



**THE  
Anne Sullivan**  
Centre for people who are deafblind

# Annual Report & Accounts 2017

A Company Limited by Guarantee

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Directors and other information

Directors	Frank Furlong James O'Loughlin Marie McKenna Karen Coleman Frank McKenna Padraig MacCarvill Aidan Waldron Zack Deasy Tony Bartak (Appointed 16th of May 2017)
Company Secretary	Zack Deasy
Charity Number	CHY20838
Charities Regulatory Authority Number	20083007
Company Number	413994
Registered Office and Principal Address	Brewery Road Stillorgan Co. Dublin
Auditors	McInerney Saunders Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm 38 Main Street Swords Co. Dublin
Bankers	Allied Irish Banks plc Sutton Dublin 13
Solicitors	MacCarthy & Associates 10 Upper Mount Street Dublin 2

Chairperson’s Foreword

I am pleased to present the Annual Report and Financial Statements of The Anne Sullivan Centre for 2017. In this report, the Board seek to demonstrate the activities carried out by the organisation, its impacts and benefits and how it organises and funds its operations in line with the principles of good governance and transparency. The Directors present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017. The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102. Although not obliged to comply with the Charities SORP, the charity has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these accounts. The main activities of the charity are charitable.

This report reflects the commitment of the Board to provide the very best services to the people we support at the Anne Sullivan Centre and through its national outreach and advocacy services, which are funded by the Anne Sullivan Foundation.

The Anne Sullivan Centre is a small unique service with a strong reputation for high standards. This reputation is a valuable asset to the organisation which enables it to be a service that is trusted by service users, to hear the voices of people who are deafblind, to provide a suite of unique services focussed on communication and to advocate for changes, which impact positively on the lives of people who are deafblind.

2017 was an important year for the Anne Sullivan Centre in that we produced and started to implement a new five year strategic plan for the organisation. This plan is important because it allows us to focus on key areas where we can make a difference. The plan focuses on five strategic pillars: services, technology, advocacy and public policy, governance and organisational capacity. An ambitious programme of work for the year 2017/2018 was agreed in November 2016 at a joint board meeting of the Anne Sullivan Centre and Anne Sullivan Foundation. I am pleased to say that many elements of this plan have been successfully completed with some areas still a work in progress.

What the Anne Sullivan Centre is really about is people - our service users, families, funders and our committed staff and volunteer core. Our work is focused on providing quality person centred services, and expanding our reach in a manner that offers sustainability.

The Board has monitored the activity of the organisation in terms of service delivery and quality as well as financial reporting and we are satisfied that our vision for the people we support to live meaningful and independent lives is very much promoted by the services of the Anne Sullivan Centre.

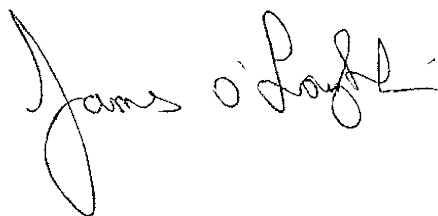
The majority of the organisation’s funding comes from the Health Services Executive; we depend on this support and value greatly the commitment of the State in facilitating us to provide such a unique service as the Anne Sullivan Centre. We are especially grateful to CHO 6 who gave us additional funding in 2017 to cover costs associated with a dedicated staff resource. We are also indebted to the Anne Sullivan Foundation for funding our outreach and advocacy services, which provide specialised knowledge and intervention services focussed on the development of alternative communication systems with children and adults around the country.



# Chairperson’s Foreword

Ensuring that the Anne Sullivan Centre is governed well is of immense importance to the Board, our service users and their families, funders and all those who are associated with our Centre. As a Board we endeavour to be transparent and accountable in all of our actions. The Board members have throughout the year given generously of their time, insights and expertise on an entirely voluntary basis. I would like to thank Frank Furlong, Frank McKenna (deputy chair), Aidan Waldron, Zack Deasy (Company Secretary) Karen Coleman, Tony Bartek, Colm MacCarvill and Marie McKenna most sincerely for their generosity and dedication to the mission of the Anne Sullivan Centre throughout the year.

Finally, it is true to say that our people remain our greatest asset. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff and volunteers without whom the organisation could not exist.



