILOT ACCOMPANIMENT SERVICE



Dr Joanne Nelson - Consultant Paediatrician and Clinical Director of CASATS

In the first such project of its kind in Ireland, CARI, with the Child and Adolescent Sexual Assault Treatment Service (CASATS) has set up a new service in Galway, which is currently the only Sexual Assault Treatment Unit in Ireland (SATU) to provide 24-hour services for young people under the age of 14 years who have been harmed by sexual abuse, either recently or historically. CARI was awarded grants from the **Manuela Riedo Foundation Ireland** and from **Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime (CSVC)** to help set up the Galway Child Advocate Project. The service is modelled on existing work provided by rape crisis counsellors in adult SATUs throughout Ireland who are already engaging with adolescent victims of sexual violence from 14 years on.

VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED

CARI recruited volunteer Child Advocates/ Accompaniment Officers to support young victims of sexual abuse and their families when they attend for Forensic Medical Examination and Treatment. Crisis Workers are recognised to be an essential component of Regional Sexual Assault Referral Centres. Whilst men, women and teenagers from 14 years and over, in Ireland, who have been raped or sexually assaulted, are offered support from the time of first examination within the SATU, by trained rape crisis counsellors, no such immediate support has previously been available to younger victims, until the establishment of the CARI CASATS service in Galway. Suitable volunteers were Garda vetted and given intensive training in supporting children and families where child sexual abuse is suspected. This specialised training was delivered by CARI and supported by health professionals based at CASATS.

LAUNCH OF SERVICE

From June 2014, the recruited volunteers have participated in an on-call rota, where they accompanied children and their families/support people to the forensic medical evaluation to support and assist in coordinating psychological aftercare. A dedicated CARI Caseworker already working in the Court Accompaniment Support Service was assigned to the project to offer support to both the families and Volunteer Accompaniment Officers after they have attended the unit.

The CASATS unit was established at the end of June 2014, therefore the figures shown are indicative of a six month period in 2014 and not a full year.



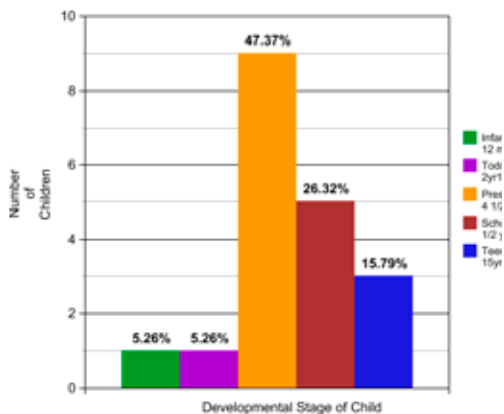
Pictured (from left) are Louise Phelan, Vice President of Global Operations for PayPal EMEA; Eve Farrelly, CASS & CASATS Accompaniment Coordinator and Hazel Mitchell, Director at eBay Global Customer Experience, Europe. Galway.

CARI Received a €1,600 Grant from eBay Foundation's Employee Volunteer-Led GIVE Team (December 2013) Funds used, in complement to generous donations from the Manuela Riedo Foundation Ireland and the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime to help towards launching CARI's CASATS Project in Galway.

58% of children attending CASATS are preschoolers and younger with an average time in the unit of just under 3 hours.

How Child Sexual Abuse affects children is directly related to their age and stage of development. Since the CASATS accompaniment service was established in June 2014 we have recorded that just under 58% of children attending the forensic unit are pre-schoolers and younger. The most common age of children attending the CASSATS unit in 2014 were 4 years old, with the youngest child being an infant of 8 months and the oldest child being an adolescent of 15 years. The average time these children spend in the forensic unit is approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes.

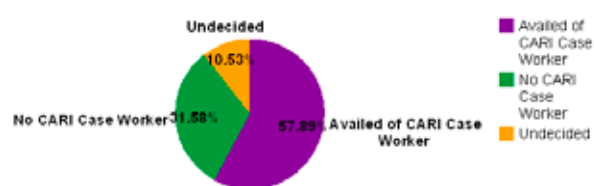
CASATS Developmental Demographic of Children



Up to 4 children availing of CASATS service every month in Galway with just under 60% of the adults supporting them wanting immediate support from CARI caseworker.

Since its establishment in June 2014, 19 children in total have attended the CASATS unit in Galway. This averages at 3 to 4 children per month who are attending this specialised unit. Of those children, the pie chart illustrates that just under 60% of the adults supporting those children wanted contact from a CARI.

