



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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# Chairman and CEO Review 2015

## Board Renewal

2015 saw significant changes at Board level. CARI's long standing Chairman, Richard P. Treacy, stood down after many years in the role but remained on the Board. His extraordinary contribution was acknowledged at the Annual Christmas gathering in CARI. He is succeeded by Noel Hughes an experienced Board Member and public servant. The Board also said goodbye to financial expert Peter Quinn but recruited an excellent replacement in John Crawley. Ms Mona O Leary, solicitor, also joined the Board in 2015 filling the gap left by Ronan Boylan's retirement. The clinical profile of the Board was also strengthened by the recruitment of Psychotherapist and Supervisor, Pauline Beegan. John Quinn and Colm O'Brien, both of whom are Limerick based, provided business skills and regional perspective and remained on the Board. Both Chair and CEO appreciate the invaluable voluntary contribution and commitment of the Board members.

## Charities Regulation Process Embraced

CARI as a Company Limited by Guarantee, with a long established practice of publishing an Annual Report and audited accounts found the transition to the new Charities Regulatory Authority regime a smooth and easy process. CARI welcomes the new framework and oversight and will continue to meet new standards as required. CARI started work towards the adoption of the optional standard of SORP Accounting and continued updating, improving and expanding its suite of internal financial policies.

## Clinical Activity Increases but waiting lists very long

Reversing the decline of the previous three years, all clinical services increased output significantly in 2015, except for the Helpline which saw a decline in core calls. Therapy appointments offered increased by 17% following the recruitment of additional therapists on a contract basis in both the Dublin and Limerick centres. We provided weekly therapy services to fifty one children directly and supported many more children by offering advice or crisis appointment to parents and carers and supported many more via the Helpline. In all over 260 families were supported. This parental support work and the co-working with parents cannot be overestimated especially while children wait, struggling in the aftermath of traumatic events and discoveries.

Staff have worked selflessly and both Chair and CEO express their appreciation for the fine work done by all the clinical staff in meeting the needs of traumatised children and families, genuinely challenging work. Helpline and therapy staff offered outreach training to several professional settings and schools and impacted positively on the lives of many more children in their care.

## CARI's Campaign for extra funding to meet the needs of children on waiting lists

Despite the improved output, waiting lists remain stubbornly high as we have a backlog from the recession and our capacity has not yet reached pre-recession level. In early 2015 CARI approached TUSLA for additional funding to meet the needs of these children who were either affected by sexual abuse or were under twelves exhibiting sexually harmful behaviours. CARI has met with, not only refusal, but requests to move to new locations without any additional resources. We remain locked in this dispute as we go to press in 2016. Meantime many of these children were getting no service all that during time and others left with no choice but to access private or non-specialised services. Our campaign for specialized therapeutic services for children affected by CSA will not let up until we are satisfied that children have access to the same range of specialized services that are available to adults.

## Child Court and Forensic Accompaniment expanded

Numbers of children and families supported by the Court Accompaniment Service almost doubled and the CASATS Galway forensic Accompaniment Service became firmly established and initial discussions took place on developing a similar service in Dublin. The growth of this service is steady and consistent.

## Interagency Working

Following an invitation from TUSLA CARI joined the National and Regional Steering Groups for a National and Regional Sexual Abuse Assessment and Treatment Service. CARI also joined with the assessment units in the children's hospitals in a campaign to protect child counselling notes, meeting with the DPP's office and lobbying politicians. In addition, CARI is on the NOTA (Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers) Executive and attends a clinical group with the major RCCS, One in Four and The Adult Counselling Service and others. CARI is a member of the AACI (Association of Agency Based Counselling Services in Ireland) and last year commenced inputting statistics into the central database as it was a funding requirement.

## Governance

CARI registered with the new Charities Regulatory Authority in 2015 and is preparing to make necessary changes to comply with the new companies' legislation. CARI commenced registration required under the Lobbying Act.

## Finances

CARI made a modest current surplus in 2015, retaining the three-month reserve put in place in 2014, all other income being expended on charitable activities. The wage freeze for staff in place since 2008 remained in place. State funding reduced by a further 8% in 2015 but represented 50% of our income. We are sincerely grateful to TUSLA and the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime who are our major statutory partners. We are also indebted to the private trusts such as Hedge Funds Ireland who are welcome new entrants into the iris philanthropic space and the Manuel Reido Foundation. Finally, our individual and community supporters have been invaluable in recessionary times and our events and challenges provide important funding for our services.

## Fundraising and digital era.

Our in-house fundraising resource is small and relies on support from the CE schemes. A program of events, direct marketing, increasing use of online and digital media to the members of the

public and the work of voluntary teams who support and attend our events throughout the year has contributed to producing close on 50% of CARI's income in 2015. Our thanks go to the small but effective teams in Dublin and Limerick for this result in a difficult climate for fundraising.

## Team CARI

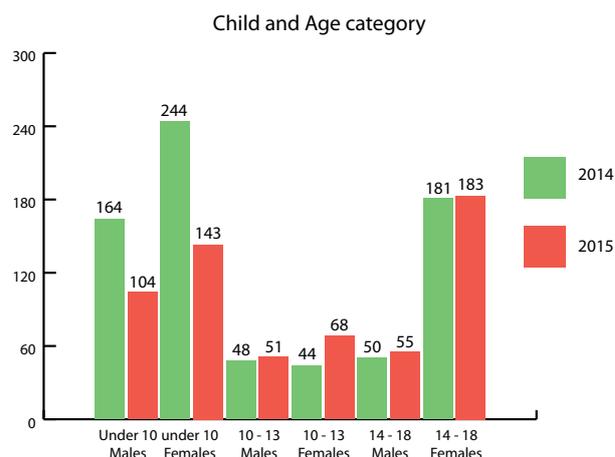
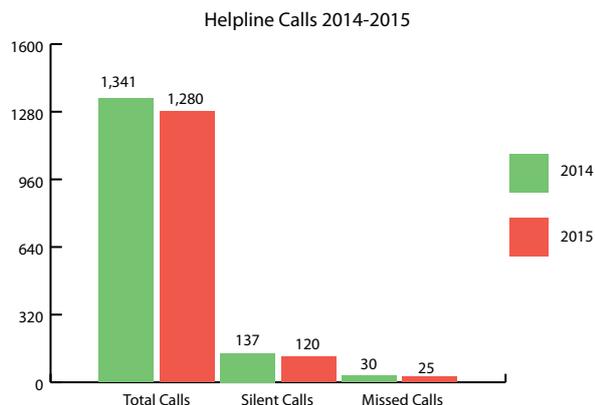
Finally, thanks to every member of Team CARI, volunteer, CE or staff whether in clinical services, administration, fundraising or management who have continued the good work on fewer resources and lower pay. The reward is in the work and its outcomes, in the young lives and childhoods restored and trauma reduced in so many children and families faced with child sexual abuse, surely one of life's most heartbreaking experiences.

**Mr Noel Hughes**, Chairman.

**Ms Mary Flaherty**, CEO



# CARI Helpline 2015



## Rape and sexual assault calls

62% of all calls 62% of calls to the Helpline relate to the rape and sexual assault of children and teens. Whilst the figures for calls related to sexualised behaviours continue to drop from a high in 2013, these remain the second highest category of calls at 9%.

## Mothers highest category of callers

CARI helpline also continues to support mothers with concerns for their children as they continue to be the highest category of caller to the service. In 2015 of the 870 calls to the Helpline, 450 or 50% were from mothers with a concern about their child. 160 or 18% of callers to our service were professionals, most of them being social workers, making them the second highest category of caller. Encouragingly from January 2015 CARI Helpline has seen an increase in contact of 67% from social workers. This is significant in that it highlights the developing professional relationship. There was also an increase in calls from adult survivors.

## Outcome of calls

10% of callers to the Helpline accepted further support by attending crisis intervention appointments with CARI therapist. Others are advised to contact social services or other more appropriate voluntary services. Some have their information or support needs met by the call and a small number will call again for further support.

## Risk profile from call details

An analysis of helpline statistics highlight that females and males under the age of 10 are at significant risk of abuse. Whilst females between the age of 14 –18 continue to be at high risk levels, the risk reduces for males when they enter adolescence. CARI has seen an increase this year in calls from affected teenagers. However, this figure remains low in relation to overall calls and requires an information campaign to ensure our service becomes known and available to young people.

## Length of Calls

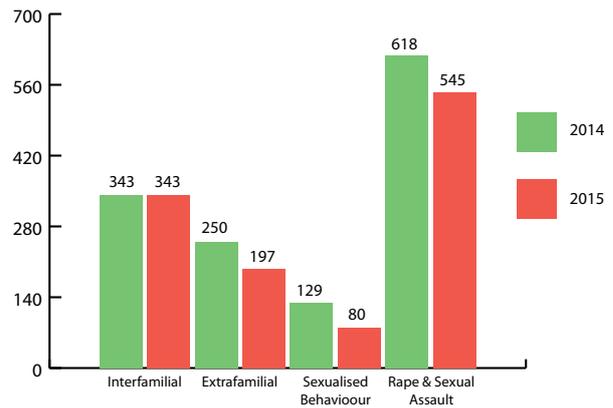
An important fact to highlight is that CARI helpline operators spent 479 hours answering the Helpline calls. This averages out at 32 mins per call with the longest recorded call taking almost two hours.

## Perpetrator profile

Of those who gave details in relation to their abuser, 343 callers were abused by someone within their family and 179 callers did not know the perpetrator.

Callers' other main presenting issues	
Other agencies	292/478
Alcohol and drugs	17
Bereavement/loss	15
Suicide/self-harm	38
Domestic violence	27
Custody issues	29
History of abuse	48

Child gender and age category	
Female	U-10 =143
Male	U-10 =104
Female	10-13 =68
Male	10-13 =51
Female	14-18 =183
Male	14-18 =55



## CALLS FROM TUSLA AREAS:

### TUSLA Dublin North East

TUSLA Dublin City North	(TOTAL = 40)
TUSLA Dublin North	(TOTAL = 70)
TUSLA Cavan/Monaghan	(TOTAL = 09)
TUSLA Louth/Meath	(TOTAL = 42)

### TUSLA Dublin Mid-Leinster

TUSLA Dublin South-East/ Wicklow	(TOTAL =39)
HSC Dublin South Central	(TOTAL = 16)
TUSLA Dublin South-West/Kildare	(TOTAL =40)
TUSLA MIDLANDS	(TOTAL = 12)

### TUSLA West

Donegal	(TOTAL = 03)
Galway/Roscommon	(TOTAL =22)
TUSLA Mayo	(TOTAL = 01)

TUSLA Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	(TOTAL = 10)
TUSLA Mid-West (Limerick)	(TOTAL = 42)
TUSLA Clare	(TOTAL = 27)
TUSLA Tipperary North	(TOTAL = 10)

### TUSLA South

TUSLA Kerry	(TOTAL = 09)
TUSLA Cork	(TOTAL = 33)
TUSLA Waterford/Wexford	(TOTAL = 14)

### TUSLA Carlow/Kilkenny/South

Tipperary	(TOTAL = 06)
Unknown	(TOTAL =280)

**Silent/Missed (Total = 145)**  
**(Total = 870)**

## The impact on the operator can be significant

Making yourself available to listen to distressed calls is an important task and yet it is vital that we recognize that we are human beings and that this trauma/content must go somewhere. In CARI we ensure that all our operators avail of supervision which is provided to the team by the organization. We highly support self-care and the team do an amazing job of providing peer support to each other. None-the less it is challenging and at the same time an extremely rewarding role.