**James O’ Loughlin**  
Chairperson

## Cody’s Story <sup>1</sup>



*Cody is a boy aged 2 who was referred to our services by a Domiciliary Nurse from Early Intervention/Disability Services. Cody has significant hearing and vision impairment in addition to complex medical issues. The family live in a remote area of the country and are quite far away from therapists and hospitals. An initial assessment was carried out by the Anne Sullivan Centre outreach consultant at Cody’s home in conjunction with Cody, the domiciliary nurse and the parents.*

*The outreach consultant made a number of recommendations regarding communication supports which are being expertly implemented by the parents. In addition specialist training was given to all Early Intervention/Disability Service staff. The Anne Sullivan Centre’s outreach consultant maintains regular contact with the family by email and phone between visits.*

<sup>1</sup>All identifying information has been changed in the stories dispersed throughout this report. The photograph’s are for illustration only and bear no resemblance to those involved.

## CEO's Foreword

Welcome to the Anne Sullivan Centre's Annual Report 2017. The past 12 months have seen many developments both within the Anne Sullivan Centre and in the external environment within which we work. Our commitment to support, empower and hear the stories of people who are deafblind is what drives the organisation and we are extremely grateful to the people who use our services, in whatever shape or form, who tell us their stories in many different and unique ways.

The Anne Sullivan Centre was established in 1996 to provide residential support to adults who are deafblind with intellectual difficulties. Many of the people living in the community houses today have been living here for over 20 years.

Notwithstanding this, our vision today is the same as it was all those years ago **"we want to see a society where all people are given an equal opportunity to participate fully and equally in society, in line with the commitments set down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the United Convention on the Rights of the Child."**

The Anne Sullivan Centre's ambition is to extend our services further by reaching out to many more people in the community. To achieve this an outreach service was established in 2010 to provide support to children and adults who are deafblind in schools, homes and various community settings. Through this service people from all across Ireland, together with their families and/or supporting professionals are offered person-centred assessments, support and guidance on communication systems and strategies. To date 147 people have contacted the Anne Sullivan Centre asking for such support in communication strategies from our specialist team.

Whilst there have been a number of significant achievements during 2017 I would like to highlight two in particular 1. An independent external review of the Anne Sullivan Centre and its services by Dr. Paul Hart and 2. the development of a new strategic plan 2017-2021.

A key strategic objective for 2017 was to commission an independent review of our services, which was undertaken by Dr. Paul Hart from Sense Scotland from July – October 2017. Dr. Hart was invited:

- To provide a fair and comprehensive written report
- To review and benchmark services provided by the Anne Sullivan Centre against international best practice and evidence based practice
- To identify areas of strengths
- To make recommendations regarding current gaps, challenges and potential future directions

This review was completed in October 2017 and has given staff, families and Board members great confidence in the knowledge that the quality of our service provision is very much meeting internationally recognised benchmarks and standards in the area of working with people who are deafblind. I quote from the review's concluding remarks **"I have an overall positive impression of the support that is delivered at the Anne Sullivan Centre. There is a very good team of people in place led by a Board who provide good governance both for the current service delivery as well as future ambitions..."** It was heartening to hear so many positive stories and observe many excellent examples of practice. The staff team were honest also about the challenges they face and were willing to engage in discussions about future practice developments"

This review is a watershed in the history of the Centre and gives us a much welcomed blue print for the types of services we should focus on during the lifetime and beyond of this strategic plan.

## CEO's Foreword

In November 2016 both the Foundation Board and Centre Board agreed a strategic plan (2017-2021) for the Anne Sullivan Centre. Our strategic objectives fall within 1) services 2) technology 3) advocacy and public policy 4) governance and 5) organisational capacity. Our main objectives continue to be those set out in this strategic plan which was reviewed and monitored by the management team and the Board at regular intervals throughout 2017.

Our job at the Anne Sullivan Centre is to provide innovative services that are focussed on developing communication systems, which enable children and adults to participate fully and equally in society. It is hard to over-emphasise the importance of developing effective communication partnerships when supporting people who are deafblind. Communication and language with people who are deafblind is always vulnerable and needs constant nurturing and encouragement, with an emphasis on training and support for all.

I am proud of the ongoing work of my colleagues who strive to achieve the objectives we set for ourselves. The achievements of our organisation would not be possible without the support of our volunteers, especially our Boards (Foundation and Centre) and the dedication and commitment of our ever growing service volunteers, service users and friends. I would also like to acknowledge the support we received during 2017 from the corporate volunteer engagement programme facilitated through Volunteer Ireland; Espion, Irish Distillers and SAGE. Finally we were fortunate to have a number of talented UCD undergraduates and post graduate students who gave of their time and expertise to support our work in many areas including corporate governance, social media, corporate sponsorship and the day to day operational activities of the centre. A warm thanks to all.



