

CARI Annual Report 2018





6272 | Calls throughout our services

245 | Court and Forensic Accompaniment

2035 | Therapy sessions given

113 | Advice appointments given

1056 | Children who received our support

1144 | Family members who received our support

347 | Professionals who received our support



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Chairperson report

CARI was founded 30 years ago to help children whose lives have been affected and interrupted by Child Sexual Abuse - that is one in five young lives.

The management and staff are working valiantly to provide a quality service to children within the limitations of available resources.

The CARI service has many dimensions. Our principal service provides therapy to children traumatised by sexual abuse including rape, the shocking details of which can be found in this report.

CARI has therapy centres in Dublin and in Limerick. These centres cannot cope with the number of children nationwide who require therapy.

On behalf of the Board of CARI, I would like to say thank you to the many supporters, both voluntary and statutory, for the resources which allow CARI therapy to be provided to some of the one in five children damaged by sexual abuse.

The task of this Board is to attract significant additional funding to enable CARI to reach out to the children of Ireland.

I hope you can help.

This report would not be complete if two people, who served CARI with distinction, are not included. Noel Hughes, Board Member for 14 years and Chairman for the last number of years. Noel retired for health reasons during the year, he will be much missed.

Mary Flaherty, who served as CEO for 19 years, retires at the end of 2018. Mary will be missed by the management and staff in Limerick and Dublin and by the Board of CARI.

The Board wish Noel and Mary all that is good in the future. Finally, the Board and Management are committed to and are working towards full implementation of the new Charities Governance Code in 2019.

Executive Directors report

Our work

Tusla, the Child and Family Agency and the Department of Justice continue to provide us with our core funding which allows us to deliver the frontline services of CARI. We are indebted to both funders for their continued support. Our frontline services provided support for over 1,000 children, either directly or through their caregivers, in 2018. Our children and families received 2,035 therapy sessions this year. Families in crisis received 113 advice appointments. Our accompaniment service (forensic and court) support children both at the beginning and end of criminal proceedings. Both these services provided nearly 250 accompaniments with over 3,200 call supports. Our helpline provided ongoing support with over 800 helpline calls ensuring that children and families are held throughout the whole pathway of healing.

Most calls to our helpline in 2018 were adult females. The two main concerns that they were ringing our helpline about was sexual assault and rape. 1/3 of the children that they were ringing about were aged 10 and under. Interestingly, our helpline noted that as boys grew in age the figures decreased, however the figures for girls increased as they grew older. In 42% of our calls to the helpline the child knew their alleged offender. In contrast, our forensic service saw an increase in extrafamilial cases specifically in the age range of 13-15-year-olds. We were happy to see that in 60% of our cases families engaged in our aftercare service. Our therapy service provided over 2,000 therapy sessions to children and families this year, with 812 therapy hours being accessed by children. Our largest cohort of children engaged in therapy are aged between 7-12 years of age. Most of the children receiving therapy disclosed abuse by either someone they know or a member of their peer group. Our court service continues to reach out to more and more children. We are especially grateful to An Garda Síochána who has served as our main referrer for two years running. This is a testament to An Garda Síochána's engagement with the Victim's Directive and our national legislation, The Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017. 67% of the cases that we supported in 2018 that reached a conclusion, did so with a conviction. In most cases

the children that we supported gave witness testimony against defendants that were extrafamilial adult males. In 30% of our cases the trial ran outside of Dublin in one of the newly established courthouses. As a service we need to acknowledge that since children are required to travel less and less, we need to reach out more and more. Having a child centred approach to the criminal justice system requires having locally accessible facilities, along with having the appropriate services designed to meet the specific needs of children. We continue to travel out to these children to ensure that they receive the supports that they are legislatively entitled to and we will continue to seek the appropriate funding to ensure that children do not suffer because of their geographical location.

Recognition and support

We are delighted to have such wonderful recognition and support across a range of platforms. Organisations who recognise our work in public as the Galway Mayor Awards, Dublin Bus Community Impact Awards, Volunteer Ireland and the GSK Awards have done. This has an important and meaningful effect for children. It serves to chip away, bit by bit, at the stigma of this abuse. Removing this stigma is vital, for it allows children to feel safe to talk about what is happening. This is often the first step to protecting children and keeping them safe.

In addition to the award recognition that we received this year, we were so grateful to Michael Wright Hospitality and Live 95fm for their amazing support, along with Mydrumcondra.ie and the Watersports Day held in Connemara. Hedge Funds Care provided financial support for our therapeutic service again this year. The Manuela Reido Foundation raised essential funds for our forensic service again this year, the support of the Galway community is amazing. We could not have continued our work without the valuable support of our individual donors and volunteers through the many different events that were held in support of CARI last year, this includes our Summer and Christmas Lunches, the CARI Red Ball and our popup shops. We would especially like to extend our gratitude to our Patron, Ms Miriam Ahern, to Ms Roz Flanagan and Mr Alan Hughes for their continued support of our work.

Contributing to change

CARI worked hard this year spreading the word about the work that is done and the issues that we see children face within the Irish Criminal Justice System. We contributed to a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), that was run by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) in partnership with the Law Society of Ireland and the Bar of Ireland on the difficulties that children face as victims of crime. We were also delighted to present our work at various different events, including the high-profile Victim's Rights Conference that was held in April of this year.

We also had the opportunity to present our work, and the issues that we see children facing, to the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and exploitation of children. CARI had the opportunity to be part of the group that

contributed to the Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI) publication 'Hearing Every Voice – Towards a New Strategy on Vulnerable Witnesses in Legal Proceedings 2018'. Our presence in this group ensured that child witness experiences were represented nationwide. It also allowed for their experiences to be shared at a round table at the highest level of government where we presented to the Minister for Justice and Equality.

CARI recognise the importance of highlighting children's experiences to the stakeholders that engage with children during the vulnerable times in their lives. We provided our feedback, through submissions, to the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland. We also provided submissions and presentations at the consultation for the review of the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Offences ordered this year.



Helpline

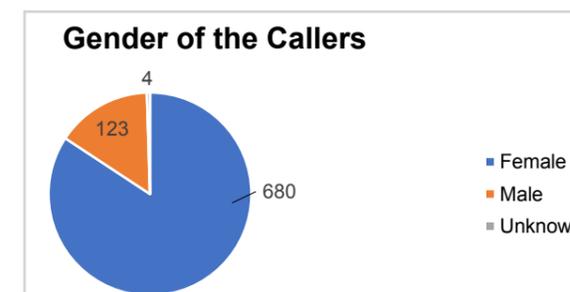
Stat Breakdown

Work	Statistic 2018
Helpline Calls	807
Helpline admin calls	1064
Helpline clinical calls	1302
Number of children supported	852
Number of family members supported	521
Number of professionals supported	221

CARI National Helpline is a confidential, specialised service which provides information and advice to individuals and professionals who have concerns regarding Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and/or sexualised behaviour. The Helpline is generally the first point of contact for many parents and professionals. The callers often look for practical advice or seek a listening space for their concerns to be heard. The Helpline can also act as a support and gateway to other CARI services.