### Statements made by operators impacted by traumatic stories:

*"It is extremely sad that today children are still suffering, it makes me so angry".*

*"This call was really difficult; I hope I did enough to Help".*

*"It took me a while to understand what this mum was trying to say as she was crying so much, I felt like crying with her".*

*"I need to take a 5 min break, The story that woman told me sounded like it came from a movie and not real life, no wonder they don't feel safe".*

When CARI operators were asked what was the main message that they wanted people to receive from this report the majority stated just this....

**We want children and Families to know that who they are does not have to be defined by their experience. They can Heal, they can Recover, they can Repair, they can be helped.**

**We consider it a privilege to support and help any person from anywhere with a concern about Child Sexual Abuse or sexually harmful behavior in children.**

## Helpline Operator - A perspective on the role

"The way of being with another person which is termed empathic...means temporarily living in their life, moving about in it delicately without making judgments.....to be with another in this way means that for the time being you lay aside the views and values you hold for yourself in order to enter the other's world without prejudice...a complex, demanding, strong yet subtle and gentle way of being." Carl Rogers.

**Listening:** It is such a simple thing to say and yet a very complex thing to do. If you take a moment and think back to the most traumatic and difficult times in your life, can you agree that at those difficult times it was important that you had, someone to carry the burden with you, someone to validate your feelings, someone who cared about what happened to you, someone who understood and someone who listened without judgement. This complex task is the primary role of the CARI helpline operator. We are privileged that every year so many use the helpline service to explore their feelings of anger, denial, grief, sadness and loss with our experienced helpline operators.

**Who Calls:** It is not surprising to learn that the highest number of calls to our helpline are made by Mothers. That is not to say that fathers are not concerned for their children's wellbeing and safety, however mothers and fathers can often take a different stance from each other. Whilst father's might be really angry and want to hurt the person that has hurt their child, mothers tend to want to make their children better and seek CARI's help and advice.

### Callers concerns – some anonymised examples

Mother phones: "My 12 year old daughter was sexually assaulted by another group of teens in the bathroom of a burger bar", I need help".

Mother phones: "Whilst putting my 6-year-old son to bed last night he told me that he does not like the games his Uncle plays with him and that he does not like it when he asks him to touch

his pee pee", (pee pee is the word this 6 year old uses for his penis).

Teacher phones: "At break time yesterday I walked into the bathroom and found two 5 year olds in a state of undress, one was asking the other to kiss his private parts" they both said it was a game they had been playing for a while".

Mother phones: "My 8 year old son has been abused online and I don't know what to do the perpetrator got him to take videos and photographs of him touching himself sexually and send them to him".

Father phones: "The police have just contacted myself and my wife and informing us that our 15 year old daughter was raped last year, this has all come out because she was been cyber bullied on line and the school found out and reported it".

Mother phones: "To say that she walked into the sitting room and over heard her 5 year old son telling his teddy bear that he was going to f\*\*k him".

Father phones: "My neighbor called to the house last night and informed me and my wife that our 13 year old son got their 3 year old daughter alone and put his hands down her pants and put his fingers up her bum".

Mother phones: "Last year my 3 year old daughter said that her Father was sexually abusing her. We reported to the Garda and she had an assessment. The assessment has come back inconclusive and now I am terrified he is going to try and get access to her"

Whilst in some of these cases it was proven that the children had been sexually assaulted and abused. Some children were identified as having seen inappropriate material via, TV, the internet or in some cases within the family home. It is important to remember that as helpline operators it is not our job to decipher whether abuse has occurred or not. Our main task is to understand that these parents are experiencing trauma and they need our support and understanding to help them to work through the fears and concerns that they have for their children

## Outcomes- feedback from callers

Because CARI provides several follow on services to clients we are often in the position that we hear the outcome of cases. A high percentage of our callers can often go onto being supported by our other services. We have been informed through positive feedback that callers found our support invaluable at the time of crisis.

Here is a flavor of the feedback from callers

"extremely helpful"

"the person listening to me was so kind and I really needed that",

"I got onto the phone thinking my son was a freak, but got off the call knowing that he was not, and that he just needed help".

"I felt like a bad Mother, like I should have known, the operator explained how I did the best that I could, that helped me to let go of some guilt that I had been feeling since it happened".

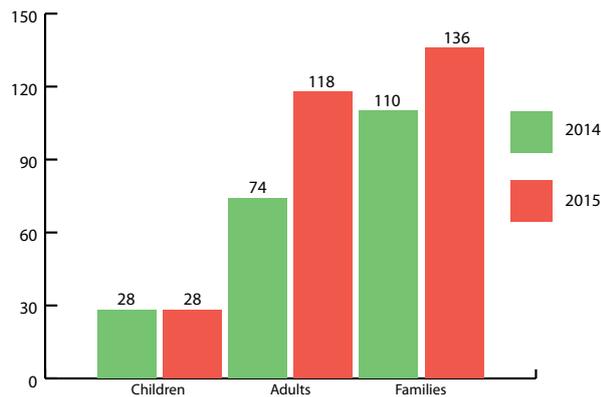
**CARI National Helpline Number LO call  
1890 924567, 9.30 to 5.30 Monday to  
Friday(except bank holidays)**

**Marie Byrne. Helpline Team Leader.**

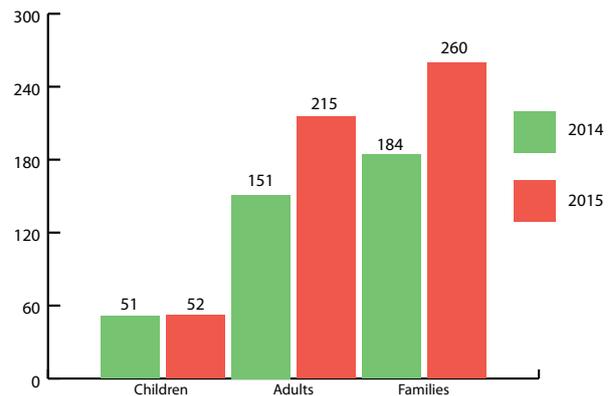
# Therapy Report 2016

## 18% INCREASE IN THERAPY HOURS PROVIDED IN 2015

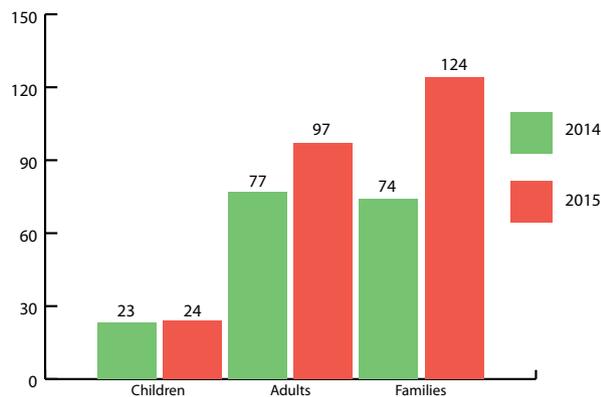
Attendance of Children, Adults & families in Dublin 2015



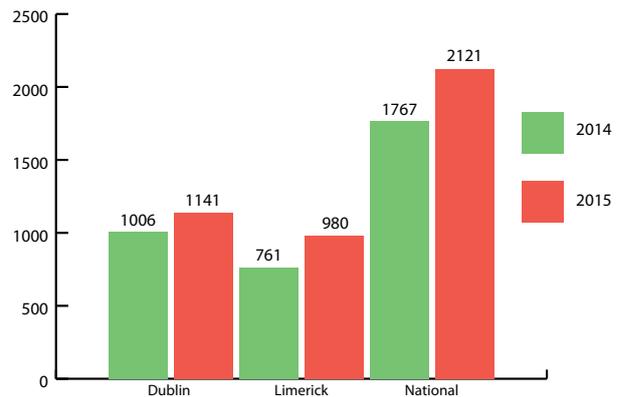
National Client Attendance Dublin & Limerick



Attendance of Children, Adults & families in Limerick



National Therapy Appointments



## 18% INCREASE IN THERAPY

2015 saw a major increase in therapy hours provided, finally reversing the decline since 2014. This was due to the full year impact of the recruitment of additional therapists on contract in both Limerick and Dublin. The number of children offered therapy increase marginally by 2%, but the number of parents carers and families grew by circa 20%. CARI offers parents and carers advice or crisis appointments within weeks or even days of first contact and this can be an invaluable support to families coping with disclosure or concerns. If their children are put on our waiting list unfortunately there are long waiting times but again our Helpline and further advice appointments can help the parents better manage the situation and support the child who is waiting for a service. It also explains the far greater number of families and adults seen as against children.

### Adults are responsible for the Safety of Children

CARI believes that adults should be taking proactive steps to protect children. It is unrealistic to expect that a young child can fend off sexual advances from an adult. Adults are the ones who need to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

Parents/carers are often at a loss when it comes to protecting children from sexual abuse and often adults just don't know how. Adults are often unaware of effective steps they can take to protect their children. There are several well-known and successful stay safe programmes that teach children age-appropriate safety awareness skills and techniques. These programs also teach children about physical boundaries, and about discerning types of touch and are valuable to children

as have undoubtedly helped children. However, this is simply one part of a larger prevention and protection plan. We must not fall into the trap of thinking that these skills alone are “good enough.” As adults we need to remain vigilant. Parents/carers are constantly faced with new challenges in protecting children.

## Children who Exhibit Sexually Harmful Behaviour

CARI works with children aged 12 and under who exhibit sexually harmful behaviour. We have noticed a significant increase in these referrals. In 2015 there were 16 children on our waiting list in Limerick and 13 in our Dublin centre exhibiting sexualised behaviour. This work is crucial as everybody needs to work together to decrease the sexually harmful behaviour. The first step to resolving the problem is to provide a caring, consistent, supportive environment for the child. The emphasis needs to be on a healthy sexual environment where there is constant supervision of the child's use of TV, video games, magazines and internet. Supervision is imperative as these children may pose a risk to other children. For this reason it is wrong to have them on a waiting list. There have been a number of referrals to our service where the sexualized behaviour was violent and extreme and it was necessary to refer these children for a more comprehensive forensic risk assessment because of the level of risk involved. The complex needs of children who present a sexual risk to others mean that a high level of staff and family support must be put in place. “She explained what things are bad for me and we came up with ideas to help me stop”.

## Pornography

CARI therapists have reported a marked rise in parents reporting their children accessing pornography. Pornography is now readily available to anyone at any age in any location. By simply typing a word into google a child can be exposed to all types of sexually explicit material. Pornography has become a major source of sex education for adolescents who do not have the understanding of what is consensual, respectful intimacy in a relationship. Overall, exposure to pornography creates unrealistic expectations of sexual activity for both men and women. Violent pornography normalizes violence against women and rape.