Clients availing of CARI CASATS Case Worker



CARI caseworker supports both families and CARI volunteer accompaniment officers who attend the CASATS forensic unit.

Supporting families and volunteers after they have attended the unit is an integral and valued part of CARI's work. The pie chart below illustrates that the CARI Care Worker made 56 calls to adults/family members supporting the children in the forensic unit and 57 calls to the CARI Volunteer Accompaniment Officers who supported the children and families in the unit.

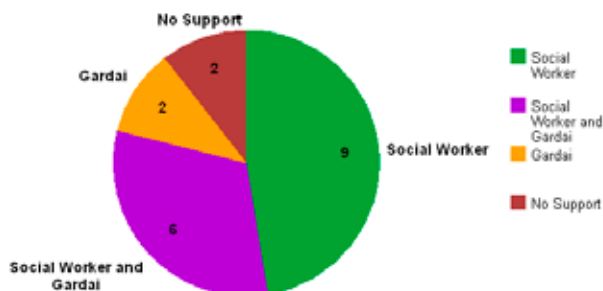
Total Number of CASATS Calls



CASE WORKER SUPPORT

After they had attended the unit, 10.53% of the adults were undecided about whether they wanted the support and 31.58% of the adults decided that at the moment they did not need the support but have CARI's contact information if they change their minds.

CASATS Professional Support



CARI hopes to collaborate more with other professional supports while attending the CASATS unit with children.

Most of the children going to the unit have contact with other professionals, as some of the children are in foster care. The professional supports shown are a reflection of the contact these children and their families have with professionals and are not a reflection of whether the professionals attended the forensic unit with the child. Given that this is such a confusing and vulnerable time in a child's life, we would hope to see an increase in attendance of other relevant professionals to the unit with the children in the future.

CASS (Court Accompaniment Support Service) Staff List

- Eve Farrelly - CASS Accompaniment Coordinator
- Lynette Bradshaw - CE Participant

Child and Adolescent Sexual Assault Treatment Service (CASATS)

- Eve Farrelly - CASATS Accompaniment Coordinator
- Grace Jordan
- Amy Quinn - CE Participant

CARI ADVOCACY AND MEDIA REPORT 2013 / 2014

ISSUES WE PROACTIVELY CAMPAIGNED ON

In 2013 and 2014, we proactively approached media and reacted to media opportunities. We raised CARI's profile, disseminated our expertise, created conversation and helped make change happen. While CARI focuses on service provision, it also strives to campaign on issues related to child sexual abuse. In 2013 and 2014, CARI issued press releases on related topics and contributed to radio and newspaper coverage and government legislative consultation processes.

PRESS RELEASES ISSUED IN 2013 / 2014

- CARI Calls for an Early Hearing of the Appeal in the Fiona Doyle Case (Jan 2013)
- CARI Welcomes Judge Carney's Revocation of Bail in Fiona Doyle Case (Jan 2013)
- CARI Presentation to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children (Feb 2013)
- CARI Calls for the Ending of Light Touch Regulation in the Pre-School Sector (May 2013)
- CARI Calls for Protection of Child Therapy Notes (June 2013)
- CARI Supports Calls on the Government for Filters to Block Children's Access to Pornography (July 2013)
- CARI Welcomes the Forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill from Minister Shatter (September 2013)
- Hearing Child Survivors of Sexual Violence: Towards a National Response (October 2013)
- CARI Welcomes the Unopposed Passing of the Child Sex Offenders Information & Monitoring Bill (October 2013)
- CARI Welcomes Innovative Moves by Internet Giants to Tackle Child Abuse Searches & Imagery (November 2013)
- CARI Receives a €1,600 Grant from eBay Foundation's Employee Volunteer-Led GIVE Team (December 2013)
- Galway Centre To Train Volunteers To Support Child Victims Of Sexual Violence (December 2013)

- CARI Welcomes Apology To Abuse Survivor By Taoiseach & Launch Of Child And Family Agency TUSLA (January 2014)
- CARI Today Joined With Other Victims' Groups Welcoming The Two Life Sentences For The Athlone Child Rapist (March 2014)
- CARI Supports DPP in Opposing Any Reduction of the Sentence in Athlone Case (March 2014)
- CARI Welcomes Legislation Putting Children First On A Statutory Footing (April 2014)
- Manuela Riedo Foundation Awards CARI / CASATS Additional €12,000 for Galway Child Advocate Project (May 2014)
- CARI Welcomes Case Histories 2014: Volume 2 of The Child Care Law Reporting Project (June 2014)
- CARI's Response to Jimmy Savile Reports (June 2014)
- 'What Do I Need To Know? Navigating Intimate Boundaries & Privacy In Children's Lives Today' (November 2014)

ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED IN THE PRINT MEDIA

SEXUALISED BEHAVIOURS

In 2013, former National Clinical Director Majella Ryan highlighted an alarming trend. Children as young as nine are engaging in inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Ryan warned parents about the dangers posed by the increased sexualisation of society. "It's everywhere. From the revealing 'adult' clothes that are marketed to children to the pornography which can be accessed so easily: there's just no escape."

Ryan believes the proliferation of smartphones has helped facilitate children's access to graphic sex images and videos. "It has changed the game – there's no doubt about it. Children are being forced to grow up so much quicker. Their childhoods are being snatched away from them and that's evident from the wide gamut of sexual activity we're seeing in children and young teens."

Sharp increases in sex crimes by juveniles is part of a wider sexualisation of children. Society need to examine if the "pendulum has swung too much" in terms of what was accepted as normal for children in society. We have been highlighting a huge increase in sexualised behaviour for the last four years. The sexual behaviour goes right up to individuals engaged in the most serious kinds of behaviour. There is a huge sexualisation of society. This is not just access to pornography - which, of course, is a huge problem as it normalises expectations, not just for boys but also for girls - but also sexting, which is becoming more common. (Sexting refers to naked photos being sent by mobile phone).

CARI encourage parents to try and talk to their children about sex and explain to children how real or otherwise the online world is.

HSE FAILURES TO PROTECT TODAY'S CHILDREN

In 2013, CARI revealed that many of the 3,000 children who had reported sexual abuse in that year were unable to access counselling from the HSE – because they don't live in the right area. CARI criticised the HSE for failing to adequately fund specialised HSE counselling services for children who have been sexually assaulted.

CARI, which has been campaigning for specialised HSE counselling services for children who have been sexually assaulted, has now been forced to reduce its own offering across the country due to a reduction in funding.

CARI describe the lack of counselling facilities for sexual abuse victims as an inexplicable scandal. The simple fact is that there are no specialised services to deal with the huge issues the children are dealing with.

There are still whole areas around the country where these kinds of services - state-run or otherwise - simply don't exist and the limited service available are stretched to their limit. Children are travelling down from Drogheda, Louth, lots of places that we used to do outreach services but as our resources declined we were losing time travelling and losing money renting additional premises.

A HSE assessment structure is in place to confirm abuse but after that, vulnerable children are just sent home, unless they can travel to Dublin or Limerick for specialised therapy or afford private counselling in their region. Astonishingly, child and adolescent mental health services are not open to the victims of child sexual abuse as the service does not view sexual abuse as appropriate to their services as it is not a mental illness - which further restricts a child's access to HSE therapists. CAMHS will offer emergency therapy if a child has exhibited suicidal thoughts.

CARI, which receives HSE funding, is providing therapy to children and their parents in Dublin and Limerick but due to budgetary cutbacks, has shut its services in Cork, Naas and Wicklow clinics in recent years. It also slashed its number of therapists by a third.

The HSE / Tusla only provides specialised therapy for the country's children at two units at Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, and at Temple Street Children's Hospital. CARI itself has suffered cutbacks due to ongoing Irish austerity. It is now attempting to deal with an increase in waiting times for children seeking its services as a result.

HEARING CHILD SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE: TOWARDS A NATIONAL RESPONSE

This specialist report was the result of a dynamic collaboration between RCNI, 15 Rape Crisis Centres and CARI, using hitherto unavailable data gathered via the RCNI national sexual violence frontline data collection system, and delivers an analysis of the perpetrators of sexual violence against children, including how and where children of different ages and genders are targeted. The information generated in this report gives Ireland the opportunity to be at the forefront of Europe in combating crimes of sexual violence.

This ground-breaking report on child rape and sexual abuse shows over a third of abusers are children, and family members pose the greatest threat to children - not 'stranger danger'.

Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI) and CARI, analysed 200 allegations made by 192 children and teens they supported in 2012. The study provides new data which can reduce child sexual violence crimes and protect vulnerable children more effectively. The data confirms that sexual crimes differ in substantive ways across the age and gender of the child. The collaborative approach to data allows the NGO sector to identify and fill gaps in the State's services.