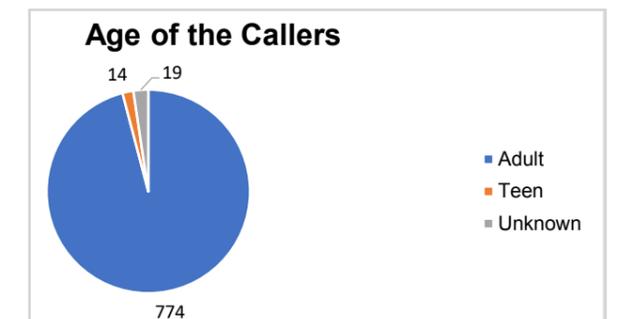
Gender of the Callers

From concerns, to disclosures and support, it is interesting to note from the chart below the difference in gender cohort. Of the 807 helpline calls received, 680 were females and 123 were males.



Age of the Callers

In the chart below, it is clarified that adults are the predominant callers to our helpline, which is in line with our previous year's findings. However, 14 of these callers were teens, who were attempting to access support for themselves. Finally, 19 of these callers were unknown, this is due to callers not leaving information on the helpline.



Categories of Helpline Callers

CARI Helpline is often referred to as the first point of contact for many parents and professionals. The table below highlights the categories of helpline callers. Of 807 helpline calls received, 49% were mothers and 7% were fathers. 17% of the calls received were made by social workers. It is important to point out that from this, 85 referral forms were sent to Tusla, emphasising the important link between the CARI Helpline and Tusla.

Other professionals— principals, teachers, nurses and GPs— as well as relatives and friends, affected by the impact of sexual abuse or sexualised behaviour, also rang the helpline seeking advice. Adult survivors, mainly from institutional abuse, use the helpline in terms of seeking clarification about CARI services and are redirected to the appropriate organisations as a result.

Callers' Primary Concerns

Categories of Helpline Callers	
Mother	49%
Social Worker	17%
Other Professional	10%
Father	7%
Family/ Friend	6%
Unknown	5%
Adult Survivor	4%
Identified Teen	2%

Our statistics for 2018 show that the callers' primary concerns for contacting the helpline were

- CSA- Sexual Assault
- CSA- Rape
- Sexualised behaviour
- Adult survivors.

Whilst people are calling about child sexual abuse, CARI has recognised the frustration, expressed on the Helpline, as callers try to negotiate their way through the various different processes, designed to support their family, and as they engage with all the different bodies and organisations.

CARI recorded that callers rang the helpline to obtain clarification about our Services, Assessment Units and other organisations dealing with sexual abuse. Helpline operators gave advice on specific situations and clarified behaviours of concern that callers identified in children and /or teenagers.

Gender and Age of children supported by CARI

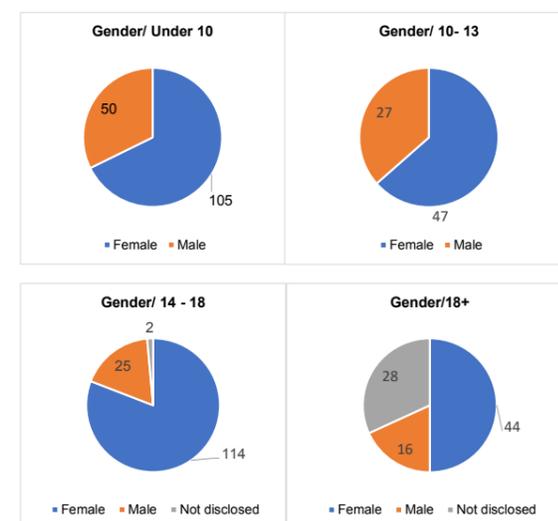
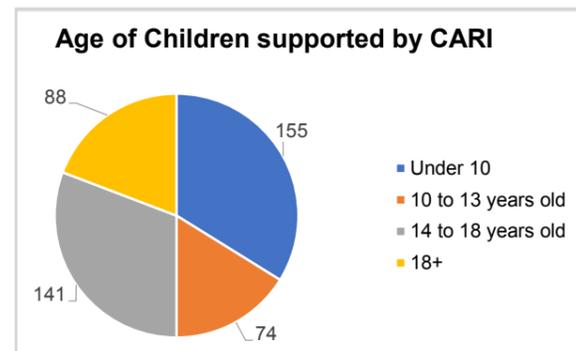
Of the 852 children that CARI supported through our helpline in 2018, 84% were females and 14% were males. We collected age related data for 458 children that support was sought for on the helpline in 2018, the breakdown of age groups as are follows:

- 34% under the age of 10.
- 16% between the ages of 10 to 13.
- 31% between the ages of 14 to 18.
- 19% over 18 years of age.

A concerning finding for us to report is that 4 victims were abused in early infancy, between the age of 6 weeks to 2 years old.

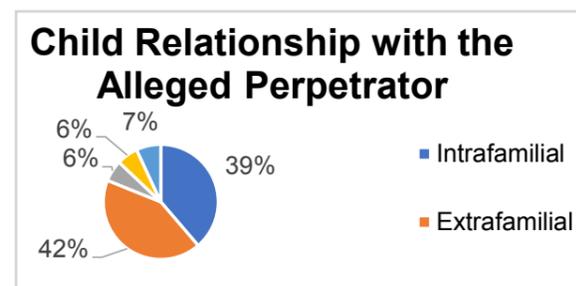
The set of pie charts below break down the gender between the different age groups. What can be seen

here is that as boys grow in age, the reported incidents of sexual abuse to our helpline become less. This is the opposite for girls within our statistics.



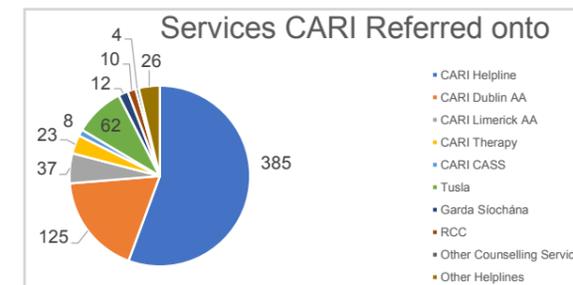
Child Relationship with the Alleged Perpetrator

The chart below demonstrates the occurrence of extrafamilial sexual abuse being slightly higher than intrafamilial. The relationship with the alleged perpetrator was not disclosed and the perpetrator was unknown to them 6% of the time. Finally, no perpetrator was alleged in 7% of the cases.



Services CARI referred callers onto

It is important to note that over half of the calls were identified as needing ongoing helpline support. Our records show that in total 162 callers were referred for an Advice Appointment in either Dublin or Limerick and 62 were referred onto Tusla. These figures show how the fears for some families around reporting are commonplace. CARI's Advice Appointment enables parents or caregivers to identify appropriate interventions in ensuring children's safety.