As parents, it is important to have an open and honest discussion about pornography with children. Parents may find it difficult to talk about sexual issues so it may be important to acknowledge the subject is difficult to discuss, but still necessary to talk about. It is important to talk to children without judgment or blame, especially if they admit to, or if you have already seen them watching pornography. Explain that pornography, like movies and TV, is made up. It is not representative of actual sexual intercourse,

It can be helpful to refer to other media, like films, TV, or video games, as a starting point to talk about how your child views sexual violence and aggression. This gives the opportunity to explore examples of healthy and unhealthy portrayals of sex.

With adolescents it is also vital to explore and discuss sexual intimacy with a dating partner. It is important to acknowledge that both partners should agree beforehand to any sexual activity. It is also important to acknowledge that both dating partners should feel comfortable expressing what they do and do not want in terms of sexual activity. It also needs to be discussed that neither partner should manipulate, cajole, or

force the other into doing something. Talking openly about the differences between healthy, unhealthy, and abusive behaviors in terms of sexual intimacy with a dating partner will allow you to connect with your child and help them make informed decisions about dating, relationships, sex, and pornography.

## Parenting Adolescents

When responding to adolescents we need to be mindful of all of the other issues that may be present for the teenager. There are many major physiological changes during adolescence. The adolescent grows in height, weight and strength and also develops sexually. There is an increase in the production of sexual hormone which increases sexual drive. The adolescent faces challenging issues around their own sexual identity. The question of identity during adolescence is paramount, “Who am I?” is the big question during this period. There are also cognitive changes during adolescence, they develop a capacity for abstract thinking. Adolescents discover new ways of processing information and learn to think creatively and critically. Adolescents often believe that no one is capable of understanding them or how they feel. The teenage years can be a difficult time and extremely anxiety provoking for the young person. Adolescents struggle to tolerate, assimilate and accommodate change and their reactions are often heightened and their behaviours may be very extreme. Mood swings are common, as are unexpectedly high levels of emotion including anger, sadness, excitement and depression. Shame is a major emotion associated with adolescence and teenagers frequently experience feelings of ridicule, humiliation and embarrassment, disgust and shame. Peer groups and peer pressure is normal in adolescence. There may be strong pressure to participate in risk taking behaviours.

## Sexual Identity

It is natural and appropriate that in adolescence the young person will experiment with adult behaviours and this is almost certain to include some level of sexual behaviour. Clearly there are significant risks in sexual behaviour. There are risks of pregnancy and disease, and there are likely to be risks to self-image. Sexuality is a major and positive dimension of human development. It is important that adolescents come to terms with their sexuality in ways which are healthy.

## Dating Abuse/Date Rape/ Dating Violence

Any young person can experience dating abuse, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic standing, ethnicity, religion or culture. It does not discriminate and can happen to anyone in any relationship, whether it's one that is casual and short-term or serious and monogamous.

A common theme that has arisen in our work with adolescents is extreme dating violence and rape. All relationships are different but a common theme in these relationships is a pattern of often extremely abusive behaviors gradually introduced over time. These behaviors are used to exert power and control over a dating partner. Power and control are the two issues that these abusive relationships have in common. Violent words and actions are used to gain and maintain power and control. “He gave me a puppy and I loved him and then he went crazy one night and killed him”.

Teenagers and young adults experience the same types of abuse as adults, including: physical abuse, verbal or emotional abuse and sexual abuse. For adolescents breaking free of these abusive relationships can be very difficult and they may need support and help to acknowledge how abusive their relationship actually is. "He broke up the house and broke my laptop".

For both adolescents and their parents being able to tell the difference between healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships can be difficult. However, there are some common warning signs of dating abuse:

- Jealousy, possessiveness
- Telling someone what to do, treating someone like a servant
- Making all the decisions, Controlling who someone sees or what they do
- Extreme jealousy or insecurity, using jealousy to justify actions
- Defining the male and female roles
- Humiliating
- Intimidating
- Constant put-downs, name calling, mind games
- Explosive anger
- Making false accusations
- Mood swings
- Physically hurting in any way
- Repeatedly pressuring someone to have sex, sexual coercion
- Threatening, displaying weapons, threatening to leave, threatening suicide
- Minimising, denying it happened, shifting responsibility she caused it
- Manipulating or making threats to get sex
- Isolation or exclusion

## Digital abuse

Digital abuse is the use of technologies such as texting and social networking to bully, harass, stalk or intimidate a partner. In most cases, this type of abuse is emotional and/or verbal and though it is perpetuated online, it has a strong impact on a victim's real life. Digital abuse has become extremely common. Digital abuse is like any other form of abuse, it is an attempt to control the partner's actions. Controlling partner's text or email excessively, "I had 64 missed calls from him". They use sites like Facebook, Twitter and other to keep tabs on a partner. They put down and bully their partner on their status updates. They send unwanted explicit pictures and put pressure on to partners to send explicit pictures or videos in return. They steal or demand passwords and frequently go through their partner's phone checking texts, emails, social networks and calls without permission. It is important to talk and discuss with teenagers about their right to privacy including their digital rights, including:

- The right to turn off their phone and spend time with family and other friends without fear of consequences from a partner.
- The right to say no to sexting or anything that you are uncomfortable with. Sexting is the sending of sexually explicit photos, images, text messages or emails .
- The right to keep passwords private and control your own privacy setting on social media sites.

Feeling safe is an important aspect of every healthy relationship. Knowing or even suspecting that your child is in an unhealthy relationship can be both frustrating and frightening. But as a parent, it is critical in helping your child develop healthy relationships. It is also important that you provide support if they are in an abusive relationship. Dating violence occurs in both same-sex and opposite-sex couples and any gender can be abusive. As a parent, your instinct is to help your child in whatever way you can. This need to help can drive you to quickly react, but sometimes what feels like the right plan of action could stop the conversation before it even begins.

## Listen and give support

"I'm afraid to break up with him". It is important to let the child know that it's not their fault and no one deserves to be abused. Often the adolescent feels ashamed and fears they may be blamed. Accept what the child is telling you. Let them know how much you care and how much they deserve a safe, healthy relationship. Let them know that it is not their fault and explain that this is not a normal relationship. It can be more helpful to talk about the behaviors not the person. Try to avoid ultimatums, you want the child to walk away from the relationship, the last thing you want is to drive them closer to the abuser.

It is important to educate yourself on dating abuse. This enables you to help your child identify the unhealthy patterns and behaviors in their relationship. Explore what makes a relationship healthy. Explore family and friends relationships that are healthy and discuss what makes those relationships good for both partners. Decide on what the next step will be together. Ask questions and encourage open discussion. Make sure you listen to child giving them a chance to speak. Be supportive and nonjudgmental. Reinforce that dating should be fun and stress that violence is never acceptable. Remind your child that they have the right to say no to anything they're not comfortable with or ready for.

## Cultural Issues in Therapy

As our society becomes increasingly multi-cultural we need to recognise the special difficulties of clients who belong to ethnic minority groups. There are likely to be more difficulties for those children and adolescents who grow up in a society where their own family cultural backgrounds differ from the major cultural influences of their environment. Children and adolescents growing up in cultures different from that of their families may have extra stresses due to conflicts in culturally determined social and moral values. CARI clients come from different cultural backgrounds, religions, social and economic situations, It can be difficult to balance and understand the beliefs and practices of others and yet respect our own values and beliefs. In our work we maintain a clear understanding of what is defined as child abuse in Irish society.

Some cultural practices may include severe forms of corporal punishment; this is not an accepted practice in Ireland. Another such example of a cultural practice is female genital mutilation (FGM). In our work in CARI with children from other cultures, we need to be mindful that the child's family may differ in their perspectives, beliefs, and practices, such as:

- Response to authority.
- Degree of confidentiality regarding family matters.
- Acceptable methods of disciplining children.
- Acceptable and effective ways for problem-solving or

resolving conflict.

- Gender roles.
- Roles in marriage.
- Role of extended family.
- Responsibilities for raising children.
- Beliefs regarding healing.
- Personal space, eye contact and physical contact with others.
- Appropriate greetings.

In our work with clients from different cultures we need to be aware of the many ways that a client's cultural background can influence the therapeutic alliance and, above all, not impose our views on the clients. We also need to take into consideration that clients from certain cultures, may value their families more than they do their individuality. In therapy autonomy is upheld as a virtue so therapists may consciously or unconsciously expect clients to strive to be autonomous. We need to be mindful of issues, for example in relation to shame and dishonour.

In CARI we strive to develop adequate levels of culturally related awareness, skills, and knowledge. We need to ensure the work we do is culturally sensitive and competent. While play is universal, the ways children explore and express themselves is deeply influenced by cultural traditions and values. For the children of immigrants, balancing and integrating two different cultures can be emotionally exhausting and very confusing. They must assimilate into Irish culture at school during the day and then enter a different world at home where they must change their identities so that they can blend in with their families.

In focusing on the wide area of child abuse within minority ethnic communities, it is relevant to note some key issues in relation to child sexual abuse within minority ethnic communities. There is no evidence to suggest that child sexual abuse within ethnic communities is significantly greater or less. However, assessment, treatment and community awareness raising and education need to be informed by a knowledge and understanding of culture and attitudes whilst retaining a clear child protection focus. Some minority ethnic communities, in common with some Irish communities have relatively high levels of denial in relation to child sexual abuse.

## Access to Therapeutic Services

The current shortfall in therapeutic support for children who have been sexually abused is scandalous. This issue needs to be addressed. The delays experienced, by children and their families are critical. Children who have experienced child sexual abuse have a right to access the therapeutic help that they need to enable them to recover and move on with their life. The services should be available when they are needed and in a location that is accessible to them.

*"We spent seven months travelling from Leitrim to Limerick for your help and every mile of those 320 miles round trip was worth it" "from a very grateful mother of two children who can now be kids again and can laugh and play together in a safe environment. Because of CARI's help I know this time in their lives won't define them in the future and I can only hope that they will grow up to be two happy well rounded adults thanks to the invaluable help and support we received from our special friends in Limerick".*

It is so important for children to be believed and supported and relieved of any distress once they disclose child sexual abuse, however, the length of time children are waiting for therapeutic

services is unacceptable. Children and families have to close the issue down and put it away to survive the lengthy wait. This does not even take into account the high number of cases that are undetected, unreported and left untreated and the high number of cases that go unprosecuted. The shortfall in the provision of services is patchy and insufficient. However, we will continue to lobby for access to therapeutic services for children who have experienced child sexual abuse as we need to be assisting, supporting and protecting children who experience child sexual abuse.

## National Vetting Bureau

The Children and Vulnerable Persons Act 2012 was amended by the Oireachtas in January 2016. The National Vetting Bureau, Children and Vulnerable Persons Act came into effect on 29 April 2016. This Act provides a legislative basis for the mandatory vetting of persons who wish to undertake work or activities relating to children or vulnerable persons.

