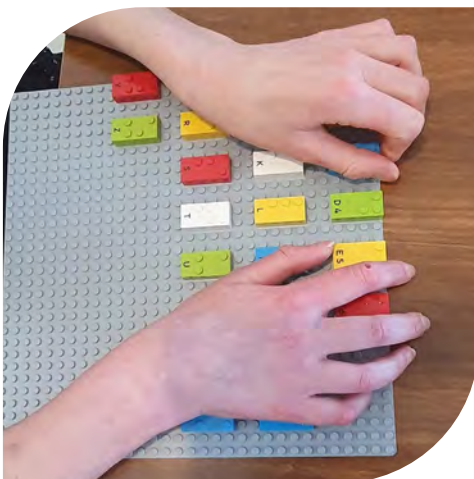


The **Anne Sullivan** Centre

for people who are deafblind



Annual Report and Accounts

for the year ended 31 December **2023**



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 residential, day, outreach and advocacy services in partnership with people who are deafblind, their families, statutory and non-statutory organisations and local communities.

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Directors and other information

Directors

Frank Furlong (Deceased on 05 April 2024)
Marie McKenna (Resigned 17 October 2023)
Karen Coleman
Frank McKenna (Resigned 17 October 2023)
Aidan Waldron
Zack Deasy
Tony Bartak
Keith Adams
Lorraine Lally
Declan Reilly (Appointed 20 June 2023)
Victoria O'Connell (Appointed 20 June 2023)
Sarah Governey (Appointed 20 June 2023)

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 Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
38 Main Street
Swords
Co. Dublin

Bankers

Allied Irish Banks plc
Sutton
Dublin 13

Solicitors

Gleeson McGrath Baldwin Solicitors
29 Anglesea Street
Dublin 2



Chair and CEO's Foreword

Our commitment to delivering high quality services to children and adults who are deafblind remains steadfast; evidenced by the unique range of services that we provide which are delivered by our dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

We are pleased to present the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Anne Sullivan Centre (ASC) for the year 2023. In preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements, the Board seeks to demonstrate the activities of the ASC and how it impacts and benefits the people we support.

The ASC is a charity that supports adults and children who are deafblind across Ireland. We work in partnership and collaboration with people who are deafblind, their families and support networks including other professionals and organisations who support people with complex communication needs.

Throughout 2023 we continued to provide specialist services including residential, day and outreach. We delivered training to people who are deafblind, their families and service providers; provided assessments, advice and consultations and continued to develop our low and high technology Assistive Technology, Literacy and Active Learning equipment libraries. As we reflect on 2023, we are reminded not only of the achievements made by our team of staff and volunteers but also the resilience of service users who are often at a high risk of isolation due to the nature of their disabilities. Being deafblind can significantly impact on one's ability to communicate, access information, participate in everyday life and the ability to move around independently. We are truly amazed and grateful to you all for giving us the privilege of knowing you and learning so much about your ability to achieve so many great things in life.

There were many achievements during 2023 which will be outlined later in this report, however there were also many challenges that came our way. The impact of the increased cost of living continues to place significant strain on Charities such as the ASC compounded by the challenges of staff recruitment and retention within the disability sector. As a specialist social care organisation our staff are one of our greatest assets. A consistent challenge throughout 2023 was attracting and retaining quality staff who are competent, caring and skilled in deafblind communication strategies. We are honored to have such staff working with us; some for more than 10 years.

We were delighted to see a new pay agreement between the Unions and the Department of Health for section 39 organisations agreed in the Workplace Relations Commission in late 2023. This was warmly welcomed by the staff and Board of the ASC. Whilst some progress was made with an 8% increase agreed, the campaign for equity in pay and conditions with Section 38 and HSE services must continue until full pay parity is secured; our staff deserve to be recognized for the valuable work that they do.