Meet Ciara and her Mam Suzy

Mother- Suzy's story

Mum of one, Suzy, rang the helpline for emotional support and advice regarding her daughter, Ciara (4), who disclosed to her disturbing details of alleged sexual abuse. Suzy explained that the alleged perpetrator was a female and a close family friend. Suzy explained she was physically and mentally exhausted. She felt betrayed and extremely intimidated by the alleged perpetrator who was still present within the community.

Suzy rang the helpline several times over a number of months. She showed particular signs of distress when Ciara was acting out in the company of her peers; hitting, punching, using vulgar language, and performing inappropriate acts on other children. Suzy explained how she had to deal on numerous occasions with parents' complaints about Ciara's difficult behaviour, leaving her feeling very isolated and distraught. During these helpline calls, Ciara's sexualised behaviour was explored and clarified to Suzy. She also visited CARI for a number of Advice Appointments which she found very helpful. The Advice Appointments enabled mum to better understand and respond appropriately to Ciara's difficult behaviour with her peers and conflicting behaviour at home.

The most significant help given to this family was the continuous emotional support and guidance given by the helpline operators and therapists during the Advice Appointments. This means the healing process for the whole family took place early while waiting for Ciara to avail of play therapy at CARI.

Meet Patricia

Mother- Patricia's story

Patricia called the CARI helpline looking for emotional support and advice. Her fourteen-year-old son, John, had been displaying sexualised behaviours, which was having a distressing effect on his younger siblings. The boy had also presented with depression and had been struggling with bullying both in school and on his sports team. John had recently disclosed to a school counsellor that he had been sexually assaulted by an adult male relative. Patricia called CARI in an effort to find the appropriate services for John and support for their whole family as they had all been impacted by the alleged assault that John suffered.

We offered Patricia and her partner an Advice Appointment with one of our therapists through which they identified ways in which they could support their son, through the complex processes of clinical assessments, finding the most suitable service as well as pursuing the case with An Garda Síochána and social workers.

Unfortunately, as many services have long waiting times, John's mental health was severely affected while waiting for the outcomes of his case and for a position in long term therapy. The family used the helpline many times when deciding how to process new pieces of information that became available or when things became too much emotionally. The helpline team were able to provide emotional support and signpost short term crisis interventions while waiting for the long-term care plan to come into effect. These interventions helped see the family through until John secured a place with the correct service to meet his needs and the whole family engaged in family therapy.

Funder thank you

The CARI Helpline would not be able to continue the essential work of supporting families, in immediate crisis, if not for the ongoing support of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.





Forensic

Stat Breakdown

Work	Statistic 2018
Forensic accompaniments	47
Forensic calls	636
Number of children supported	56
Number of family members supported	86
Number of professionals supported	78
Cases worked on	73

Forensic Accompaniment

CARI provides Forensic Accompaniment to children/young people and their families who attend for a forensic medical examination. The Accompaniment service is provided solely by volunteers. The Volunteer Forensic Accompaniment Officers provide psychological and practical support to parents and children/young people who attend the forensic units.

CARI presently provides forensic accompaniment on a 24-hour rota, 365 days of the year in both Galway & Dublin. The Galway Child and Adolescents Sexual Assault Treatment Services (CASATS), provides an integrated forensic medical service for children 14 years and under, who are victims of rape, sexual assault or suspected child sexual abuse.

In Dublin, the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) at the Rotunda, whilst primarily an adult service, provides examinations to young people aged 14-15 years who have been recently harmed by sexual abuse, rape or sexual assault.

Aftercare Support Service

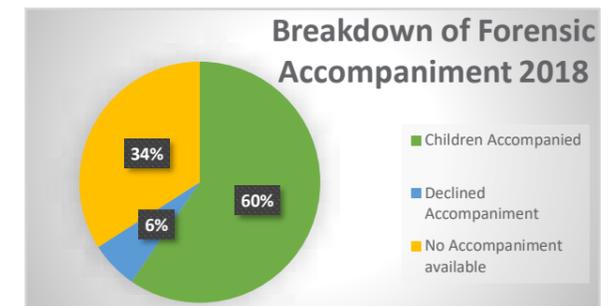
In addition to our on-site forensic accompaniment service, CARI also provides an Aftercare Support Service to any adult involved in supporting a child/young person following the forensic process. This service is provided by CARI Aftercare support workers and their aim is to

support the parents/carers after their child has attended a forensic examination. The aftercare service is client led. Emotional and practical support is offered as long as the parent/carer requires it.

Children & Families Supported

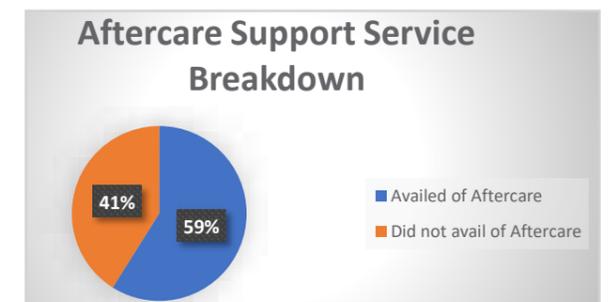
In 2018 CARI supported 47 families with a total of 56 children.

The chart below presents the total forensic accompaniment figures between Galway and Dublin. In 34% of cases there was no accompaniment officer available. CARI recognises the need to increase our number of recruitment drives to ensure support for every child.



Forensic Aftercare Support Service

In 2018, 59% of clients availed of aftercare by the aftercare support workers. An increased number of families availed of this service, over an extended period of time. Some clients utilised this service throughout the course of the 2-3 years.



Age Range of children who CARI Accompanied

The table below presents the total number of child's age range accompanied from both Galway and Dublin units.

Age Range	GALWAY - CASATS	DUBLIN - SATU
13 – 15 years	21%	100%
5 – 12 years	46%	0%
3 – 4 years	19%	0%
1 – 2 years	12%	0%
0 – 12 months	2%	0%

The age breakdown of children/ young people accompanied to the CASATS unit shows that primary school aged children, five years to twelve years, were the highest attending age group. This is consistent to our previous year's findings.

As the cohort of young people who attend the Rotunda SATU is narrower there is little opportunity to observe any discernible trends.

Alleged Perpetrator Relationship

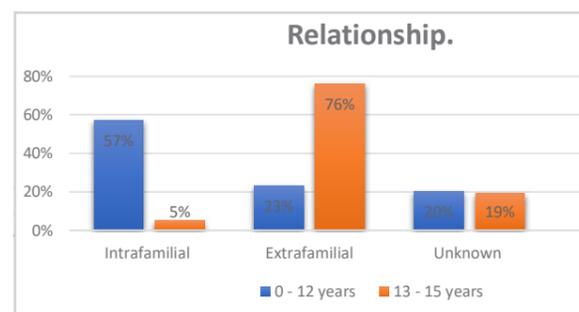


The chart above, illustrates the alleged perpetrators intrafamilial or extrafamilial relationship with a child/ young person. It is recognised from the above chart that extrafamilial abuse is higher overall compared to intrafamilial.

In 20% of the accompaniments, the alleged perpetrator was unknown. This can be due to a child presenting with physical injuries, without disclosing abuse, particularly within the preverbal age group, or a young child displaying concerning sexualised behaviour.