The statutory vetting arrangements will, in addition to checking for criminal offences, also include a check for any relevant "soft information". This is an important new aspect of the vetting arrangements. "Soft information" or "specified information" is information other than criminal convictions held by An Garda Síochána that leads to a bona-fide belief that a person poses a threat to children or vulnerable persons CARI welcomes this measure in an attempt to combat and strengthen the prevention of child sexual abuse.

## Research

CARI participated in a research project undertaken by St Clare's unit which was led by Dr. Niamh De Rossa, Principal Clinical Psychologist and Ms. Katie Creighton Assistant Psychologist. St Louise's Unit, the National Counselling Service and the Rape Crisis Network also participated in the project. The research is in relation to the impact on clients of the disclosures of their therapy notes in child sexual abuse cases in court cases.

In recent times, CARI has experienced increased requests and growing pressure from the DPP's office for access to therapy notes and continues to assert the right to privacy and confidential therapy for children who have experienced sexual abuse. CARI has been campaigning on the issue of client confidentiality for many years and the right of the child to privacy and healing is paramount. We believe that children have the right to explore and discuss their worries and needs without the fear that this information will be shared in the public forum and with the alleged abuser. The system designed to protect children is failing and violating them. For children and young people who have experienced child sexual abuse, their right to confidentiality has frequently been sacrificed in the name of justice. These children and their families face re-traumatisation by the very system that promises them justice and resolution.

It is our belief that children have the right to discuss their worries, concerns and therapeutic needs without fear that this information would be shared in a public forum and with the alleged abuser. Post sexual abuse therapy attempts to carefully create a stable, consistent, protected and confidential therapeutic relationship that can facilitate children to explore feelings of embarrassment, guilt, shame and responsibility. In order to fully explore these issues children attending therapy require the reassurance that the content of their conversations are private and will not be used for other purposes. In order to highlight the above issues,

there is a need to quantify and document, the impact of the release of client notes and files in cases of sexual abuse.

## Parent History of Child Sexual Abuse and the Effects on Parenting

Child sexual abuse has been linked to the development of behavioural and psychological disorders including PTSD, depression and substance abuse as well as many other issues. Childhood abuse has been associated with a broad range of problems in adulthood, including disruptions in parent-child relationships. In our work in CARI with parents who also have a history of child sexual abuse, we are experiencing first-hand how this is impacting on their parenting ability. It is a subject that needs to be very carefully explored, as parents who are still vulnerable and fragile themselves and who were not been helped or supported may experience any exploration of this as an attack on their parenting. Yet, realistically it is no surprise that a history of child sexual abuse can negatively affect the individual's ability to parent and thus have negative effects on their child.

Initially in my time in CARI I remember being shocked at the inter-generational aspect of child sexual abuse. How the mother's own history of child sexual abuse, impeded the mother's emotional and mental health and limited her ability to keep her children safe from sexual abuse. I witnessed women who had been sexually abused, form relationships with individuals who then sexually abused their children. I witnessed mothers leave their children in the care of the individual who had years previously sexually abused them. Ironically these parents' denial and lack of awareness can leave their children extremely vulnerable.

I have also witnessed the complete opposite of denial, where parents who experienced sexual abuse as a child, became hyper-vigilant regarding the potential sexual abuse of their child. Hypervigilance from a parent may affect their ability to make good parenting decisions. It can potentially even expose a child to unnecessary sexual abuse investigations and examinations and have a negative effect on the parent-child relationship.

Boundaries are often broken in homes in which one of the parents was a victim of child sexual abuse. They are more likely to treat the children as friends or companions. They are more often permissive rather than an authority figure and find it difficult to set limits. The children often assume the parent role and end up protecting the parent and being the parent's emotional support. The parent-child relationship role-reversal may create emotional development issues.

Fathers with a history of child sexual abuse often report distress and vulnerability in intimate childcare situations (nappy changing) and affection with their children and often display a rejecting style of parenting, creating a greater emotional distance from their children.

A parental history of child sexual abuse may have the positive effect of making the parent more empathetic to the child when sexual abuse occurs. The parent may feel responsible for the abuse, feel they have failed the child, and be strongly supportive of the child. Mothers often tell us because of their own experiences they found it easier to believe their children and stated that they were even more determined to support and protect them. Some parents reported that their own experiences informed them in how they wanted to parent or not to parent.

In our work in CARI it is apparent that the parent's history of child sexual abuse has the potential, to impact on the child's therapeutic process. CARI does not work with children in isolation; we always work with a parent/carer, as they are the primary support of the child.

In our therapeutic assessment one of the questions asked: Is there a history of child sexual abuse in the family? Some parents have a degree of integration and some parents are comfortable discussing it and have attended therapy themselves to deal with their own history of child sexual abuse. Other parents get extremely defensive or distressed with this question. This can be a difficult question but it is an important question in relation to their ability to support the child during therapy.

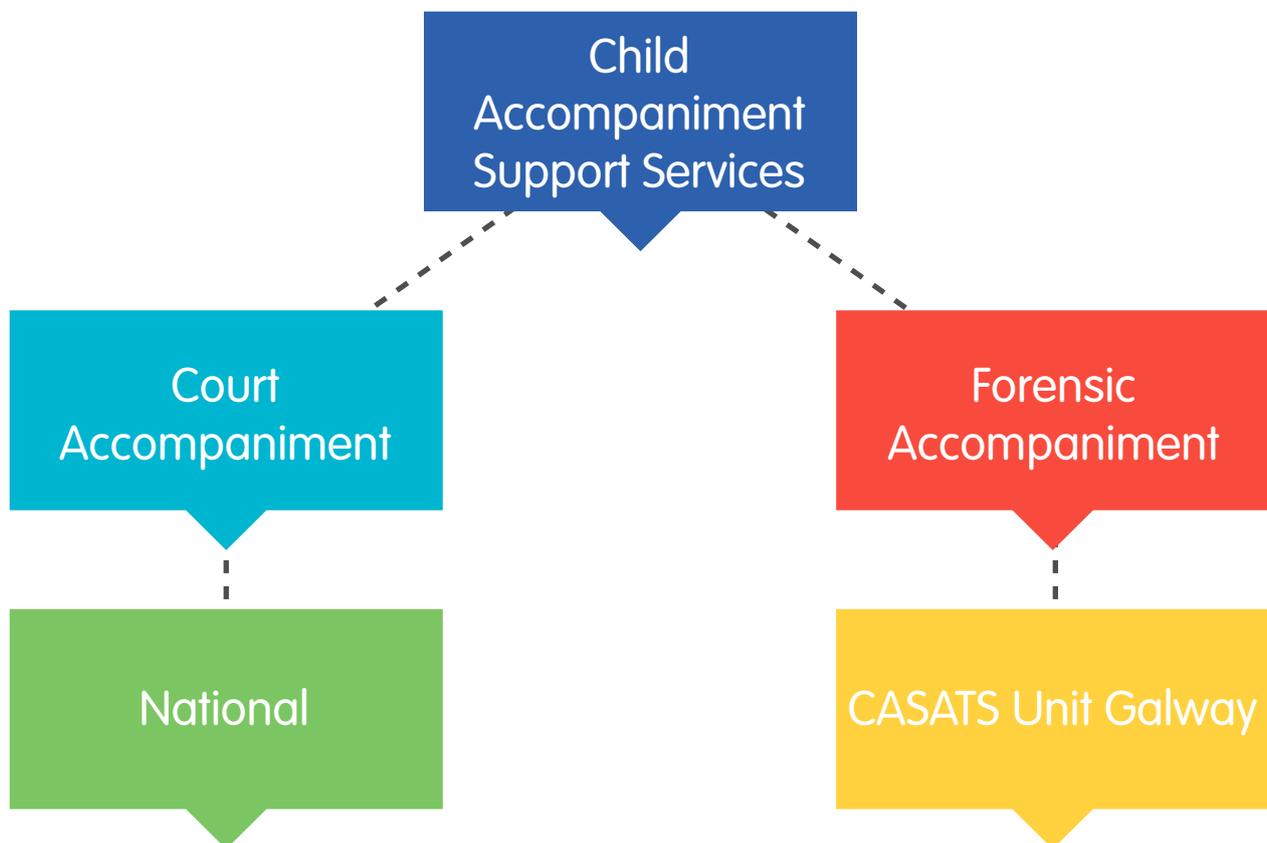
An unresolved history of child sexual abuse for parents can be both a help and a hindrance. A history of child sexual abuse may directly affect a mother's capacity to support her child and potentially affect the therapy outcomes for the child.

Parental support is a critical factor in therapy outcomes for the child and awareness that the parent's history of child sexual abuse can be a help or a hindrance is important insight. We need to counter any hindrances and provide a more constructive and supportive environment for parents who have their own history of child sexual abuse to enable them to work through their own trauma which will enable them to better support their child.

Monica Murphy

Head of Therapy

# Child Accompaniment Support Services (CASS)



## COURT ACCOMPANIMENT

Our court accompaniment service provides three main strands of support to children and their families.

### Pre-trial preparation

Our CASS court support begins with pre-trial preparation. It is our experience that children and their families can have a lot of anxiety going to court. Some of this anxiety can stem from not knowing what to expect in such an 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 that lies ahead. This allows children to have a visual of what their court experience will be like, which reduces a lot of anxiety.

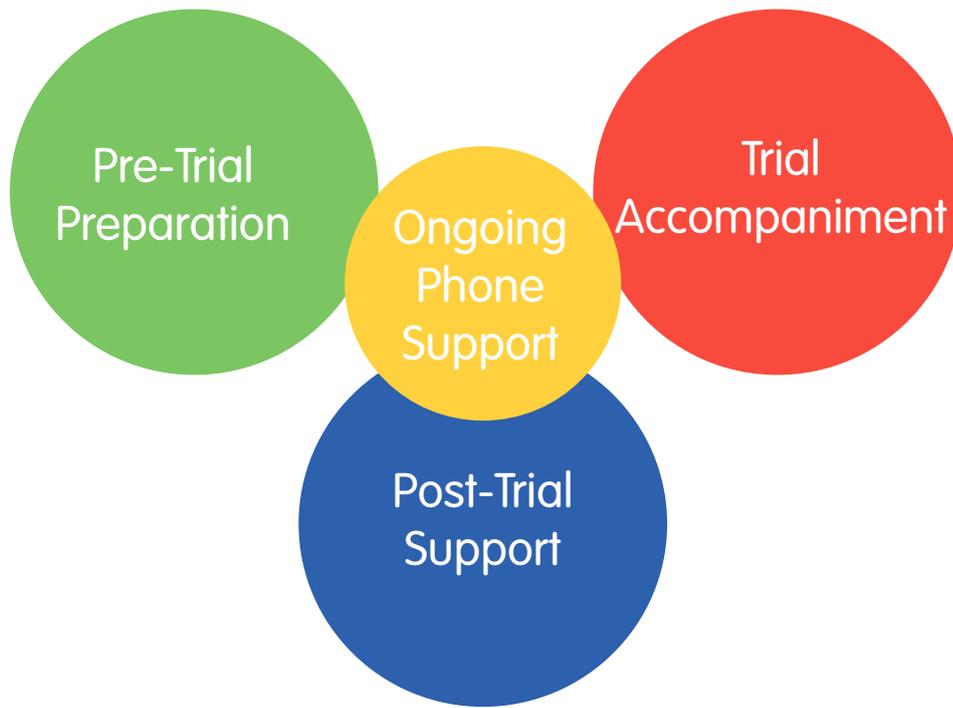
### Trial accompaniment

The second strand of this service is trial accompaniment. We accompany both children and their families to court during their trial. We provide both emotional and practical support as well as

explaining legal terminology where needed. We stay with them facilitating them in what they may need for the duration of the trial.