**Grace Kelly Hartnett**  
CEO and PIC



## Laura's Story



*Laura is a 4 year old bright little girl who was referred to the Anne Sullivan Centre's outreach team by the Visiting Teacher Service. Laura has significant hearing and vision impairments as well as other developmental delays both physical and in communication. The Outreach consultant visits Laura at her Creche and her family home. Laura uses "hand under hand" sign to communicate and has developed a repertoire of signs to communicate her wishes and needs to her family and staff at the Creche.*

*Laura is currently in a mainstream creche and is doing very well. The Creche regularly receives input from the Anne Sullivan Centre. In addition to providing training to the preschool team the consultant has also provided training to the Visiting Teachers. We (ASC) are seen as a primary consult organisation due to our expertise in communication strategies. The family are extremely happy with Laura's progression and are hoping that she can remain in mainstream services throughout her education.*

## Our impacts during 2017

- The Anne Sullivan Centre provided 24/7 support to 11 residents during 2017. Most of this support is given on a one: one basis empowering individuals to exercise choice and personalised supports
- The Anne Sullivan Centre continued to support one individual throughout 2017 in the day service on a one: one basis five days a week with some additional weekend outreach support
- Five service users were supported to fulfil their employment contracts
- 75 people were worked with on an individual basis during 2017 by our deafblind consultant inclusive of 13 new referrals ( 8 children and 5 adults) 53 follow up visits with children and 9 follow up visits with adults
- 331 people were reached through our specialised training programmes, facilitating greater knowledge and understanding of deafblindness
- 14 new volunteers recruited in 2017 (6 drivers, 4 advocates and 4 activity supporters). Our volunteer drivers covered 25% of all outings/trips home in 2017
- Two self-advocacy groups were established where the voices of people who are deafblind are heard and integrated into how we work as an organisation
- 800 children were reached through the schools initiative
- 460 professionals were reached through the hospitals initiative
- 100% increase in Facebook likes throughout 2017
- A closed Facebook group was established called " living with hearing and vision loss" to support people who are deafblind and/or their families
- Policy submissions were made on legislative developments and change was actively advocated for to make Ireland a better place for people who are deafblind
- Two day CHARGE event was organised reaching out to 50 professionals and 10 families
- "deafblindness" was added to the National Abilities Support Services database
- 1743 trips were completed by residents and day service users during 2017

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Anne Sullivan Centre is a company (Company Registration number 413994) which was incorporated on the 17th January 2006. The company is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and is governed by a Constitution. The Anne Sullivan Centre CLG held an E.G.M. on June 20th 2017 to ratify changes to its Memorandum and Articles of Association, now referred to as the Constitution.

The Board meets at least ten times a year and is responsible for the strategy and overall performance of the organisation. The Board has a number of sub committees



a) **Finance and Audit Committee:** This committee meets quarterly or on a needs basis and takes responsibility for the company's audit and control functions. The committee reviews the Anne Sullivan Centre's finances, budgets, regulatory compliance and the internal control environment of the Centre

b) **HR Committee:** The HR committee takes responsibility for agreeing the CEO's remuneration, performance management of the CEO and for determining the staff remuneration policy of the organisation. The committee supports the CEO in agreeing any new collective agreement with the Union. The Board may also delegate to the HR committee functions in respect of disciplinary and grievance matters concerning the CEO.

c) **Governance and Compliance Committee:** The function of the Governance and Compliance committee is to ensure that the Anne Sullivan Centre adheres to good Governance principles & practices as outlined in the ASC Governance Manual. Specifically its remit is to review the existing systems to confirm compliance and make recommendations to the ASC Board where necessary, ensure that the ASC Constitution is reviewed and updated in line with current legislation and guidance documents at least every three years, assess our compliance with "The Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charity Sector in Ireland" on a yearly basis and review all matters pertaining to risks, compliance and governance.

In addition the Anne Sullivan Centre has a number of operational working groups/committees. These include a Human Rights Committee, a Safeguarding Committee, a Positive Behavioural Support Committee, a Wound Management Committee and a Quality Assurance and Safety Committee.