Identified Trend- (Alleged Perpetrators Relationship to Child/Young Person Age range)

The following chart demonstrates the correlation between the child/young person's age and type of relationship with alleged perpetrator/s. While statistics continue to reinforce the knowledge that alleged perpetrators relationships are predominately intrafamilial. CARI identifies that accompanied teens aged 13-15 years experienced sexual abuse/assault by alleged extrafamilial perpetrators. Many of these teens presented with a concern of sexual abuse/ assault after a social event with groups of peers. These events commonly involved intoxicating substance use. This led to some memory loss and confusion.



Meet Alison

The following is a parent who availed of CARI aftercare service and relayed her daughters experience of sexual assault. This mother was supported over several months.

Caller – Name	Childs Name	Age	Alleged offender
Mother – Alison*	Anna*	13	Group of Peers (8 peers)

Mother – Alison's Story – Aftercare Support

CARI Aftercare support worker contacted Alison, who is mother to Anna, 13-years-old.

Anna had come home from school one day excited as she was invited out with a group of friends from her new school. Anna was going into town with her new friends, for 1pm and would return by 6pm.

Anna, who would generally be very reliable and keep with rules and communicate with her parents when out, failed to contact them this particular afternoon. When Alison hadn't heard from her daughter by the afternoon, she tried calling but her phone was off. At 7.30pm, with no sign of Anna, Alison contacted the police.

Later that night, the police had received a call from a woman walking her dog. She had found Anna lying unconscious in a field. This area is well known for young groups to hang

out. Alison cried through the call with the despair she felt when she called police, not knowing where Anna was.

Anna was brought home by police and put to bed. She was semi-conscious and there was a smell of alcohol. It was obvious that Anna's clothes had been removed. Gardai suggested Mum to contact the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) in the morning.

When Anna woke up the next morning, she was extremely confused, upset and having flashbacks of the previous evening. She explained to her Mum what happened. Alison was extremely upset on the call, as she said her daughter had been sexually assaulted.

Alison brought Anna for a forensic examination. Two Gardai accompanied them to the unit. They were met with the forensic nurse, doctor and a CARI Forensic Accompaniment Officer. The Accompaniment officer supported the family for the duration of the appointment.

Young person – Anna's Story (13 yrs.)

The following morning when Anna woke, she had confided in her mother what happened. Anna had met with her group of friends from school. They went into town and some of the boys and girls had brought drink with them. Anna drank some of the alcohol. Later that afternoon they got the bus back to their town where they hung out. She cannot remember much after that until she woke up in her own bed. Later that evening she began to have flash backs of her top been taken off by one of the boys and her trousers been pulled down. When Anna returned to school one of her friends had told her that everyone was talking about her.

*pseudo names have been given to protect the identity of the child

Meet Frank

2018 showed an increase in adults utilising the aftercare support service for a prolonged period of time. The following vignette demonstrates one of the family's stories who availed of CARI aftercare service over a year.

Caller - Name	Childs Name	Age	Alleged offender
Father – Frank*	Jessica*	3 years	Maternal Grandfather

Father – Frank

Our aftercare support worker linked in with Frank, father to daughter Jessica aged 3 years after she had attended the forensic unit. Jessica had recently disclosed that her maternal grandfather had 'touched her bum and made her play games with her privates'.

Frank was devastated by the disclosure and wasn't sure of how to speak to Jessica about what happened. Jessica's

behaviour had changed, she didn't like cuddles or to be held anymore and became aggressive with her friends in creche. Frank had lots of questions about what would happen next. He was unsure of who to call or talk to.

Franks initial call was exploring his concerns and the practical steps he could take.

Frank linked in regularly with CARI aftercare support workers at times when he was feeling frustrated, isolated and when he needed a space for someone to listen to him. Frank developed a feeling of trust with the aftercare worker and would regularly link in before appointments he had for Jessica, regarding her disclosure. He would explore expectations of the appointments with other professionals i.e. Social Workers, Gardai etc. Also, he could explore how best to communicate and manage Jessica's outbursts and needs.

Frank had developed confidence in his ability to support Jessica. He worked through the guilt of feeling he had not protected Jessica. He noted how well she had settled, she was having less outbursts and that slowly over the time she had returned to her 'bright, cheerful' self.

*pseudo names have been given to protect the identity of the child

Thank you to the volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped support CARI and our service users throughout the year. CARI acknowledges that we could not provide such a high level of service without their support.

The level of commitment and kindness was further recognised by other establishments. CARI volunteers won the Galway Mayors awards and the Dublin Bus Community Spirit Awards, in 2018. We were delighted to be short listed for the Outstanding Group Category Awards with Volunteer Ireland and also the GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards.

Thank you to our funders

We would like to thank the continued support from the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime. We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to The Manuela Riedo Foundation for another year of support to our forensic service, the staff and volunteers are grateful and appreciative of all your ongoing support.





Therapy

Stat Breakdown

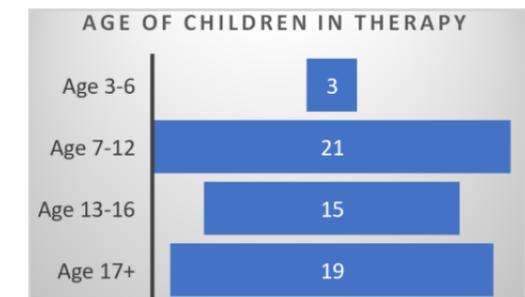
Work	Statistics 2018
Therapy sessions	2035
Therapy calls	1199
AA's	133
Number of children supported for your service	58
Number of family members supported (number of adults/sibs) for your service	258
Number of professionals supported for your service	48



CARI's ethos is that children form the heart of our work. CARI believes that children have the right to a service that respects their freedom of expression and their right to child-centered services. We respect the strength and resilience of children and design our services to build on this strength, enabling children to grow into adulthood defined not by their abusive experiences but by their individuality and creativity. In 2018 CARI offered 2035 appointments to children, adults and professionals. Children availed of 812 appointments in 2018 across both our centres. Adults availed of 1223 appointments which comprised of both parental support sessions and Advice Appointments.

Age of children who attend therapy

CARI provides therapy for children aged 3 to 18 years who have been affected by child sexual abuse. Below is a breakdown of the number of clients that we supported through our therapy service according to age.