### Post-trial support

We also provide post-trial support where needed. In our experience, the criminal trial may be the first time for many to speak about what has happened to them. This can be a very upsetting time for some families. 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 family.



# PEOPLE SUPPORTED, MEETINGS & CALLS

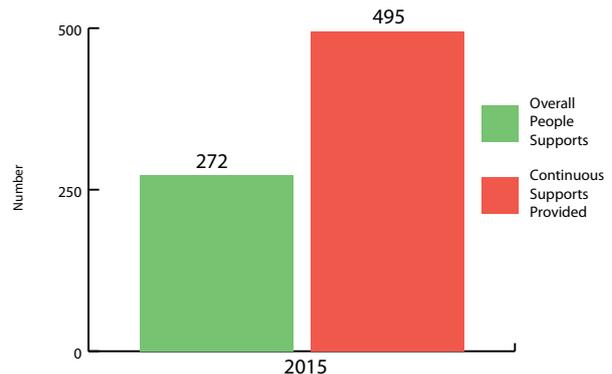
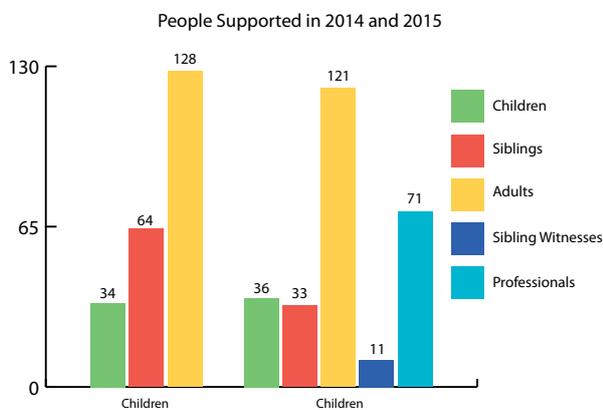
## People Supported

Our court accompaniment service supported 191 children and family members through the Irish Criminal Justice System in 2015. In addition to the accompaniment that we provided to these children, we also provided support and accompaniment to 11 siblings who also served as witnesses in their sibling’s trial. In some cases, where we supported multiple children in the one trial or where there were witnesses that needed to be kept separate for the duration of the trial we assigned additional accompaniment officers to these cases to facilitate the necessary needs of both the children and the safety measures set out for the trials.

reduces the risk of re-victimisation that can sometimes happen children who are witnesses in criminal proceedings.

In 2015 we worked with many professionals including Superintendents, Detectives, Investigating Gardaí, Social Workers, Support Workers, other victim’s agencies and Youth Workers. This collaborative, joined up approach in working with children and their families has given a solid and strong support to victims.

As indicated in the graph below, overall in 2015 CASS supported 272 people including young people, their siblings, their adult supports and professionals involved in their case who attended trial. As can be expected trials can run from days to weeks. Our staff stay with the family throughout the whole trial process. We provided a total of 495 continuous supports. Continuous support is the amount of times and the number of people we repeatedly supported over the duration of a trial.

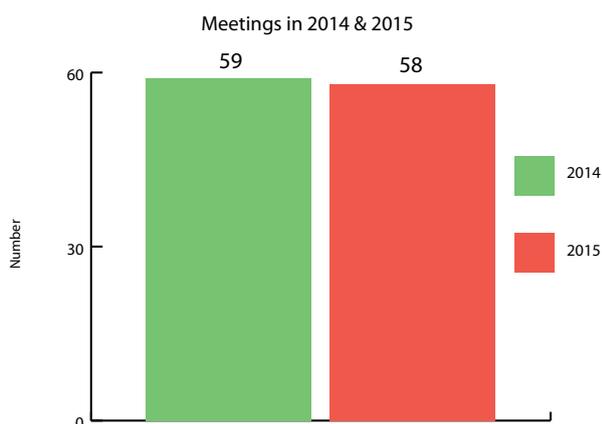
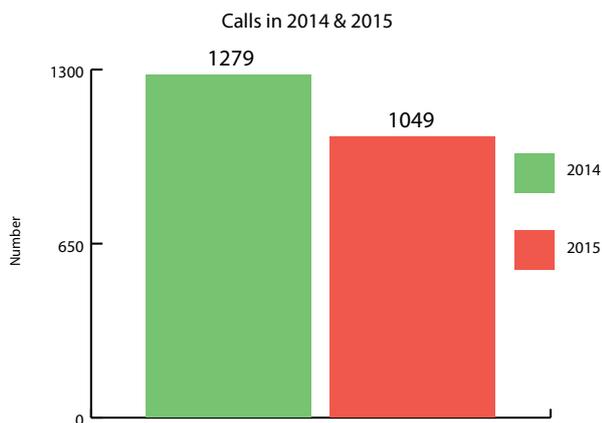


CARI believes in a multi-disciplinary approach when working with children who have to attend court as a witness. This approach helps to provide a seamless service and therefore

## Meetings and calls

In 2015, there were 58 meetings with children and their families. These meetings included either pre-trial visits or trial accompaniments.

Calls for CASS have also remained high with a total of 1049 calls made. This high figure is especially notable when it is compared to the 52% increase in calls seen between 2013 and 2014. It shows that CASS figures for 2015 have remained consistently high when compared to 2014's figures.

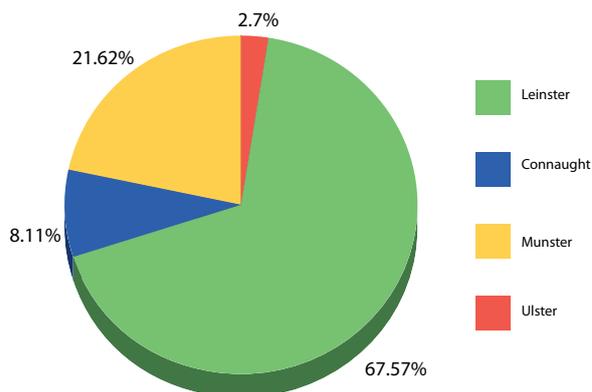


## Case Profiles

Of the cases that our team supported this year the majority had charges that included rape and or sexual assault. Sexual violence cases accounted for 61% of all the cases supported by CASS in 2015. The other types of cases included false imprisonment, arms charges, murder, kidnap and domestic violence. The average amount of charges was 16 per defendant and there were often a mix of charges where a defendant would be charged for example with rape and sexual assault over different time periods in a child's life.

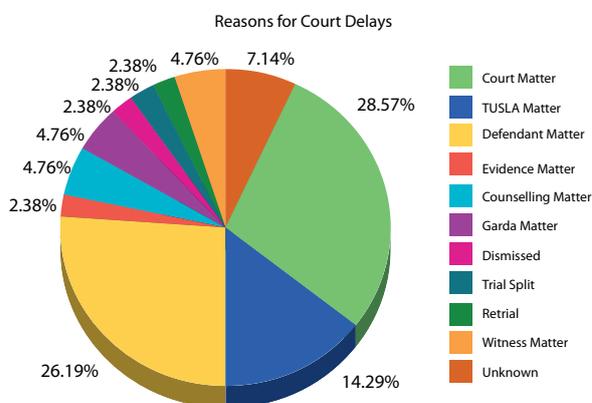
Most trials were held in the Criminal Courts in Dublin, however, the families we support are from all over the country. The graph below shows the breakdown of the provinces in which the cases originated in. This breakdown indicates that almost a third of the young people CASS supported were from outside of Leinster. This highlights both the distance travelled by young people coming to Dublin for their cases as well as the distance travelled by CASS staff to support young people in other provinces.

Geographical Location of People Supported by CASS



## COURT DELAYS

In 2015 CASS supported a total of 36 children going to court to give witness testimony in criminal trials. Of the 36 cases that we supported, 30 cases did not go ahead on the trial date and were either given new trial dates or were put back on the list to be mentioned on another date. This meant that 6 of the 36 cases started on their actual trial date. To attend trials, young people have to take time off school, support people and parents have to take time off work and very often they have to travel long distances. Delays can be very upsetting and sometimes re-traumatising for young people. We have observed these delays first-hand and below are some of the reasons that trials we supported were delayed in 2015.

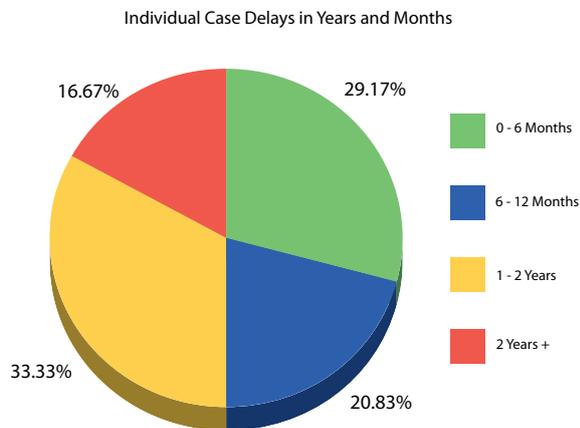


## Reasons for Court Delays

The above graph illustrates that there are a variety of reasons why trials are put back. Some of the reasons we may not be made aware of. However, a re-occurring reason is the defendant needing more time. Other reasons include court delays in relation to court matters like insufficient resources to conduct a trial e.g. no judges being available on the date.

CARI fully appreciates that it is inevitable that some cases will need to be rescheduled for another date. However, cases are often put back for significant amounts of time. The pie chart below shows the 24 cases in 2015 where we were aware of the time length of delays for young people. Some of the delays ran for a significantly long period of time. This can have a very significant

impact on young people, their families and support systems. In some cases, trials have been delayed on more than one occasion. This can be re-traumatising for a child who has gone through the emotional and practical process too ready themselves for giving witness testimony. It can also be re-traumatising when children and their families have readied themselves for the experience to be near an end. We would advocate for delays in criminal trials that involve children to be kept to a minimum and for the length of the delay to be as short as possible.



## POTENTIAL IMPACTS FROM COURT DELAYS

### Developmental

Long delays can have significant impacts on young people. The young people CARI support through court accompaniment are most often victims or witnesses to a trauma. The young people we work with often have to cope with the trauma of the trial and the possibility of seeing the defendant alongside the lengthy and delayed court process. We have often worked with young people who have had to go through both their junior and leaving certificates while awaiting trials. Both significant periods in their lives that may be affected by the delays. We would urge the judicial process to take into account the developmental stages of child witnesses in cases where delays are unavoidable.