Chair and CEO's Foreword

Our commitment to providing the best possible, person centered and individually focused support remains at the core of our mission. We are now two years into our strategic plan 2021-2026. Going forward we aim to build on the successes of 2023 and to continue to make progress on our strategic plan under the 5 key pillars of Services, Innovative Tools and Technologies, Campaigning and Influencing Policy, Sustainable Funding and Governance.

A key priority for the ASC and the Anne Sullivan Foundation (ASF) Boards is to establish our future model of service delivery which is grounded in the needs and wishes of service users. An intensive process of discovery through social role valorisation began in 2023 whereby seven staff members engaged in the Enhancing Quality for Transition Programme funded through the Social Reform Fund and delivered on behalf of the HSE.

During 2023 three residents became learning partners and engaged in this process of discovery. A key question for the ASC and ASF is how can we best support residents to live their best lives and be seen as valued members of their communities in line with best practice principles as set out in National Disability Policy and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This process will continue into the life span of the current strategic plan and we look forward to figuring this out in collaboration with residents, families, staff, funders and Board members.



Our commitment to delivering high quality services to children and adults who are deafblind remains steadfast; evidenced by the unique range of services that we provide which are delivered by our dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

We were all deeply saddened to see the passing of our founding member Frank Furlong. Frank, father of Barbara, a little girl who was born deafblind championed the establishment of what is now known as the Anne Sullivan Foundation. Sadly, Frank passed away in early 2024 after a short illness. Frank dedicated his energy and passion to advocating for better services for people who are deafblind. As CEO *"I am deeply grateful to have known Frank. He was a director who kept us grounded and was both compassionate and inspirational in his vision for the ASF, the ASC and the people we support. I know that everyone who knew Frank was struck by his insights, passion and his commitment to doing the right thing for the right reasons. I will miss his insights and generous support"*

As Chair of the Board, I can honestly say that Frank was an inspiration to everyone at the Anne Sullivan Centre. *"I will miss his advice and wisdom, he was deeply proud of what the Anne Sullivan Centre has achieved, ambitious for an even greater role in supporting the deafblind community going forward and passionate advocate who recognised that the deafblind community is unique and requires specialised supports including specialised expert teams of people and specialist organisations. Frank and those who created The Anne Sullivan Foundation and Centre starting in 1989 leave a tremendous legacy"*.



Chair and CEO's Foreword

"As parents of a deafblind child in the early 80's and no support groups around Frank was one of the first parents we had ever met that could relate to our concerns and needs at the time. He has been a great support over the years. He was a true gentleman, a friend and always had the interest of the service users at the ASC at heart. He will be sadly missed by all"

Marie and Frank McKenna

We were sorry to see two Directors Marie and Frank McKenna resign in late 2023 after many years of dedicated service. A sincere thank you to Marie and Frank for your insights and commitment and most especially for keeping the voice of the service user at the forefront of everything that we do. We were delighted to welcome three new Directors during the year. Thank you, Vicki, Sarah and Declan for giving us your expertise and precious time to ensure that the governance at the ASC remains of a very high standard.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the families who supported all of us at the ASC and ASF throughout another exciting but challenging year. We are optimistic that 2024 will bring many opportunities for the deafblind community and that we will realize our ambitious objectives set out in our strategic plan.

As Chairperson, I am immensely proud of the work that we do. I express my gratitude to my colleagues on the Board, staff, parents, volunteers and all those who are deafblind who remind us every day of why the ASC and ASF exist.