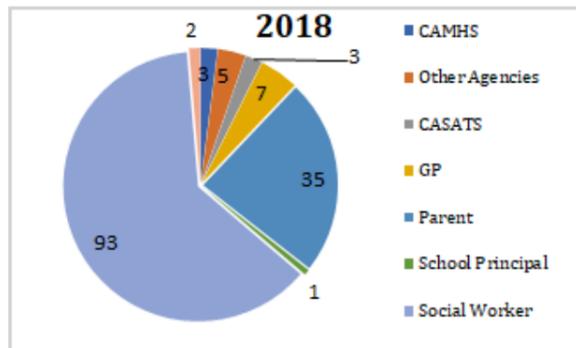


Referrals to CARI therapy services

Any professional with concerns regarding children who may have been affected by sexual abuse, have sexual behaviour problems, or experienced inappropriate sexual behaviour in any context, may refer the family to CARI to further explore and respond to the situation. Adults may self-refer to CARI for information, advice, support or if they have concerns regarding a child's safety. They are asked to get a professional to fill in the referral form if they are requesting therapy for the child. When a referral is made in relation to a child the referral is evaluated. A more informed decision can be made when information is gathered from all the appropriate individuals and agencies involved. Written reports may be requested from various professionals in statutory or voluntary agencies, social workers, doctors, psychiatrists or psychologists. All information regarding the child is reviewed. The decision is based on the individual circumstances of the case and whether attending CARI at that time appears to be in the best interest of the child. The decision is then made as to whether therapy is suitable for the child at this particular stage or if a different intervention is more suitable. Therapy cannot provide a protective function; protection must

always come before therapy. It may be necessary to defer work with the child until such time as it is considered safe enough for the therapy to begin. This may involve waiting for a child sexual abuse assessment to be completed or child protective measures to be implemented. After the therapy assessment for the child is completed the child is placed on our waiting list to start therapy. CARI continues to lobby for more resources to enable us to provide a timelier service for children. Ideally this should be a short wait but, due to inadequate resources, children can be left waiting far too long.

This chart shows the various referral sources made to CARI therapy service in 2018. This chart shows the various referral sources made to CARI therapy service in 2018.

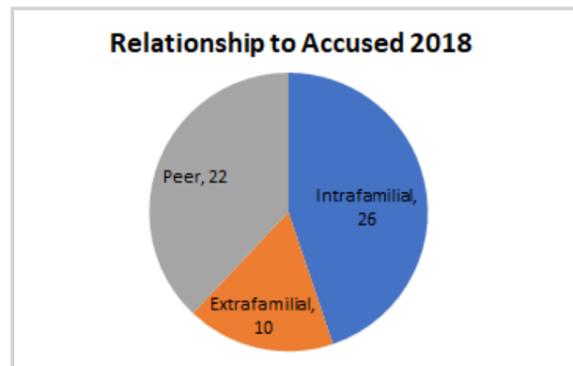


Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy

Child Psychotherapy refers to a variety of methods used to help children and adolescents who are experiencing emotional and behavioural difficulties. Play therapy or creative therapy aims to do for children what counselling/psychotherapy does for adults. Children and adolescents use play or creative mediums such as art, clay, sand, music, drama or other mediums, as a means of expressing themselves in ways that are not possible through direct communication due to their developmental stage. Therapy provides the child with the opportunity to work through their trauma in a safe way. The CARI model is eclectic, drawing on techniques from different psychological approaches. The therapists utilize a variety of mediums to meet the current needs of each individual client. In therapy children can work through traumatic or difficult life experiences. Through therapy they can make sense of their past and cope better with their future. Child Psychotherapy provides the opportunity for therapeutic healing and repair. Child Psychotherapy facilitates them in realizing their potential, developing resilience and emotional intelligence. It enables them to recover from their trauma and overcome developmental issues, develop self-esteem, emotional regulation and deal with difficult feelings.

Children with Sexually Harmful Behaviour

CARI works therapeutically with children, up to the age of twelve, who exhibit sexually harmful behaviour. There has been a significant increase in the number of children being referred for sexually harmful behaviour to CARI. In 2018 there was an increase of 36% in referrals for children with sexually harmful behaviour. These numbers are increasing yearly, as are the complexity of cases being referred to CARI. These referrals may often need to be prioritized, especially when there is a risk to other children.



Meet Sarah

Sarah was referred to our service by a Social Worker. She is 7 years old. Sarah was removed from her home when she was 4 years old, due to extreme neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Sarah was extremely withdrawn and didn't speak initially when she was taken into care. Her foster parents reported that she was having difficulty sleeping and waking with nightmares. She was having difficulties focusing and concentrating in school. They also reported that Sarah was sad and tearful at home. When Sarah initially presented in CARI she was very anxious and fearful. She was constantly worried and viewed the world as very unsafe. She had difficulty with trusting adults, and it took time for her to build a safe relationship with her therapist. Sarah attended CARI for over a year and engaged very well in Play Therapy. It provided her with a safe space to work through her trauma. When Sarah finished, she was sleeping well, her nightmares had resolved. She was doing well in school and was mixing well with her peers. Her anxiety had lessened, and she was able to explore and manage her emotions.

Meet Michael

Michael is a 10-year-old boy and was referred by a Social Worker for sexually harmful behaviour. His teacher had reported numerous incidents where Michael had

inappropriately touched other children at school. His foster parents were struggling managing Michael's behaviour and said he was angry, violent and aggressive. The foster placement was at risk of breaking down and Michael was at risk of being excluded from school. Initially there was a directive approach used with Michael as he needed support around keeping appropriate boundaries with his peers and other children. The therapeutic model initially used was The Boundary Project an evidence-informed, family-focused treatment program for children ages 4 to 12 years who present with sexual behaviour problems. The safety issues, supervision concerns and risk factors were addressed. Michael was supported in recognising and managing possible triggers and putting a safety plan in place to provide consistent safeguarding responses. Michael attended for 7 months and engaged well in the process. When Michael finished, he was doing well in school and was keeping the school rules and abiding by the guidance and direction of his teacher. The foster parents reported that he had become, very much, part of the family. Michael had internalized a sense of safety therefore keeping himself and others safe and was maintaining healthy and appropriate boundaries with his peers.

Funder thank you

I would like to thank all those who supported and funded CARI therapy services in 2018 including TUSLA, Hedge Funds and The Community Foundation.



Comments from clients

- *I always felt safe comfortable and listened to.*
- *No more sad, introvert little girl, she laughs and enjoys her life so much more.*
- *You helped me stand up for myself.*
- *You helped me through a lot of rough times in my life.*
- *CARI have been a great help to all our family and we really appreciate the help and support.*





Court Accompaniment

Stat Breakdown

Work	Statistics 2018
Court Accompaniments	198
Calls	2566
Number of Children Supported	90
Number of Adults Supported	279

Pre-Trial Preparation

Pre-trial preparation is the first strand of our court support service. Going to court can be a very stressful time for a child and their families. In our experience, some of these anxieties can be relieved through a visit to the courthouse.

Before the family go to the courthouse, a Court Accompaniment Officer (CAO) will be allocated to the case. Phone support will begin with the child/young person's carers immediately. Our team are trained to identify any needs the child/young person may have. Early contact will help our team provide the best support possible for that child and family.

Not knowing what to expect can cause a lot of anxiety. Our pre-trial meeting is very beneficial to our clients as it includes a visit to the courthouse, where the trial will be held. A tour is given of the victim support area, including the video link room where the child will give their evidence and a visit to an empty courtroom.

DVD statement

The newest strand to our support service is accompaniment for children in viewing their original DVD statement. This is done in the days prior to their trial by one of our team. This allows the child to be reminded of their story. It also allows them to see themselves at a younger age, which can add to their anxieties and the unfamiliar situation they are in. The accompaniment officer is there to support them through this process.