### Legislative

Long delays can have an impact on the legislative protections put in place for young people who are victims/witnesses to crimes. 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.

# Legislative Developments

## GENERAL SCHEME OF THE CRIMINAL LAW (SEXUAL OFFENCES) BILL 2014

### Introduction

In September 2015, Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Justice and Equality, published the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015. It has been approved by Government. The bill proposes various reforms of the law, aimed at protecting children from sexual exploitation, child pornography and online grooming. There are new measures introduced regarding the protection of children from grooming and from online predators. Laws have been strengthened in regards to child abuse material. New provisions are to be introduced to give children more rights when giving evidence in a criminal trial. Other issues have been addressed such as the handing over of therapy notes of the child complainant as evidence in a criminal trial.

### Sexual Exploitation of Children Including Solicitation and Grooming

Sections 3 to 8 of the bill cover a range of offences regarding the sexual exploitation of children. This includes engaging a child in prostitution, the commission of a sexual offence, child abuse material, paying for purpose of sexually exploiting a child, inviting to sexual touching of oneself or another, causing a child to watch sexual activity, sexual activity in the presence of a child, inviting, inducing or coercing the child to engage or participate in any sexual, indecent or obscene act. Sanctions for soliciting a child have increased from five to ten years' imprisonment

following conviction on indictment. The age limit of a child for the purpose of these offences has been raised from 17 to 18.

A welcome addition to the Bill, are the specific offences addressing the sexual exploitation of children carried out through the use of information and communication technology (ICT). One such offence is the sending of sexually explicit material to a child under the age of 17 by means of ICT and coercing them into touching themselves which if convicted, the accused would face a maximum of ten years' imprisonment.

At the moment in Ireland, only the effects of grooming are criminalised and not the act of grooming itself. The Bill proposes to introduce new measures whereby any person who "intentionally meets, or travels with the intention of meeting a child, or makes arrangements with the intention of meeting a child or for a child to travel... having communicated by any means with that child on at least one previous occasion and does so for the purpose of doing anything that would constitute sexual exploitation of the child" shall be guilty of an offence. Previously, according to the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act, 2007, an offender had to have made two separate contacts with the child. The new Bill suggests that making arrangements to meet is sufficient to committing an offence, a meeting doesn't actually have to take place. A potential problem with this offence however, is proving that the offender was meeting the child for the purpose of sexual exploitation. It can be difficult, without some concrete evidence such as sexually explicit emails or text messages, to prove the offender's intention to meet was for sexual exploitation. If convicted of this offence, a maximum prison term of fourteen years can be handed down.

## Child Pornography Offences

Under current legislation (The Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998) a child is defined as a person under the age of 17 years. The new Bill makes an amendment to define a child as a person under the age of 18 years. An expansion of the definition of "Child Pornography" now includes imagery which conveys the impression that it represents a child will be considered to be child pornography, where imagery of adults is modified to make them look like that of children.

The Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998 indicates that possession of child pornography is an offence, however it does not address the viewing child pornography. The new Bill makes it an offence to view, possess, download or acquire child pornography by means of information and communication technology. Offenders who view child pornography face a maximum term of imprisonment of five years.

## Incest Law

The existing penalty for incest by a male is up to life imprisonment, this was not the same for females but a provision in the Bill will increase the penalty for females to life, making it equal for both genders.

## Two-Year Proximity Clause

The age of consent will remain at 17 years of age. A proximity of age clause will be introduced which means that where a sexual act is consensual and non-exploitative, it is not an offence if the parties are aged within two years of each other. This recognises the fact that young persons can engage in consensual sexual acts.

## Therapy Notes

The Bill contains a new provision regarding the use of a victims counselling or therapy notes as evidence in a criminal trial. The notes may be disclosed to the defence in sexual offence trials. The appropriateness of disclosing therapy notes will be a matter for the court via a pre-trial hearing. If the disclosure order is made, conditions may be imposed by the court including redaction of certain information in the records, restrictions on who can view the records and the circumstances in which they can be viewed.

## Abuse of Position of Trust

The Bill makes it an offence to abuse a child using a position of trust. People included in this offence are; teachers, youth workers, sports coaches, school transport operators and counsellors among others. All are set out as being persons in authority over children. A person found guilty of this offence can face up to fifteen years' imprisonment where a child is under 17 years of age, and ten years' imprisonment where a child is under 18 years of age.

## Children Giving Evidence

Section 13 of the Criminal Evidence Act 1992 provides child victims and witnesses under the age of 18, use of live Videolink to give evidence in violent or sexual offences trials unless the court sees a good reason they shouldn't. Section 16 of the same act allows the child victim, up the age of 14, to give their chief evidence via a video statement made during an interview with a member of An Garda Síochána at the time of reporting. A later amendment allowed any witness other than the accused up to 18 years of age, give their chief evidence through a video statement relating to an offence under the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998. The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015, has expanded upon this and now gives access to recorded video statements to children up to 18 years of age who are the victims and witnesses of all sexual offences. This amendment does not however, protect children aged between 14 – 17 who are required to give evidence in any other criminal trial, they may not give their chief evidence through video statement, but will be subject to giving an account of their memory of the event from the Videolink room. In our experience in CARI, this can be a very traumatising and difficult experience for a child. We have recorded long delays, often years, in a case coming to trial, making it difficult for a child to recollect events in the same detail as they would have at the time of the event.

The Bill makes an amendment to the Criminal Evidence Act 1992 regarding a child giving evidence where a live Videolink for any reason is not used. The judge may direct that the evidence be given from behind a screen in the courtroom where the witness does not see the accused. This will only be used where the judge deems it necessary in the interests of justice. It is CARI's view that this provision may be traumatising for a child witness, knowing that the accused is in the same room and that this procedure should be avoided at all times in favour of Videolink.

# EU DIRECTIVE ESTABLISHING MINIMUM STANDARDS ON THE RIGHTS, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Irish Criminal Justice System has always had within its architecture an imbalance between the rights of the defendant to a fair trial and the rights of victims to participate in the State trial that they serve as witness to. The adversarial nature of the criminal justice system gives victims no participatory rights in the administration of justice with regard to the crimes that have been committed against them.

The balance between including victims more whilst not impinging on the rights to a fair trial of the accused is a difficult one. A significant step toward this balance is to come in the form of the Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA or more commonly known as the victims Directive.

This is a European Directive which outlines rights for victims with respect to information and support, participation in criminal proceedings and protection and recognition of victims with specific protection needs. This Directive will impact agencies that are connected to victims at the pre-trial, trial, and post-trial stage of the Criminal Justice System.

The Directive puts a huge focus on information to victims. Specifically, that this information is timely and consistent and ensures that the victim is placed more centrally in the Criminal Justice process. It also addresses the participatory function of the victim and their need and right to protection throughout the process.

What rights will the EU directive for victims bring?

The commitments of the EU Directive for victims can be broken down into three main groups:

1. Provision of information and support
2. Participation in Criminal Proceedings
3. Protection and recognition of victims with specific protection needs

Some of the rights under the group of Provision of Information and Support include the right to be understood, to receive information on their case and the right to receive support from victim support agencies and the right to be informed of protection measures that are available to them. Within the group of participation in Criminal Proceedings victims will, amongst other rights, have the right to a reason for a decision not to prosecute, a right to reimbursement of expenses and a right to a decision on compensations from the offender in the course of criminal proceedings. The last group, Protection and Recognition of Victims with Specific Protection Needs will see victims have the right to avoid contact between victim and offender, the

right to protection of victims during criminal investigations, the right to an individual assessment of victims to identify specific protection needs as well as the right to protection of child victims during criminal proceedings.

## Victims directive and children in criminal trials

There are a number of articles that will directly affect children as victims/witnesses in criminal trials and CARI welcomes this legislative protection to child witnesses. The Directive states that children are automatically recognised as victims that require specific protection needs. These individual protection needs will be identified by conducting an Assessment of Need with any child who is a victim in criminal proceedings.

This Assessment of Need will most likely be done by the Garda who is taking the statement of child witness. Some protection measures that are available in this Assessment of Need, where possible, include:

- Interviews done with the same member or members of An Garda Síochána.
- Where the offence alleged is a sexual offence or is a domestic violence offence, that interviews are conducted by a member or members of An Garda Síochána of the same gender as the victim, if the victim so requests.
- Interviews with the victim are done by An Garda Síochána who are specialists in interviewing either in relation to the particular type of offence or the particular class of victim.
- Interviews with the victim are done in premises designed or adapted for use in relation to the particular type of offence or particular class of victim.

The Assessment of Need will also take into account the personal characteristics of the child including age, gender and gender identity or expression, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, physical or mental health issues and ability to communicate. It will also take into account the nature and severity of the offence and the degree of harm suffered by the victim.

CARI have been working with the Victims' Rights Alliance (VRA) and other victims organisations in trying to ensure that children are clearly represented in the transposition of the Directive in Ireland. The VRA is an Alliance of victim support and human rights organisations whose aim is to ensure the Victims' Rights Directive is implemented in Ireland within the proposed time frame, with all victims of crime in mind.

# GENERAL SCHEME OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE (VICTIMS OF CRIME) BILL, 2015

## Introduction

The Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill was introduced by Minister Frances Fitzgerald and passed by Government in 2015. It proposes to put victims at the heart of the justice system by introducing statutory rights for victims of crime. The Bill is a response to the EU Directive on Victims' Rights which was published in 2012.

## Provisions

The Bill proposes lots of significant changes for victims of crime including;

- The right to receive comprehensive information on the criminal justice system and their role within it and the range of services and entitlements victims may access from their first contact with An Garda Síochána.
- The right to receive a written acknowledgement of the making of the complaint by the victim giving contact details where further information can be obtained.
- The right to be provided, on request, with information concerning the progress of the investigation and any court proceedings.
- The right to an individual assessment to establish the measures, if any, that may be necessary for protection of the victim from any secondary or repeat victimisation, intimidation or retaliation and if they would benefit from special measures provided for in the Bill in the course of the investigation and or, during any court proceedings.
- The right to be informed, on request, of any decision not to institute a prosecution in relation to the offence committed against them and the right to request a review of that decision.
- The right to receive, on request, information from the Irish Prison Service of the release, including temporary release, or escape from custody of any offender who has been convicted of an offence against the victim and who is serving a sentence for that offence.

There will also be a statutory obligation on An Garda Síochána, Courts Service, Director of Public Prosecutions, the Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission to provide training to staff members who have contact with victims or complainants in the course of their official duties to a level appropriate to that contact so as to increase their awareness of the needs of victims and complainants and to enable them to deal with victims and complainants in an impartial, respectful and professional manner.

Minister Fitzgerald noted that this bill follows on from the establishment earlier this year of new, dedicated Victim Support Officers in every Garda division nationwide.