This report reveals that in 2012, Rape Crisis Centres (RCCs) and CARI provided services for 192 minors, ranging in age from 4 to 17 years old. It also shows that one third or 37pc of the perpetrators of sexual abuse against child survivors were under themselves 18 years old.

CARI has repeatedly criticised the patchy nature of therapy services for child sexual abuse victims. It is calling for the immediate rolling out of a national service for children as part of the new Child and Family Agency.

CARI called again for a national service for the growing numbers of children who are reporting abuse each year. It is clear that adults' services are trying to meet the needs of children as young as 14 due to the absence of any alternative. The report also highlights the fact that much abuse is perpetrated by young people themselves. This corresponds to a marked increase in referrals to CARI to work with children who engage in sexually harmful behaviour.

DIGITAL MEDIA

CARI WEBSITE VISITOR NUMBERS

In 2013, CARI's website had 21,516 visits and in 2014, 22,271 visits. People came looking for information, accessing services and seeking support. 77% of these were new visitors and 23% returning ones. Demographically, nearly 60% of our website hits were from Dublin, followed by Limerick (4%) and Cork (3%). The most viewed pages were CARI Home Page, followed by About Us, Helpline, Contact Us, and Help Us.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2013, we redeveloped our Facebook Page and judiciously used our social networks for fundraising, campaigning and communications. We engaged with our audience through social media and empowered them to be organisational ambassadors, supporters and volunteers! Furthermore, we built interest and engendered a dynamic community by galvanising our contacts to act on what they read.

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/cari.ie

In 2013, we increasingly used Facebook to proactively connect with our supporters and the public. Throughout 2014, we dynamically used Facebook to market our events, provide information and advice, plug campaigns and appeals, circulate corporate messages and disseminate CARI news and video content. **For 2013 / 2014, CARI had 1,310 Facebook Likes.**

TWITTER www.twitter.com/cari_ie

In 2013/2014, we used Twitter to prompt our supporters to take meaningful action in aid of CARI. Twitter empowered us to encourage our followers to leverage advocates by connecting with current, like-minded audiences. In order to amplify the amount of conversations about CARI, we tapped into these conversations and cultivated their interest in CARI. Twitter is a valuable marketing tool and we use it to drive traffic to our website and raise awareness of CARI. **The usage for 2013 / 2014 was 3640 Tweets; 482 Following; 1382 Followers.**



Fundraising Highlights 2013 & 2014

THANK YOU FROM CARI FUNDRAISERS

CARI's fundraising teams in Dublin (Patricia Townsend) and Limerick (Mary Madden) along with CARI's C.E. staff in both centres.

CARI'S GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL

Left: Roz Flanagan Middle: CARI CEO Mary Flaherty & CARI Supporter Cassie Moore Right: Miriam Ahern, Georgina Byrne, baby Gia & twins Jay & Rocco Byrne



Following on from a successful coffee morning instigated by CARI supporter Roz Flanagan in 2012, a further 29 similar events were organised in 2013 and took place nationwide. In 2014, Roz held another coffee morning in Silks Restaurant, Malahide and again CARI supporters held their own throughout the country. Thank you to all who participated in this event.

CARI SUMMER LUNCH & FASHION SHOW

In May 2013 and 2014, Miriam Ahern hosted the CARI lunch in the wonderful surroundings of The Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin. The afternoon began with a champagne reception followed by a chic Fashion Show. Guests enjoyed a delicious four-course gourmet lunch with wines sponsored by M&S. The charismatic Alan Hughes from TV3 was the MC for the afternoon. In 2013, after lunch guests were entertained by energetic accordion player Liam O'Connor and in 2014, the Bugle Babes. In 2013, our media partner for the event was RTÉ Radio 1 and in 2014, RTÉ 2fm.

Left: CARI CEO Mary Flaherty & Fiona Doyle & Cassie Moore. Right: Miriam Ahern & Cecelia Ahern & Georgina Byrne



BIKERS RUN

The Annual Bikers Run in June 2013 and July 2014 was a huge success. Special thanks to Andy Meek, Len Fitzgerald, Aiden Tolton, Dennis Morgan and fellow bikers for all their hard work and effort in the organisation of the bike run. Thank you to the management and staff at O'Connell's Bar in Annacotty for providing the BBQ at the end of the run.