This gives families some perspective and understanding around the process of the upcoming trial. Our young clients get to meet their accompaniment officer, giving the young person space to ask questions and have more control over their experience.

Trial Accompaniment

Trial accompaniment is the third strand of our court support service. The child and their support network are accompanied throughout the trial. We provide emotional and practical support as well as explaining legal terminology and processes to them; staying with and facilitating them in what they may need for the duration of the trial. We advocate that the child/young person leaves after testimony. We will then extend our support, if needed, to the family.

Post-Trial Support

We also provide post-trial support. This differs from family to family as it is dictated by the outcome of the trial. Some have waited a considerable length of time to come to court. When the legal process is over some families may wish to close the door on this episode of their life. Others wish to be there for sentencing and want further accompaniment. Some want support for the young person to read out their victim impact statement. Other families need additional support when there is a Not Guilty outcome; phone support will be given in this circumstance.

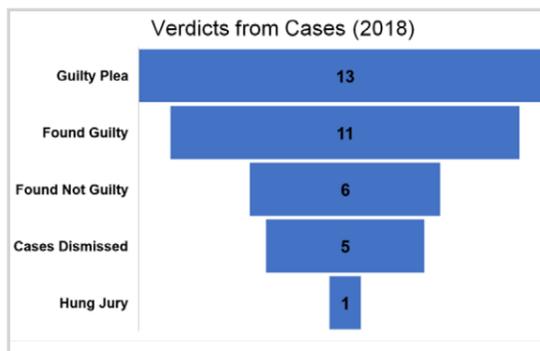
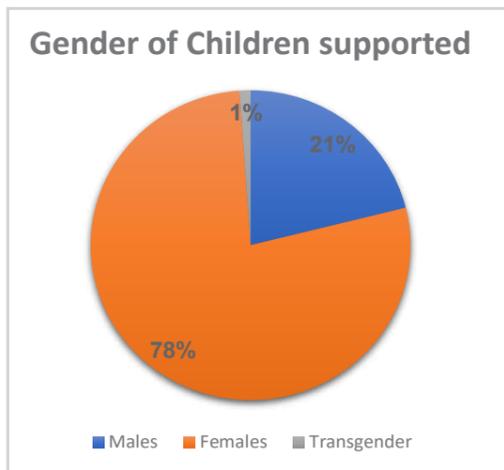
Sometimes we find that the court process can bring up some emotional trauma for clients. They may look to re-engage with therapy. Our experience has told us that for some young people, there is a risk of self-harm or experiencing suicide ideation at this point, irrespective of the court outcome.

Who we helped in 2018

In 2018 our court team supported 90 children throughout Ireland. That is a total caseload activity of 90 cases. Our service carried over a total of 42 cases from previous years. This highlights the ongoing support our clients receive from CARI. We had a total of 48 new cases in 2018. Through this activity our service made a total of 2566 calls to our clients and professionals. These calls resulted in a total of 198 accompaniments to court with child witnesses. Our court service provided additional support to 279 family members in 2018.

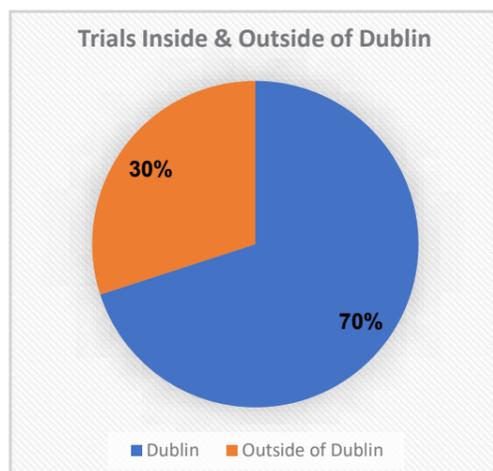
Gender

Out of the 90 children supported through the Criminal Justice System in 2018. The below chart shows that 70 are female, 19 are male and 1 child identified as transgender.



Our reach

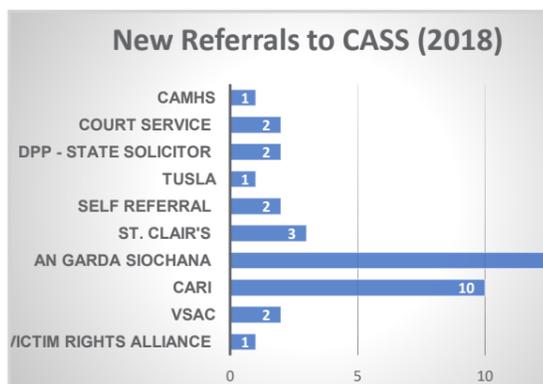
Our court service is a nationwide service. In 2018 we continued to support children outside of Dublin. Out of 70 cases (remembering that 15 cases of the 90 caseloads for court had multiple child witnesses) 49 were in Dublin and 21 resided outside of Dublin. The below chart shows that 30% of cases took place outside of Dublin.



This is an increase on previous years. This reflects the need for our service to travel to the child witness. With the establishment of seven new, purpose designed courthouses throughout Ireland, children are required to travel less and less to give their witness statement. This child centred approach to criminal proceedings is much welcomed by CARI. With less need for children to travel, there is more need for the service to reach out and travel to them. We will continue to seek and ascertain appropriate resources to continue reaching children that are legally entitled to our service.

Referrals

Our court service had 90 active cases in 2018, 42 cases where carried over from previous years. 48 cases were new in 2018. Out of these 48 new cases, 7 of them comprised of 2 or more child witnesses within one case. Therefore, the chart below shows the breakdown of 38 new referrals in 2018; An Garda Siochana make up 37% of the overall referrals in 2018.

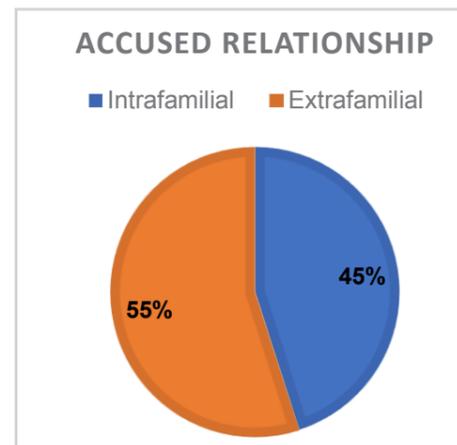


Verdicts

Out of the total caseload of 90 cases in 2018, the verdicts of 36 cases were recorded. This is illustrated in the funnel chart below. The funnel chart shows a 67% conviction rate which comprises of 13 guilty pleas and 11 found guilty on conviction.

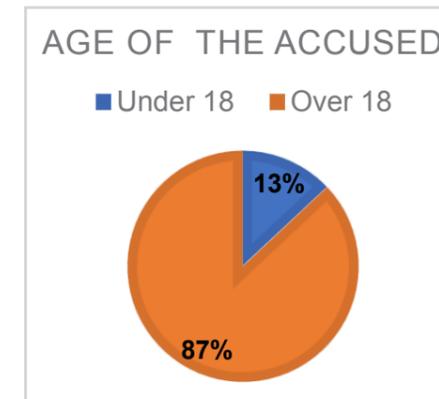
Alleged Perpetrator Demographic

In 2018, from the 90 cases worked on by our court team there were 4 cases that had multiple accused defendants. Data was collected on 71 accused. Illustrated in the pie chart below is the accused relationship. From the sample of 71 accused 32 were intrafamilial and 39 were extrafamilial. This is a slight increase from previous years.