## Special Measures for Child Victims

Here in CARI, the part which is most relevant to us is Part 6: Special Measures for Child Victims. There are three heads to this section;

1. A victim who is a child shall be presumed to require the special measures set out in section 15 and section 16 of this Act. Section 15 refers to special measures during investigation. The section is quite detailed but an example of a special measure is; during interviews with the victim, where the offence alleged is a sexual offence or is a domestic violence offence, are conducted by a member or members of An Garda Síochána of the same gender as the victim, if the victim so requests. Section 16 refers to special measures during trial. It provides for a victim to give evidence other than by word of mouth for certain reasons, e.g. the type and nature of an offence. It also provides the victim with the right for the court to be cleared of all but officers of the court, representatives, persons directly concerned with court proceedings and others that the court may in its discretion permit, while giving evidence.
2. This section relates to providing special measures to suit the best interests of the child. The special measures are to be determined by various factors including age, needs, gender etc. These factors are to be determined by an assessment carried out by An Garda Síochána. Special measures may include advice, protection in the form of a barring order, access to support services amongst others.
3. The Bill aims to furnish a victim or their parent or guardian with information at their request.

CARI believes that the best interests of the child victim should be a primary consideration of the Bill. While children and their parents are to be furnished with information, it should be imperative that the literature is child friendly. A child's views should be taken into consideration when assessing the need for special measures. Training for professionals who make decisions affecting child victims should be consistent with the needs and rights of the child.



'Always a pleasure to work with CARI staff in the courts

*Guard*

## “A hard thing to do- a joint jurisdictional review of the journey of a child through the criminal justice system from reporting to court”.

In October of 2015 CARI, the NSPCC and Donegal Youth Service collaborated to hold a workshop on a joint jurisdictional review of the journey for a child through the Criminal Justice System from reporting to court.

The aim of this conference was to join together in a collaborative workshop with a view to:

- Support and highlight the situation of the children of Ireland who are moving through the court system, both North and South of the border
- Create a set of recommendations for joint governmental consideration in respect of cross boarder support for children.

This workshop was held in light of the incoming legislation on both sides of the border to implement the EU Directive on victims' rights, specifically Article 17 on the rights of victim's resident in another State. This included the Irish legislation, Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill 2015 and the Northern Ireland legislation, The Victim Charter (Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The workshop was a great success with many different professionals from both sides of the border coming together to discuss the delivery of Article 17. We were lucky to have two young people from the NSPCC Young Witness Service Participation Group speak to us about their experiences going

to court.

The Young Witness Service Participation Group, is a group that was set up by the NSPCC. This was set up to create a young person's version of the Victims Charter in Northern Ireland. In creating this group, the NSPCC formally adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children should be involved in the decisions that affect their lives.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the NSPCC and Donegal Youth Service to build on this workshop to ensure that child witnesses receive a consistent service of support across our borders.

*We are sorry to say that Ms Orla O'Reilly from the Donegal Youth Service, one of co-organisers of the conference, was tragically killed in a road car collision less than a month after the conference was held. She was an integral part of the workshop. She was a professional who worked tirelessly for the better of children. We are CARI were all deeply saddened by her loss.*

## Our thanks to referrers and funders

This vital service couldn't be provided if it wasn't for such 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 (CSVIC) who have consistently given their backing and support in so many ways. We are so grateful to our funders and those who refer to us, for their generosity of help and support.

# Forensic Accompaniment

CASATS (Child & Adolescent Sexual Assault Treatment Service) provides an integrated forensic medical service for children (14 and under) both male and female, who are victims of rape or sexual assault or suspected child sexual abuse. The service operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for patients who report an assault to G. P's, Gardaí or Social Services.

The purpose of the Service is to provide a confidential, co-ordinated service for child and adolescent victims of rape and sexual assault or sexual abuse within the West and Mid-Western Regions. It is the only dedicated service for children and young people to receive a forensic examination after an assault or disclosure.

CARI staff provide accompaniment to children and their families who attend the forensic unit. We also provide aftercare support for as long as needed. We offer this service to any adult supporting a child through the CASATS process. Accompaniment is provided by a team of trained volunteers and is delivered by an on call rota system.

## CASATS STATISTICS

CARI support children and their families at the CASATS unit through our dedicated volunteers who cover a 24 hour rota, throughout the whole year. This service went live for the first time in Ireland in 2014.

Accompaniment Officers are recognised to be an essential component of the 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 had previously been available to younger victims, until the establishment of our volunteers at the CASATS service in Galway.

From June 2014, the recruited volunteers have participated in accompanying children and their families/support people as children underwent a forensic medical examination. In addition, our volunteers have also supported and assisted in co-ordinating CARI's aftercare service.

This Forensic Accompaniment service expanded in 2015 from 9-5 Monday – Friday to a 24 hour, 365 days a year service. This

required a second recruitment process to ensure full coverage of the expanded rota.

On average 5 children a month attended the Galway forensic unit in 2015. Families/carers attending the forensic unit with these children are offered CARI's after care support. In 2015 an average of 64% of adults availed of CARI aftercare support.

Our dedicated Careworker continues to offer debriefing to the Volunteer Accompaniment Officers and also offer ongoing support for families who have attended the unit.

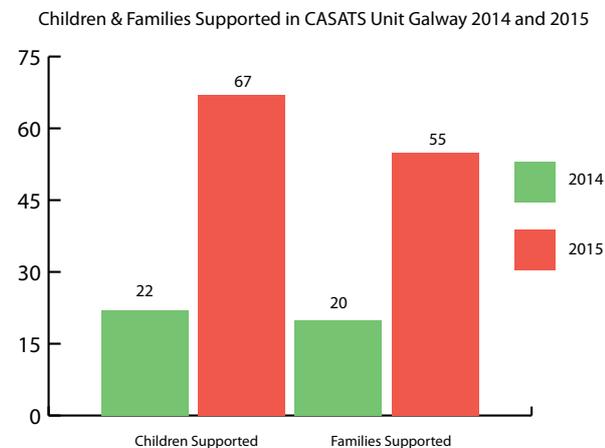
## Case Profiles

In 2015, our Accompaniment Officers supported a total of 67 children, during their forensic examination in the CASATS unit in Galway. Both children and their families are accompanied and supported through this process.

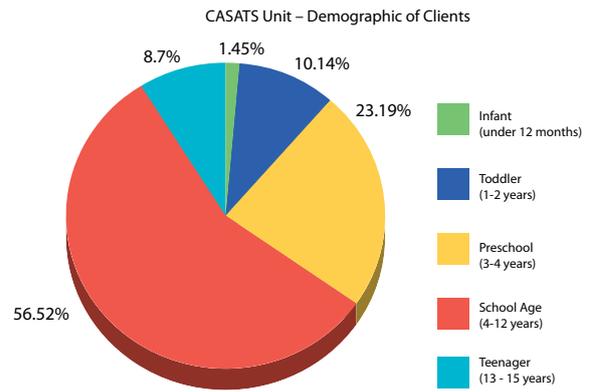
Out of the 55 parents/carers, the majority asked for aftercare support from CARI. There wasn't a huge diversity when looking at the family backgrounds attending the unit.

The graph below shows the numbers of families who attended the CASATS unit in Galway since its launch in June 2014. The 2014 figures are indicative of a six-month period, not a full year.

The number of children who attend the unit does not coincide with the number of families, as some families may have more than one child attending for a forensic examination. This can be seen in the increase in the overall "Children supported" in 2014 & 2015, compared to family figures.

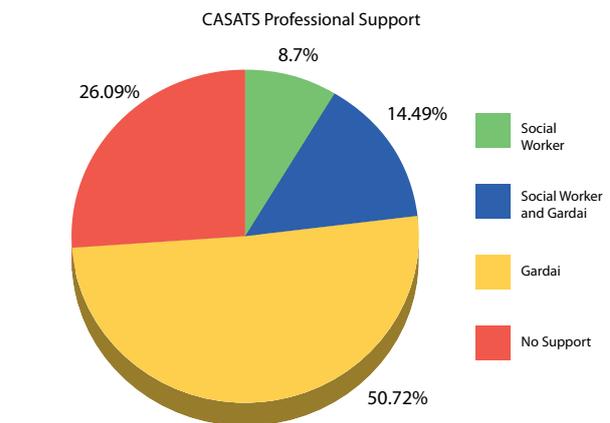


Sexual abuse affects children in different ways and is directly related to their age and stage of development. The pie chart below shows that in 2015, just under 57% of children who attended the forensic unit are school age. The most common age is 5/6 year olds. Additionally, statistics show that in 2015, 2% was under 12 months & the eldest client who attended was 14 years old.



The pie chart below represents professionals who accompanied families during the forensic examination. The majority of children will be already involved with other professionals for example An Garda Síochána or Tusla, the Child and Family Agency. 18% of the children supported in 2015 were in foster care.

CARI recognises that 26% of families who attended the forensic unit in 2015 arrived alone with no accompanying professional. This only happens when forensic sampling is not required and when the child's safety has been assured within existing care arrangements. Here the Accompaniment Officers support can be imperative and have a calming effect and give reassurance to these families during their time in the unit.



The assistance given to the victim in this case (fathers name) was most beneficial and very reassuring for him and the family'

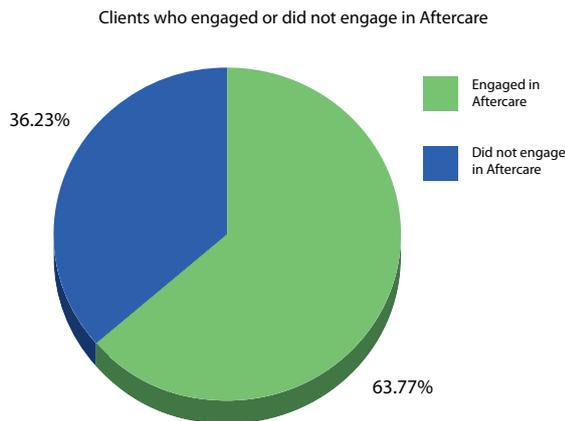
by Superintendent.



Have been such a help with family, it was great to have you on board

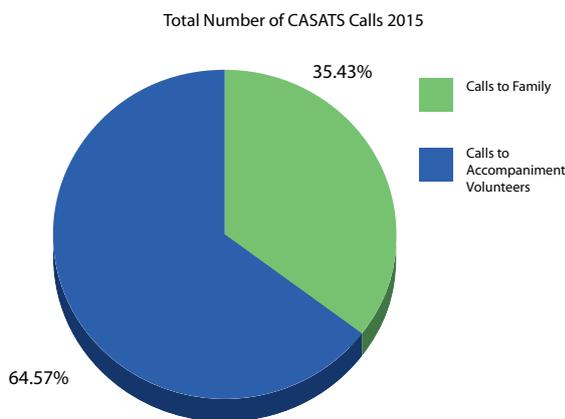
# CARI Forensic Aftercare Service

Aftercare Support is offered to all the families who have attended the unit, it is an optional service and a vital and valued part of CARI's work. The pie chart below illustrates that in 2015 64% of families availed of the aftercare support from the careworker, illustrating that adults supporting children who attended unit wanted continued support from CARI.