Top: CARI Bikers Run 2014 Bottom: Andy Meek, Len Fitzgerald & fellow bikers raising €2,466 for CARI



LIMERICK'S LIVE 95 STOP TOUR FOR LIMERICK KIDS

The 2013 and 2014 Tours kicked off in September! In 2013, Limerick's Live 95 Stop Tour for Limerick Kids raised €40,748 and in 2014, €43,328 in aid of CARI. The money to date has paid for many precious, important hours of therapy for children and families affected by child sexual abuse. CARI's life-changing work in Limerick would not be possible without Limerick's Live 95FM facilitating such a large fundraising drive for Limerick kids. Many thanks to Fergal Deegan (Sales and Marketing), Joe Nash (95fm CEO) and Danielle Erickson / Suzanne O'Brien (Tour Coordinators) and the entire 95FM team and all their listeners for their many years of support.

Limerick Live 95FM 95 Stop Tour 2013



Limerick Live 95FM 95 Stop Tour 2014



Left: CARI CEO Mary Flaherty & Roz Flanagan & Miriam Ahern Right: Cecelia Ahern & Miriam Ahern & Georgina Byrne

CARI CHRISTMAS LUNCH

In November 2013 and 2014, CARI held our Christmas Lunch in the luxurious surroundings of The Four Seasons Hotel, Dublin. The afternoon began with a champagne reception sponsored by House Dublin in 2013 and M & S in 2014. The guests enjoyed a four course meal with delectable wines sponsored by M&S. Alan Hughes from TV3 was the MC for the afternoon. In 2013, guests were entertained by The Halleluia Gospel & Show Choir featuring Karl Dawson and in 2014 by The Halleluia Gospel and The Sisters of Sound.

CHARITY OF THE YEAR

ANNUAL OIREACHTAS HILL WALK IN AID OF CARI

Minister Jimmy Deenihan TD, Deputies Eric Byrne TD and Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD, and Senators Brian Ó Domhnaill and Catherine Noone climbed MacGillycuddy's Reeks in June 2014 as part of the annual Houses of the Oireachtas hill walk, with proceeds of €2,500 going to CARI. Thank you to the TDs, Senators and Karl Boyle, CEO of Mountaineering Ireland, for your financial and instrumental support.

Karl Boyle CEO Mountaineering Ireland & Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD & Senator Catherine Noone & CARI CEO Mary Flaherty & Eric Byrne TD & Minister Jimmy Deenihan TD



RONNIE WHELAN CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

Ronnie Whelan, along with Gary Keating at GK Events, invited a host of their celebrity pals from the world of sport, television and entertainment to join them for the 13th annual Ronnie Whelan Charity Golf Classic in June 2014. All proceeds were donated equally between CARI, The Myasthenia Gravis Association Ireland and The Marie Keating Foundation.

Ronnie Whelan

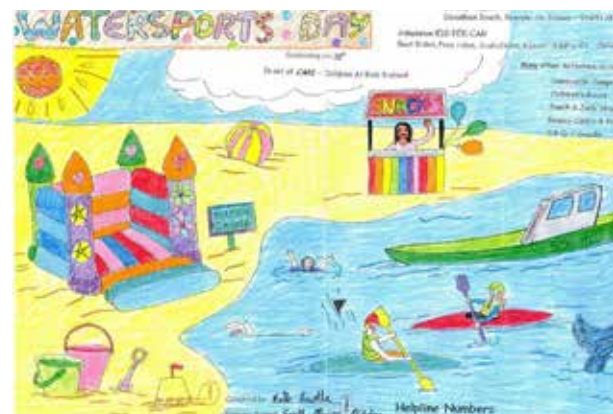


DUN LAOGHAIRE GOLF CLUB CHARITY DAY

Thank you to Olive Broderick, lady captain of the Dun Laoghaire Golf Club, for nominating CARI as the recipients of her charity golf day in September 2014. €6,400 was raised on the day and The Macquarie Group Foundation matched the amount raised.

CONNEMARA'S WATERSPORTS DAY 2013

In 2013 and 2014, CARI was again nominated as the recipients of Watersports Day which was held in August by Patricia Keane and her hard-working committee. It was a great family day out – activities included scuba-diving, kayaking, boat and pony rides and a host of other exciting events.



THE HALLELUIA GOSPEL CHOIR

The Halleluia Gospel Choir donated the proceeds of their Christmas Carol Concert again in January 2013 / 2014. The choir have been supporting CARI for numerous years for which we are extremely grateful.