Accused age

The figure below shows the age demographic for the accused. Out of the 71 accused 61 were over the age of eighteen, 10 were under 18 when the alleged crime took place. 8 out of the 10 accused were charged with sexual offences.



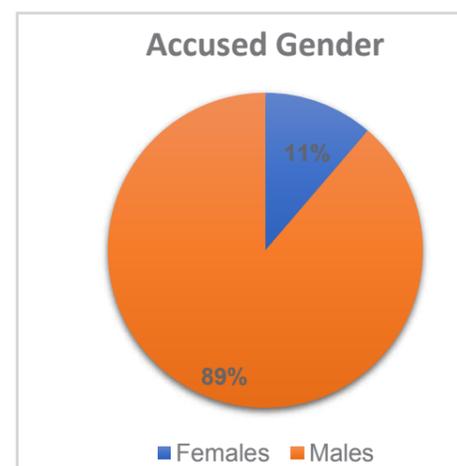
Types of crimes children reported & witnessed

It is important to note that our Court Accompaniment Service provides support to any child giving witness testimony in criminal trials. Whilst the majority of trials have charges of sexual violence, we also supported trials that did not have charges of sexual crime. Below is a list of the different types of alleged crimes child witnesses gave witness testimony to in 2018.

Type of Crime
Rape
Rape under Section 4
Sexual Assault
False Imprisonment
Sexual Exploitation
Defilement of a Child
Physical Assault
Robbery
Kidnapping
Neglect
Outraging Public Decency
Cruelty
Domestic Violence
Careless Driving

Accused Gender

Shown in the figure below is the gender demographic of the accused defendants from the cases that we supported in 2018. Males made up 89% of the cohort of 71 accused. Giving a total of 63 men and 8 females. Furthermore, 4 out of the 8 females were charged with sexual offences.



Meet Jane

Child Report Age	Report Year	First Trial Date	Trial Outcome	Retrial Date	Trial Outcome	Childs Age at Outcome
12	2016	2018	Hung Jury	2019	Not Guilty	17

Jane reported to An Garda Síochána in 2016. Jane was referred into the CARI Court service in 2017. The trial begin date was set for 2018. There were a number of charges of rape, sexual assault and rape under section 4. This abuse was ongoing for over two years. The accused was intrafamilial.

The trial began on the set date and ran for the duration. After deliberation the jury could not come to a decision. The verdict was a hung jury. A new trial date was set for the following year, 2019.

Jane travelled back to the courthouse with the knowledge of what was to come. It was noted by our team that she was appeared very withdrawn and unhappy about the prospect of testifying again. On this date, due to restraints in the courthouse, the possibility of the case being adjourned for another year came about. This was extremely stressful for the child and family. With the added pressure of the knowledge of her ageing out of the video link room. Which meant she would have had to take the stand to testify. Thankfully a slot came up and the case was heard later that week. Which meant more travel for Jane and her family. The case was heard, and the jury came back with a not guilty verdict.

Jane allegedly experienced child abuse from the age of eight and reported it when she was twelve. Jane was 17 when her case came to an end. Five years in a young child's life had been taken up with the prospect going to court.

Meet Jennifer

Child Report Age	Report Year	First Trial Date	Second Trial Date	Third Trial Date	Trial Outcome	Childs Age at Outcome
11	2013	2017	2017	2018	Not Guilty	16

Jennifer reported to An Garda Síochána in 2013. Jennifer was referred into the CARI Court service in 2017. There were three charges of physical assault. The accused was extrafamilial.

Jennifer came to the courts four times in total. Her case was adjourned three times. This is very difficult for families and especially for our young child clients. Each time they are ready and prepared to testify. Each time when the case was adjourned, they are sent home to await a new trial date to start. In this case the trial was adjourned for logistical reasons within the court's operations. Either a courtroom was not available, or judge was not available.

In 2018 when the trial was heard, it ran for its duration. The jury were sent out to deliberate and they came back with a not guilty verdict. Jennifer was 16 years old when she was finished with the court process.

Jennifer allegedly experienced this physical assault at the age of 11. Jennifer was 16 when her case came to an end. Like Jane, five years in a young child's life had been taken up with the prospect of going to court..

CARI asks for these problems within the operations of courthouses be resolved. To prevent cases being adjourned time and time again. CARI also advocates for cases involving child witnesses to be prioritised in the courts so that children, like Jane and Jennifer, do not spend most of their adolescence with this burden of testimony on their back.

Funder Thank You

The Court Accompaniment Service has grown from to strength to strength. We could not have continued to provide this child centred service without the dedicated support of the Victims of Crime Office. We would like to especially thank all of those working in the Victims of Crime Office for their continued faith and support in our work.



Referrers Thank You

We would also like to thank all of those who referred families into our service in 2018 including the DPP, V-SAC, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, TUSLA, the Court Services, as well as those families who referred themselves to us.

We would especially like to thank An Garda Síochána who was our largest referral cohort again in 2018. Making up 37% of overall referrals.

Some testimonials

An Garda Síochána - **"The family couldn't have got through it without your support, great work and thank you"**

State Solicitor, DPP - **"Great at hand holding"**

A Mothers Quote - **"Cannot thank you enough for all your support to my family this week, "E" huge, huge thank you" From a mum of a client.**

Funding

All the work done by CARI is only made possible thanks to our donors, funders and supporters. We are forever grateful to all who support the work that we do for children and families impacted by child sexual abuse.

Charity of the Year

Michael Wright Hospitality

We would like to thank Michael Wright Hospitality for nominating CARI again as their Charity of the Year Partner. We are extremely grateful for this Support.

Live 95fm

CARI Limerick are grateful to all staff at Live 95FM for their tireless efforts in helping to raise €59,679.91 throughout 2018, in support of CARI, The Children's Ark and Clionas Foundation. We would like to express a special thank you to Limerick's Live 95FM's CEO Joe Nash. Thank you to Julie White, Marketing & Sales Manager, Nichola Quinn, 95 Stop Tour Coordinator and the entire 95 team. Their enduring championing of our cause throughout Limerick City and county is invaluable to our fundraising efforts. We would like to thank all the people of Limerick City and County who generously helped us raise funds and awareness for our organisation.

MYDRUMCONDRA.IE

A huge thank you to MYDRUMCONDRA.IE for their continuous support to CARI.

Watersports Day (Connemara)

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

Grants

Statutory Funder- Tusla

We are deeply grateful to Tusla, our main statutory partner for funding both our Dublin and Limerick centres therapeutic and helpline service, both of which provide essential support and intervention.