## Clients who Engaged or Did Not Engage in Aftercare

Our debriefing process is an essential part of our service. It allows a continuous and seamless support from the unit to the aftercare service. It also continues to fulfill our commitment of care to our staff. The pie chart below represents the total number of debrief calls to our Accompaniment Officer's. CARI fully appreciates the importance of supporting co-workers and promoting self-care. In addition to our debriefing system CARI also provides monthly group supervision. CARI volunteers also receive an annual refresher training course.



The pie chart also illustrates the total number of support calls to families. Any adults supporting children under the ages of 14 years who attend Galway CASATS can avail of this support. This service is a process through which our care workers aim is to support the families after they attend the forensic unit. The

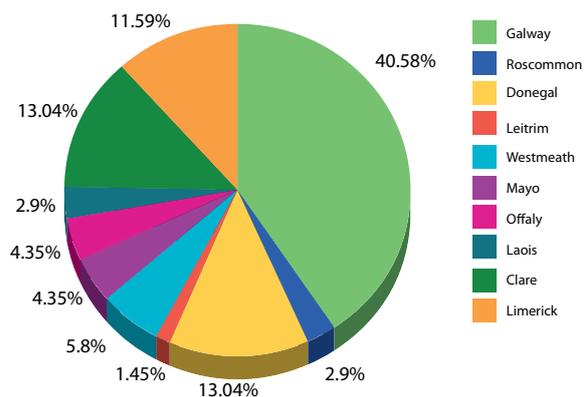
service is client lead and therefore available for as long or as short as the family requires. CARI prides itself on this unique and ongoing aftercare support which is continuously growing and families themselves naming how valid and helpful such a service was to them..

## Geographical location of clients who attended the CASATS Unit in Galway

Currently the Child and Adolescent Sexual Assault Treatment Service is the only sexual assault treatment unit in Ireland to provide 24-hour service for young people aged 14 and under. Children who are victims of acute sexual assault from counties Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Donegal, North Tipperary, Clare and Limerick are referred to the CASATS unit. In 2015, 40% of the children who attended the unit where from Galway, nearly half of the total number of children.

This highlights the importance of having a dedicated service that is accessible to children and their families. This percentage indicates that should dedicated services be more readily available locally in other counties, more children would be able to avail of this vital support. In 2015, 13% of children had to travel from Donegal, which geographically can be as long as a 5-hour car drive to the Galway unit. This means that children who travel this distance to the unit, and those who are returning home after their forensic medical examination, must travel this same distance again.

Geographical location of clients who attended the CASATS Unit in Galway



## Volunteer Experience

Since its establishment in June 2014 the CARI Volunteers have been doing an amazing job supporting young victims and their families by providing accompaniment to children and their families who attend for a forensic medical examination and also linking families who wish to avail of our aftercare service.

CARI Volunteers are given intensive specialised training following Garda Vetting. They work with child-protection professionals and deliver all aspects of care and support to a high standard.

They assist in linking families with our aftercare service and so require highly developed communication and mediation skills.

Prior to the establishment of CARI's accompaniment service at the CASATS unit in Galway, this immediate support was not available to younger victims, although support was accessible for men, women and teenagers over 14 years.

We would like to thank the generosity and dedication that has come from our most valued volunteers.

## CARI seeks funding for child accompaniment service in Rotunda's SATU

In 2015 CARI proposed to set up a service to accompany children 15 and under to the Rotunda SATU (Sexual Assault Treatment Unit). Funding was sought for advertising, recruitment, training and supervision of 25 volunteers. These volunteers will support children who attend the adult service in the Rotunda SATU for forensic medical assessment.

The service will complement the existing Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, adult accompaniment service where children 14 and under fall outside the remit of the DRCC. In addition to on-site accompaniment each family will be offered our aftercare support service. This service involves the family having contact with one of our careworkers for support following the immediate aftermath of the forensic exam. This gives families the opportunity to ask sensitive questions, provides a forum for expert advice and offers both short and longer term supports if the family feel such help is needed.

**CARI**  
Shining a Light for Children  
1890 924 567  
www.cari.ie

**A Child's Guide To  
"Coming to CARI"**

www.cari.ie

# Funding

All the work done at CARI is only possible thanks to our donors, funders and supporters.

## Statutory Funder- TUSLA

We are grateful to TUSLA, our main statutory partner, for funding for both our Dublin and Limerick centres, core funding for Dublin and funding via the Family Support Agency stream for Limerick. This allows us to provide to meet the therapeutic needs of fifty children each year and to offer support to their carers, supporting more than 120 families. We have double that number of children on our waiting list. So, while deeply grateful for the funding to date, we are campaigning for a doubling of our funding to allow us to meet the needs of all the children on our waiting list in a timely fashion.

## Statutory Funder – Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime (CSVIC)

We acknowledge the growing partnership with the CSVIC for funding for our expanding Child Accompaniment Services (CASS) supporting child witnesses in court or children attending for forensic examination.

## Private Trusts- Hedge Funds Care Ireland.

We welcome a new player to the Irish Philanthropy scene, Hedge Funds Care Ireland. They are unique in that their mission is a perfect fit for CARI in that they exist to support therapy for child victims and prevention. Their support in 2015 allowed us to provide additional therapy hours in Limerick and see more children and families.

## Statutory Funder - DSPCE Schemes

CARI benefits hugely from hosting two CE schemes, one in Dublin and one in Limerick. Trainees on these schemes support many of our services and provide most of the staffing in fundraising departments. These schemes allow us to punch above our weight. See Appendix to Accounts.

## Charity of the Year -Limerick 95fm 95 Stop Tour for Limerick Kids

Again in 2015 this was the biggest event in our fundraising calendar. Thanks to 95's Joe Nash, Fergal Deegan, and all the team for the incredible variety of events that led to over €87,000 being raised and shared between CARI and local children's medical services. We acknowledge the CARI Limerick fundraising team who worked tirelessly for weeks on this key event. Thanks also to

the Millmount Wheelers who also chose us as the beneficiary of their annual cycle which was a great success.

Finally, I would like to say a thanks to volunteers, too numerous to mention, except for super volunteer, Charles Glass, who having spent years scaling the peaks of foreign lands on behalf of CARI has taken up helping our collection box team in the Dublin area. Many others take up challenges in running, walking, cycling and skydiving and all support our work directly and vitally. Others host our Easter and Christmas Hamper Raffles. Our regular mailshot donors and ongoing donors provide much need regular income and allows us to plan some developments in greater security. Thanks to Ken Dunne, Joe Gleeson, Dan Ahern and The Highway Cycle in Limerick

## Individual Donors and Sponsors

We benefited from a generous donations from the Employee Fund of Atlantic Philanthropies and many other individuals donated generously in time and in direct donations. Our event Committee led by Miriam Ahern and Roz Flanagan supported in house team under the leadership of Patricia Townsend in hosting our lunches. Alan Hughes gave again most generously of his time adding the success of these events and we are deeply indebted to all of these volunteers. M&S and Carmel Breheny are generous sponsors of our events and this year also sent a team of staff volunteers into the Dublin centre to paint and decorate the therapy rooms. Huge thank-you to Richie Carrick and Body Transformations Team for making our Strictly Dancing event such a success. Thank you also to Harvey Normans and Russell's Bar, Limerick.

Thanks to you, one and all,

**Patricia Townsend**, Events and Fundraising Manager East

**Mary Madden**, Fundraising Manager West.



## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

For the year end 31st December 2015

	2015	2014
<b>Income</b>		
Donations Grants and services	€464,076	€552,594
Fundraising Events	€158,774	€179,119
<b>Total</b>	<b>€622,850</b>	<b>€731,713</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
National Expenditure	€592,852	€548,154
Deficit/surplus on Ordinary Activities	€ 73,192	€246,124
<b>Balance Sheet As at 31st December 2015</b>		
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Assets	1,120,000	€ 1,120,000
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank	€157,627	€158,458
Debtors & Prepayments	€4,045	€3,130
<b>Total</b>	<b>€161,672</b>	<b>€161,588</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors (Amount failing due within 1 year)	€(86,934)	€(95,738)
Net Current Assets/Liabilities	€ 74,738	€ 65,850
Total Assets less Liabilities	€ 1,194,738	€ 1,185,850
Creditor (Amount failing due after more than 1 year)	€ (564,521)	€ (628,825)
<b>Revenue &amp; Reserves</b>		
Accumulated Surplus	€630,217	€557,025
<b>Grants</b>		
<b>Statutory</b>		
TUSLA 1 Core Grant	€216,498	€240,553
TUSLA2 (formerly Family Support Agency)	€ 97,900	€ 97,900
Dept of Social Protection	€6,430	€ 5,906
Commission for Support of Victims of Crime	€ 18,700	€ 16,200
National Lottery HSE Mid West		€ 4,821
<b>Total</b>	<b>€339,528</b>	<b>€365,380</b>
Non-Statutory		
Manuela Reido Foundation		€12,000
Help for Children/Hedge Funds Care - Prevent and Treat Child Abuse	11,000	5,000

## Note to Accounts

CARI's capacity is greatly enhanced by the support of two CE schemes which effectively double our income. The income and expenditure below related to CARI and four other community projects for whom we supply management and supervision of CE trainees.

The schemes have different accounting periods and are each separately audited. Below is some information from the closest relevant accounting period

### CE Scheme Statement of Account 2015

	2015	2014
<b>Dublin to 30 Oct 2015</b>		
Income	318,168	259,974
Expenditure	340,935	285,582
<b>Limerick to 16 Oct 2015</b>		
Income	335,430	296,159
Expenditure	368,292	326,061

## Company Solicitors

Benville Robinson Solicitors,  
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: 9491/20023751

## Board Members

- Richard P. Treacy
- Ronan Boylan
- Noel Hughes
- Peter Quinn (Resigned April 2015)
- Colm O'Brien
- John Quinn
- Pauline Beegan (Appointed June 2015)
- Mona O'Brien (Appointed June 2015)
- John Crawley (Appointed September 2015)

## CARI Fundraising (Limerick)

**Tel** +353 61 582200

**Email** [fundraising.limerick@cari.ie](mailto:fundraising.limerick@cari.ie)

**Website** [www.cari.ie](http://www.cari.ie)

## CARI National Helpline

1890 924 567

**Email** [helpline@cari.ie](mailto:helpline@cari.ie)

CARI



“CARI is campaigning for immediate treatment for ninety two children affected by sexual abuse or exhibiting sexually harmful behaviours from five to eighteen years, currently on our waiting list. With our current resources they may now wait for over a year to access an appropriate service for the trauma of sexual abuse or support to manage their harmful behaviours. We will not give up until they receive the care they need and that any civilized society should provide.”

*Mary Flaherty CEO November 2016*

**CARI National and Dublin Office**

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**Email** [info@cari.ie](mailto:info@cari.ie)

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**CARI (Limerick Office)**

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Limerick

**CARI Therapy Department (Limerick)**

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**Email** [monicamurphy@cari.ie](mailto:monicamurphy@cari.ie)

**CARI Fundraising (Limerick)**

**Tel** +353 61 582200

**Email** [fundraising.limerick@cari.ie](mailto:fundraising.limerick@cari.ie)

**Website** [www.cari.ie](http://www.cari.ie)

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