## Objectives and Activities

### Our Vision

We want to see a society where all people are given an equal opportunity to participate fully and equally in society in line with the commitments set down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities alongside the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### Our Mission

We continue Anne Sullivan's legacy by empowering people who are deafblind to pursue meaningful, active and fulfilling lives. We do this by providing care, advocacy and support services in partnership with people who are deafblind, their families, statutory and non-statutory organisations and local communities.

### Our Values:

- We are a person centred organisation that strives for equality, fairness and respect for all
- We provide quality services that are inclusive; focussed on empowerment, communication and advocacy
- We are accountable to each other, our service users and our funders; we use our resources in a way that is effective and efficient
- We work as part of a team; always challenging ourselves to do better and measure our performance.
- We are guided by the principles and commitments inherent in the UNCRPD

## John's Story



Boy (age 11) was referred to our service by a parent. John has hearing and vision impairments, a mild intellectual disability and a genetic syndrome which impacts on his communication, sensory integration, social skills and behaviour. The Anne Sullivan Centre outreach consultant was invited to carry out an assessment with John at school and in his home environment. The findings of the assessment indicated that John needed immediate interventions and strategies to support him to communicate his needs and wishes in a more appropriate way as well as the school staff needing support to communicate and understand John better.

Training was provided to the entire school staff team who reported an enlightened understanding of John and his needs. Training has been requested on a yearly basis to support staff and John to continue with the great progress that they are both making. Both staff and parents have indicated that John's behaviour has improved due to the manner in which staff interact with John now. Family life has also improved and school based team meetings are quite positive; we (ASC) are seen as the primary consultancy organisation due to our expertise in communication systems as well as having good relationships with both home and school.



# Our Goals

We want to see a society where

- The rights and needs of people who are deafblind are enshrined in Irish policy, legislation, planning and service development
- The condition of deafblindness is recognised and better understood by society
- Research is published and collated on the impact and prevalence of deafblindness
- Our services are compliant with national regulations and standards and benchmarked against international best practice
- People who are deafblind are supported through innovation in augmentative and alternative communication systems and tools
- Staff are nurtured to achieve excellence, empowered to develop and excel and recognised for their skills and knowledge
- We are seen as a national service provider; growing our network of supports, services and recognized as a centre of excellence.

## Terry's Story



*Terry is a 33 year old lady who was referred to our service by a case worker. Terry has significant hearing and vision impairment and is a non-native English speaker. She attends a day service where staff are finding it difficult to communicate with Terry. The Anne Sullivan Centre outreach worker completed an assessment with Terry, her family and the day service staff.*

*Training was provided to the day service staff and ideas given to maximize communication and vocational/functional desktop activities. Terry now uses hand under hand sign as well as PECS to communicate her needs and wishes. She seems much happier and is getting more from her activities at the day service. The outreach consultant is available to Terry and the staff team to offer guidance and consultation at any stage and is visited by the Anne Sullivan Consultant at least quarterly.*



## Challenges

Many positive outcomes have been achieved in 2017 as outlined earlier in this report however; there have also been many challenges. It is envisaged that these challenges will continue into the future with an increasing demand for residential support, the changing needs of service users, the rising costs of transport, insurance, refurbishment and the ongoing costs associated with compliance.

We have long recognised that adults with intellectual disability are enjoying increased longevity, however, they are likely to experience early age related changes in their abilities. For the Anne Sullivan Centre one of the biggest challenges will be securing suitable single story accommodation that is fit for purpose to better meet the needs of our residents. The Anne Sullivan Foundation is committed to taking on this challenge with the support of its donors and funders.

Deafblindness is a growing concern. Deafblindness is not deafness plus blindness rather it is a separate and unique disability that can affect development, socialisation and communication. There are more than 80 different causes of deafblindness, including hereditary and chromosomal conditions, pre-natal congenital complications, post-natal non-congenital complications and older age.

In July 2014 the Anne Sullivan Centre conducted research into deafblindness in Ireland with the assistance of Deafblind Ireland. As part of the investigation a cross-tabulation of data from the Central Statistics Office revealed that 1,749 people reported having a combination of Blindness or serious vision impairment and Deafness or a serious hearing impairment in the 2011 Census. An additional 8,616 reported dual sensory impairment with one or more additional disabilities- bringing the total number of those affected to 10,365. Research has shown that the proportion of the population who experience a combination of vision and hearing loss is expected to rise dramatically because of the ageing demographic and increased survival rate for infants with complex disabilities.