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

We are as always grateful for the growing partnership with the CSVC for funding our continuously expanding Child Accompaniment Support Service (CASS). This service supports child witnesses and their families in court and children attending forensic examination.

The Manuela Reido Foundation

The Manuela Reido Foundation continued to support our forensic service again this year. We are so grateful to Shane and all his team at the Foundation for their fundraising efforts that have enabled children and families to receive our support.

Dublin Bus

Another overwhelming recognition was given to us by Dublin Bus Community Spirit Awards 2018. The initiative was set up to provide funding for groups to develop new projects, improve their locality and help raise community spirit. We were delighted to awarded €5,000 from Dublin Bus in recognition of the work that our Forensic Accompaniment Service does for children within the community.



Private Trusts
Hedge Funds Care - Help for Children Ireland in 2018

We received ongoing support from Hedge Funds Care (HFC). HFC provides grants to the most effective and efficient child abuse prevention and treatment interventions in seven countries, making the world a safer place for children.

Individual donors, Sponsors and Awards

CARI would like to thank all volunteers and supporters. Many have taken up challenges in running, walking, cycling and skydiving and all support our work directly and vitally. Others hosted our Easter and Christmas Hamper raffles, coffee mornings, carol singing, 'Lighting Up Christmas' and other community events. Our regular mailshot donors and ongoing donors provide much needed regular income and allows us to plan developments with greater security.

Awards for our clinical work

We are delighted to have such wonderful recognition and support across a range of platforms. Here are some of the amazing organisations that choose to recognise the work that we do in 2018.

GSK Impact Awards

We were delighted to receive financial support as one of the runners up for the GSK IMPACT Awards 2018. The GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards recognise and reward community-based charities doing excellent work to improve people's health and wellbeing in Ireland. This runner-up award recognised the important work of CARI and our Forensic Accompaniment Service.



Galway Volunteer Mayor Awards – Galway City Council

We are extremely humbled by the recognition that our work has received in 2018. We were honoured to be the recipients of the overall Volunteer of the Year Award at the Galway Volunteer Mayor Awards held by Galway City Council in 2018. This brought great recognition of our work to the city of Galway. Galway is the designated county for a pilot project to co-ordinate supports for children who have been sexually abused. This is due to open in early next year. We would like to thank the Galway Mayor Awards for recognising our forensic volunteers and the amazing work that they do.

Our volunteers give their time so that they can be called out 24 hours a day, throughout the full year, irrespective of whether it is Paddy's Day or Christmas Day, our volunteers are there. We appreciate Galway's gratitude to them.

Volunteer Ireland Awards 2018

We were also honoured to be shortlisted for Outstanding Group of the Year at the Volunteer Ireland Awards for 2018.



Events

Summer and Christmas lunches

The lunches, hosted by our patron Miriam Ahern, supported by Roz Flanagan and our in-house team, under the leadership of Patricia Townsend had huge success in 2018. Alan Hughes again, gave most generously of his time; Elliot Hughes of Dingle Distillery and Lee Sim from The Port House, are also generous sponsors of these two events. We are deeply indebted.

The CARI Red Ball

Thank you to Roz Flanagan, Alan Hughes and all who attended for making our inaugural Red Ball a huge

success. The Event was held on the 10th of February in The Radisson Blu Royal Hotel Dublin.

Limerick Local

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Roger Beck, Centre Manager, Parkway Shopping Centre and his staff who provided us with a retail unit in the Parkway Shopping Centre for our Pop Up Shops.

A special thank you to go out to the proprietors and staff of the Bars, Restaurants and Post Offices throughout Limerick for housing our hampers and collection boxes - for without their generous support, our fundraising endeavours would not have been achieved.



From left: Mary Madden, CE Supervisor of CARI; Julie White Sales & Marketing Live 95, Dr. Roy Philip, Paediatrics and Jeanne Maloney, CNM of Children's Ark; Brendan Ring, CEO of Cliona's. Front: Nicola Quinn, Tour Coordinator Live 95 Stop.



Back row from left: Live 95 Shadow, Roger Beck, Centre Manager, Parkway Shopping Centre; Ann-Marie Geraghty, Producer Limerick Today, Gillian Devlin Head of News and Julie White Sales & Marketing from Live 95; Margot Dunworth CNM of UHL Neonatal Unit; Phil Deegan Fundraiser of Cliona's and; Live 95 shadow rep. Front row: Jeanne Maloney CNN and Dr. Orzilock, Paediatrics from Children's Ark; Mary Madden CE Supervisor from CARI and Brenden Ring, CEO of Cliona's.



Family Fun Day 2018: UHL First-year medical students from the Teddy Bear's Hospital.



The CARI Summer Lunch: Cecelia Ahern, Miriam Ahern and Georgina Byrne.



The CARI Summer Lunch: Mary Byrne.



The CARI Christmas Lunch: Karl Broderick, Mary Flaherty and Alan Hughes.



The CARI Red Ball: Alan Hughes, Holly and Kavanagh Dance Academy, Roz Flanagan.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 December 2018

	2018 Unrestricted funds	2018 Restricted Funds	2018 Total	2017 Total
Incoming resources from Generated Funds	€	€	€	€
Voluntary Income	68,124	2,500	70,624	112,276
Income from Activities	182,980		182,980	192,252
Income resources from Charitable Activities	34,764	445,681	480,445	448,389
Other Income	18,892		18,892	19,258
Total Incoming Resources	304,760	448,181	752,941	772,175
Resources Expended				
Raising Funds	169,956		169,956	140,997
Charitable Activities	721	623,348	624,069	557,212
Total Resources Expended	170,677	623,348	794,025	698,209
Total Income			752,941	772,175
Total Expenditure			794,025	698,209
Net Income/Expenditure			(41,084)	73,966

Balance Sheet for 31 December 2018

	2018 €	2017 €
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	1,120,000	1,120,000
Current Assets		
Debtors	18,863	42,790
Cash and Cash Equivalents	124,482	149,299
	143,345	192,089
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(138,114)	(104,730)
Net Current Accounts	5,231	87,359
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	1,125,231	1,207,359
Creditors		
Amounts falling due after more than one year	(426,500)	(467,544)
Net Assets	698,731	739,815
Funds		
Restricited Trust Funds	(350,574)	(175,407)
General Funds	1,049,305	915,222
Total Funds	698,731	739,815
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection		
Dublin to 26 October 2018		
Community Employment Scheme	248,092	252,721
JobsPlus	5,000	833
Job Initiative Scheme	22,932	22,932
Limerick to 12 October 2018		
Community Employment Scheme	259,667	245,771
Jobs Initiative Scheme	22,932	22,932

CARIs capacity is greatly enhanced by the supports of two CE schemes. The income relates to CARI and four community projects for whom CARI supply Management and Supervision to CE trainees. The schemes have different accounting periods and are each separately audited.



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

Board Chair:
John Quinn

Board Secretary:
Mona O'Leary

Board Directors:

Colm O'Brien

Pauline Beegan

Lesley Caslin (UK)

Emma Little

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CARI Fundraising (Limerick)

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Email fundraising.limerick@cari.ie

Website www.cari.ie

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