Halleluia Gospel Choir



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

EASTER BASKETS & HAMPERS

In 2013 and 2014, we placed Easter Baskets complete with a chocolate egg and cuddly toy in hotels, bars, pubs, clubs, shopping centres, local businesses, credit unions, companies, schools and community centres throughout Dublin and Limerick. A big thank you to all who allowed us to fundraise on their premises and who participated in this annual event.

LIMERICK SOLICITORS & BAR ASSOCIATION TABLE QUIZ

A huge thank you to Solicitor Gerard O' Neill and his family who organised a most enjoyable table quiz in the Limerick Lawn tennis club in April 2014.

MYDRUMCONDRA.IE / CARI - FUN CYCLE

The Mydrumcondra.ie/CARI Fun Cycle commenced in June 2014 and the total distance covered was 50 km (30 miles). Every cyclist really enjoyed the fun and a great sense of achievement having supported a great children's charity.

Mydrumcondra.ie / CARI - Fun Cycle-Declan Markey & Aileen Ennis & Alan Ennis



HARVEY NORMAN ANNUAL BBQ

A special thank you to the management and staff of Harvey Norman for inviting us to do a BBQ on their premises and providing the food over the August weekend. A massive thanks to all those hungry customers!

TURKEY TREK

Many thanks to our group of fundraisers from Limerick who travelled to Turkey in September 2013 and 2014. Group Leader Helen Coote of CARI Limerick led the treks and represented CARI.

LIMERICK LADIES MINI MARATHON

A thank you to all the ladies and also for the brave gentlemen who participated in the run and raised funds in 2013 at UL Arena.

DIT

Thank you to Tom Cooney and his Business Class of 2013, who organised various events in aid of CARI. Students undertook to organise events from scratch learning valuable skills in marketing and PR and raised much needed funds for CARI on the way.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Our sincere thanks to all the companies, credit unions, post offices, pubs, schools, colleges, hairdressers, beauty salons and shopping centres and individuals who supported us with our Christmas Hamper Raffles. You helped us raise much needed funds for our services.

CHALLENGES

FLORA WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON

Another great day for CARI with teams of women turning out to run, jog or walk in aid of CARI. Ciara O'Callaghan, aka Yvonne Doyle, Fair City, again was the face of CARI for 2013's event. A huge thank you goes to her, to all our participants and to The Duke pub in Duke Street for their on-going support over the last nine years in hosting our meet and greet.

CARI Staff Aileen Ennis & Supporters



WHITE COLLAR BOXING EVENT

The fight night on October 5th 2013 in the Dandelion Night Club, Stephens Green, Dublin was a knockout! In addition, there were spot prizes and raffle on the night! Well done to Simon Maples and CARI staff Grace Jordan & Nicola Sisk & all the participants who put a huge amount of preparation and hard work into getting ready for the main event!

CARI Staff Grace Jordan & Nicola Sisk



Strictly CARI

Thank you to all who supported Strictly CARI in February 2014! Congratulations to our winners Collette Connell & Stephen Hamilton; well done to all our dancers; thank you to Brendan Scully (MC), our judges Roz Flanagan, Dave Duffy (Fair City) & Bernie Aston (Dance Fuzion); our supporting act DCU Glee Club & our dance trainers Dance Addiction Dublin! Check out photos from Strictly CARI c/o Andzikdublin Photography! Thank You Andrzej Witkowski!



HIGHWAY CHARITY CYCLE 2014

Thank you to the 87 cyclists who completed a 90km cycle in the Limerick and Newcastlewest area in June 2014. A special thank you to Ken Dunne and Joe Gleeson and Dan Ahern who organised the event. A total of €3100 was raised.

A huge thank you to all the individuals who undertook their own challenges in aid of CARI.

CARI FUNDRAISING STANDARDS

CARI is fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising. The statement was developed by the ICTR group and exists to provide charities in Ireland with a Fundraising Code of Practice.

The purpose of the statement is to:

- Improve fundraising practice
- Promote high levels of accountability and transparency by organisations fundraising from the public
- Provide clarity and assurances to donors and prospective donors about the organisations they support.

COMPLAINTS

CARI received some complaints regarding our fundraising activities. All were responded to as per the code of conduct. Two were upheld and changes were made accordingly.