A significant challenge for the Anne Sullivan Centre will be to reach out to this growing population to provide specialised supports and services and to advocate for and with people who are deafblind. An expansion of our outreach and advocacy services is dependent on resources both human and financial and is a key pillar of our strategic plan.

If a person is profoundly deaf and totally blind, his or her experience of the world extends only as far as the fingertips can reach. Such people are effectively alone if no one is touching them. The Anne Sullivan Centre and Foundation is committed to ensuring that such people are not invisible. A key component of our strategic plan is to develop our capacity to support this growing number of people who are deafblind throughout Ireland. We believe that we are well placed to provide such services. An excerpt from the Paul Hart review confirms this belief. "I first observed an information session between the Deafblind Consultant (Outreach Service) and an external Occupational Therapist who wanted to extend her knowledge of Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). The consultant gave impressive information about CVI backed up with photograph examples from practice and many stories about individual children she had supported. It was very skilled. Similarly, I observed her in a communication session with a deafblind woman supported by another agency. Again, it was an excellent session with a high degree of skill being shown in the interaction, while at the same time imparting knowledge to the staff team who were observing also. These two external visits were as impressive as I have seen in many parts of the world".

## Director's Annual Report

The directors present their Directors' Report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014 and, although not obliged to comply with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP in accordance with FRS 102, effective January 2015), the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

The directors, at the date of this report and those who served during the financial year together with the dates of any changes, are set out on page 4.

### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the company are the provision of residential and other services for people who are deafblind.

The company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

### Performance Review, Results and Dividends

The Net incoming of resources for the year after providing for depreciation amounted to €12,476 (2016: Net outgoings of €12,750).

### Principal Risks and Uncertainties

In common with many other companies of this nature, The Anne Sullivan Centre Company Limited by Guarantee depends on government grants in order to continue to provide services. The directors are of the opinion that the company will continue to receive the level of government funding required to provide relevant services.

### Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year end which require disclosure in the financial statements.

### Auditors

The auditors, McInerney Saunders, have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 380 of the Companies Act, 2014.

### Statement on Relevant Audit Information

There is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

## Director's Annual Report

### Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act, 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at Brewery Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

### Taxation Status

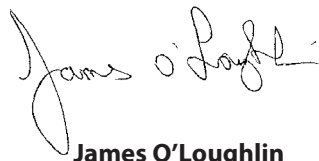
The company has been granted charitable tax status and is therefore exempt from corporation tax.

Signed on behalf of the Board



**Frank Furlong**  
Director

26 June 2018



**James O'Loughlin**  
Director

26 June 2018

## Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and published by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the net income or expenditure of the company for that year. In preparing these financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, including the Charities SORP (in accordance with FRS102 effective January 2015) have been followed, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and with Irish Statute comprising the Companies Act 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the directors are aware:

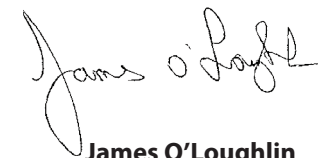
- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the Board



**Frank Furlong**  
Director

26 June 2018



**James O'Loughlin**  
Director

26 June 2018



## Auditor's Report

### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Anne Sullivan Centre Company Limited by Guarantee for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cashflow, the Accounting Policies and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

#### Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw your attention to Note 4 to the financial statements which indicates that the company has negative net funds at the year-end date. This condition indicates that a material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under these standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Auditor's Report

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- The information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- In our opinion, the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purpose of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Respective responsibilities

##### Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to the going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

##### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not

## Auditor's Report

detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as going concerns. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as going concerns.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Donagh Waters**  
for and on behalf of

**MCINERNEY SAUNDERS**  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm  
38 Main Street  
Swords  
Co. Dublin

26 June 2018

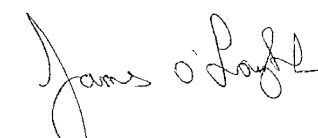
## Statement of Financial Activities

	Restricted Funds 2017 Notes €	Unrestricted Funds 2017 €	Total 2017 €	Total 2016 €
Incoming Resources				
Charitable activities:				
Income from fundraising and grants	-	2,842,165	<b>2,842,165</b>	2,822,872
Resources Expended				
Charitable activities:				
Overheads	-	2,829,689	<b>2,829,689</b>	2,835,622
Total resources expended	-	2,829,689	<b>2,829,689</b>	2,835,622
Net movement in funds for the year	-	12,476	<b>12,476</b>	(12,750)
Reconciliation of funds				
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2017	-	(46,539)	<b>(46,539)</b>	(33,789)
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2017	-	(34,063)	<b>(34,063)</b>	(46,539)

Approved by the Directors on 26 June 2018 and signed on its behalf by



**Frank Furlong**  
Director



**James O'Loughlin**  
Director



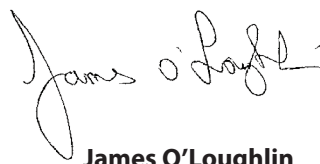
## Balance Sheet

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	7	<u>1,083</u>	<u>4,333</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	8	<u>44,527</u>	<u>30,472</u>
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>112,268</u>	<u>58,528</u>
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	<u>(156,795)</u>	<u>(89,000)</u>
		<u>(191,941)</u>	<u>(139,872)</u>
<b>Net Current (Liabilities)/Assets</b>		<u>(35,146)</u>	<u>(50,872)</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<u>(34,063)</u>	<u>(46,539)</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
General fund (unrestricted)		<u>(34,063)</u>	<u>(46,539)</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	13	<u>(34,063)</u>	<u>(46,539)</u>

Approved by the Directors on 26 June 2018 and signed on its behalf by



**Frank Furlong**  
Director



**James O'Loughlin**  
Director

## Statement of Cashflows

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net movement in funds		<u>12,476</u>	<u>(12,750)</u>
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		<u>3,250</u>	<u>3,250</u>
		<u>15,726</u>	<u>(9,500)</u>
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in debtors		<u>(14,055)</u>	<u>99,910</u>
Movement in creditors		<u>104,187</u>	<u>11,274</u>
<b>Cash generated/(expensed) from operations</b>		<u>105,858</u>	<u>101,684</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible assets		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Advance from subsidiaries/group companies		<u>(52,118)</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in net funds resulting from cash flows		<u>53,740</u>	<u>101,684</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2017</b>		<u>58,528</u>	<u>(43,156)</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2017</b>		<u>112,268</u>	<u>58,528</u>

Notes to the Accounts

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Anne Sullivan Centre Company Limited By Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP in accordance with FRS 102, effective January 2015) and with generally accepted accounting principles in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Act 2014. They comply with the financial reporting standards of the Accounting Standards Board, as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income or capital is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to it, its financial value can be quantified with reasonable certainty and there is reasonable certainty of its ultimate receipt. Entitlement to legacies is considered established when the charity has been notified of a distribution to be made by the executors. Income received in advance of due performance under a contract is accounted for as deferred income until earned. Grants for activities are recognised as income when the related conditions for legal entitlement have been met. All other income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Resources expended

All resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Charitable activities include costs of services and grants, support costs and depreciation on related assets. Costs of generating funds similarly include fundraising activities. Non-staff costs not attributed to one category of activity are allocated or apportioned pro-rata to the staffing of the relevant service. Finance, HR, IT and administrative staff costs are directly attributable to individual activities by objective. Governance costs are those associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Taxation

The company has been granted charitable tax status and is therefore exempt from corporation tax.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Motor vehicles - 33% Straight line

Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. Annual contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

Notes to the Accounts

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, which are described in Note 2, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both the current and future periods.

4. GOING CONCERN

The company's financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. The company has negative net funds at the year end date. The directors, having reviewed all of the financial information available to them, are confident that, with the support of their funders, the company will have the resources to meet its liabilities in the short term and, as such, it is therefore appropriate to continue to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

5. NET INCOMING RESOURCES

	2017	2016
	€	€
Net incoming resources are stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible assets	3,250	3,250

6. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

The staff costs comprise:	2017	2016
	€	€
Wages and salaries	2,096,571	2,086,421
Social security costs	222,566	219,926
Pension costs	71,894	65,591
	2,391,031	2,371,938

Average number of employees	2017	2016
	Number	Number
Residential social care workers	55	54
Administration	3	3
Maintenance	1	1
Chef	1	1
Chief executive officer	1	1
	61	60

Number of employees with earnings in the following income levels are:		
€80,000 - €89,999	1	1
€70,000 - €79,999	-	-
€60,000 - €69,999	-	-
€50,000 - €59,999	5	4