Fundraising Staff List

- Patricia Townsend - *Events and Fundraising Manager Dublin*
- Mary Madden - *CARI CE Supervisor*

Fundraising Officers Dublin

- Julie Mannix - *CE Participant*
- Aileen Ennis - *CE Participant*
- Declan Farrell - *CE Participant*
- Craig Doyle - *CE Participant*

Fundraising Officers Limerick

- Helen Coote - *Jobs Initiative*
- Frances Ryan - *CE Participant*
- Shane Kiely - *CE Participant*
- Frank McNamara - *CE Participant*
- Eugene Browne - *CE Participant*
- Marlene Brosnan - *CE Participant*
- Elton Good - *CE Participant*

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Year End 31st December 2013/2014

	2014	2013	2012
Income			
Donation, Grants, Services	552,594	491,013	539,155
Fundraising	179,119	141,584	199,010
Total	731,713	632,597	738,165
Expenditure			
National Expenditure	485,589	581,656	687,031
Deficit/surplus on Ordinary Activities	246,124	125,149	51,137
Balance Sheet As at 31st December 2013/2014			
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	1,120,000	1,120,000	1,120,000
Current Assets			
Bank	158,458	19,529	21,606
Debtors & Prepayments	3,130	4,656	1,115
Total	161,588	24,185	22,722
Current Liabilities			
Creditors (Amount failing due within 1 year)	-95,738	-142,434	-136,869
Net Current Assets/Liabilities	65,850	-118,249	-114,147
Total Assets less Liabilities	1,185,850	1,001,751	1,005,853
Creditor (Amount failing due after more than 1year)	-628,825	-690,850	-820,101
Revenue & Reserves			
Accumulated Surplus	557,025	310,901	185,752
Total	2,341,812	1,742,819	1,005,853

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Statutory Grants	2014	2013	2012
HSE Northern Area/Tusla (Tusla formed 2013)	240,553	243,565	243,563
Family Support Agency/Tusla	97,900	116,000	134,100
Dept. of Children & Youth Affairs-National Lottery			30,000
Commission for support of Victims of Crime	16,200	26,200	14,200
National Lottery HSE Mid-West			4,335
National Lottery HSE Northern Area	4821		4,000
Dept. of Social Protection*	5,906	6,553	8,107

* CARI also benefits from DSP via our two CE schemes and JI part funding for three posts in CARI. These funds are accounted for separately to and have a different accounting year. Only a net material grant of €5,906 is visible in our accounts. The Income and Expenditure turnover of the Limerick CE scheme in the year to Sept 13 was Income €226,700.33 and Expenditure was €251,675.78. The year to Sept 14 the figures were €297,307 & €327,405. The figure for Dublin CE year Sept 13 Income €257,267.69 & Expenditure €279,663.40. The year to Sept 14 was €259,973.79 & €285,581.88

CARI also has three staff posts funded by Jobs Initiative (JI) scheme. The gross contribution to CARI from JI in 2013 was €23,000 for Limerick and €46,000 for Dublin.

Total	360,559	392,318	438,305
Non-Statutory	Grants/Trusts		
Manuela Riedo Foundation	12,000	9,000	
The Gift Team, Ebay Inc. Foundation		1,600	
Civil Service Charities fund		7,000	
Help for Children/Hedge Funds Care - Prevent & Treat Child Abuse	5,000		
Community Foundation of Ireland			10,000
Dublin Bus			2,000
Total	17,000	17,600	12,000

Management Salary Scales:

CEO	€60,000 - €75,000
HEAD of THERAPY	€65,000 - €75,000

The 2013/14 Accounts were prepared by Knowles O'Dowd Carrig Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors, 36 Fitzwilliam Square W, Dublin 2



Company Solicitors

Rory P. Benville & Company,
Riverview House, Seapoint Road, Bray,
Co. Wicklow

Auditors

Knowles O'Dowd Carrig Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors, 36 Fitzwilliam Square W,
Dublin 2

Registered Office

110 Lower Drumcondra Road, Drumcondra,
Dublin 9

Company Number Registered Number: 148760
Charity Number: 9491

Board Members

- Richard P. Treacy – Chairman
- Ronan Boylan
- Noel Hughes
- Peter Quinn
- Colman Duggan (Resigned December 2013)
- Colm O'Brien
- John Quinn
- Pauline Beegan
- Rachel Mooney (Resigned December 2014)



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Email fundraising.limerick@cari.ie
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Email helpline@cari.ie