## Notes to the Accounts

### 7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Motor vehicles €	Total €
Cost	9,750	9,750
Additions		
At 31 December 2017	9,750	9,750
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2017	5,417	5,417
Charge for the year	3,250	3,250
At 31 December 2017	8,667	8,667
Net book value		
At 31 December 2017	1,083	1,083
At 31 December 2016	4,333	4,333

### 8. DEBTORS

2017 2016	€	€
Grants receivable	35,727	22,882
Prepayments	4,911	6,022
Other debtors	3,889	1,568
	44,527	30,472

### 9. CREDITORS

	2017 €	2016 €
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	12,760	7,358
Amounts owed to connected parties (Note 15)	-	52,118
Taxation and social security costs (Note 10)	45,697	51,488
Other creditors	38,930	14,711
Accruals	94,554	14,197
	191,941	139,872

### 10. TAXATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

	2017 €	2016 €
Creditors:		
PAYE / PRSI	45,697	51,488

### 11. PENSION COSTS - DEFINED CONTRIBUTION

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. Pension costs amounted to €71,894 (2016 - €65,591).

## Notes to the Accounts

### 12. ANALYSIS OF NET LIABILITIES BY FUND

	Fixed assets - charity use €	Current assets €	Current liabilities €	Total €
Unrestricted income				
The Anne Sullivan Centre	1,083	156,795	(191,941)	(34,063)
	1,083	156,975	(191,941)	(34,063)

### 13. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2017 €	Incoming resources €	Resources expended 31 December 2017 €	Balance 31 December 2017 €
Unrestricted income				
The Anne Sullivan Centre	(46,539)	2,842,165	(2,829,689)	(34,063)
Total funds	(46,539)	2,842,165	2,829,689	(34,063)

### 14. STATUS

The company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital and is a registered charity.

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while they are members or within one year thereafter for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves such amount as may be required, not exceeding €1.

### 15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

	2017 €	2016 €
The following amounts are due to connected parties:		
The Anne Sullivan Foundation	-	52,118

During the year the company received contributions from The Anne Sullivan Foundation in the amount of €89,321 (2016: €136,320). In addition the company had a loan from The Anne Sullivan Foundation in the amount of €52,118. This loan was repaid during the year. The two parties are connected as they have Board members in common.

The Anne Sullivan Centre Company Limited by Guarantee operates from buildings that are owned by The Anne Sullivan Foundation.

There were no transactions with directors or any directors' remuneration in the year.

### 16. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year-end which would require disclosure in the financial statements.

### 17. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 26 June 2018

## Supplementary information

Relating to the financial statements

<b>Income</b>		
HSE North East	373,921	373,918
HSE Mid West	193,032	192,934
HSE Mid Leinster	1,394,508	1,326,835
HSE Dublin North West	71,424	71,324
HSE Waterford	681,349	687,171
Rent paid by residents	38,610	34,370
Grant received from the Anne Sullivan Foundation	89,321	136,320
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Income</b>	<b>2,842,165</b>	<b>2,822,872</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Wages and salaries	2,096,571	2,086,421
Social security costs	222,566	219,926
Staff defined contribution pension costs	71,894	65,591
Staff training & Education	18,620	16,849
Rent payable	2,878	2,878
Rates	1,846	1,787
Security Costs	7,212	12,567
Insurance	31,990	22,199
Light and heat	25,170	23,125
Repairs and maintenance	47,105	54,584
Equipment and furniture	1,713	6,165
Printing, postage and stationery	7,164	9,760
Telephone	8,684	12,502
Computer costs	16,012	11,280
Assistive Technology	559	468
Motor expenses	12,469	22,826
Cleaning and household costs	17,781	17,708
Incontinence wear, hygiene and medical	33,981	29,705
Psychologist, dietician and other	73,245	71,993
Transport costs	18,920	26,773
Travel	7,156	2,137
Catering costs	44,845	49,140
Legal and professional	14,904	3,377
Consultancy fees	26,684	25,732
Audit	6,565	8,240
Bank charges	1,217	2,697
Recruitment	450	450
General expenses	6,189	18,791
Subscriptions	2,049	6,701
Depreciation	3,250	3,250
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>2,829,689</b>	<b>2,835,622</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>12,476</b>	<b>(12,750)</b>
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THE  
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Centre for people who are deafblind

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