Together, let us continue to evolve and grow so that all those who are living with deafblindness can enjoy the same rights as the rest of the population. Everyone needs to be able to participate in communities, to be able to grow, to be able to communicate and be understood. This is our vision - together we can make it happen.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Aidan Waldron
Chairperson

Grace Kelly Hartnett
CEO



In Memory

As stated earlier in this report we were extremely sad to see our founding member and staunch advocate Frank Furlong pass away in April 2024. Frank was determined to increase the supports available to children and adults who are deafblind. He had first hand knowledge of the many challenges that people who are deafblind experienced, as father to his beautiful daughter Barbara, whom he talked about often. Frank was at the inaugural meeting of the ASF in 1989 and was vociferous in his commitment to improve the lives of people who are deafblind. Frank was an inspiration to all that he met. He served on the Boards of the Anne Sullivan Foundation and the Anne Sullivan Centre for over 30 years and was pivotal to where we as an organisation came from and who we are today. He was genuine, passionate, compassionate and had a great sense of fun, seeing the best in everyone and everything. Frank had a saying that he used often at Board meetings "the squeaky door gets the oil"... we fondly remember our colleague and will continue to advocate for all those who are deafblind in his memory.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal

Our impacts at a glance



13
Residents

70
Staff



171

Outreach
service users



2
Day Service users



10
Volunteers
actively
supporting
service users.

€3.3m
statutory
funding for day
and residential
services

33

music therapy
session
in 2023



40

movement and
wellbeing sessions



13

holidays
enjoyed
by residents

66 hours input
from the
multi-disciplinary
team

66

60

people attended the
annual family BBQ in July 2023



94.5%

of staff who responded to the staff engagement
survey stated that they are proud to work in the ASC.





Who we are

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 residential, day, outreach and advocacy services in partnership with people who are deafblind, their families, statutory and non-statutory organisations and local communities.

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 (UNCRPD).

Our Goals 2021-2026

By 2026 we will expand and maximize the level of meaningful support and advocacy to people who are deafblind and to the network of people who support them by ensuring that those we engage with

- Feel valued and included.
- Develop their potential.
- Are equipped to make their own personal choices regarding communication, education, employment and participating in society.

We aim to achieve these goals under our 5 strategic pillars-1. Services 2. Innovative Tools and Technologies 3. Campaigning and Influencing Policy, 4. Sustainable Funding and 5. Governance.

Our Values

Our work is underpinned by our values


- We are a person-centered organisation that strives for equality, fairness and respect for all
- We provide quality services that are inclusive; focused 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.



Our Story

In 1989 a group of concerned parents whose children had been diagnosed with Congenital Rubella Syndrome came together and formed the Anne Sullivan Foundation for people who are deafblind in Ireland. As already mentioned, one of these visionaries Frank Furlong, father of Barbara a little girl who was born deafblind, championed the establishment of what is now known as the Anne Sullivan Foundation.

The Foundation's name was chosen to pay tribute to an Irish immigrant who came to prominence as a teacher to people who were deafblind in the United States. Anne Sullivan's parents left Limerick during the famine and settled in Massachusetts, where Anne was born in 1866. Anne attended Perkins School for the Blind in Boston where she graduated as Valedictorian of her class, aged 20. During her time at Perkins, Anne learned to communicate with friends who were deafblind, including Laura Bridgeman. In 1886 Anne was hired by the Keller family to care for their daughter Helen in Alabama who was deafblind.

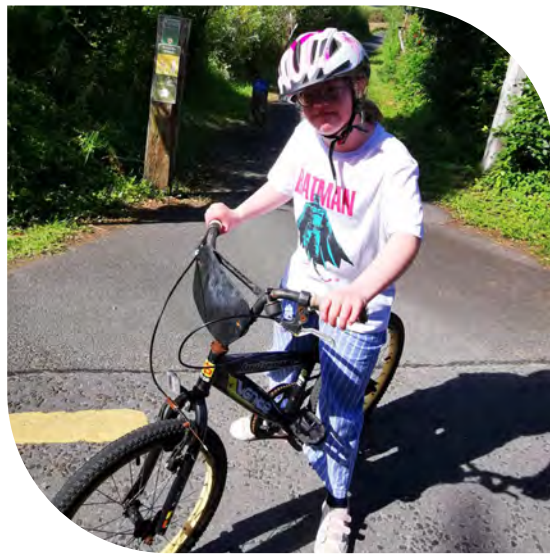
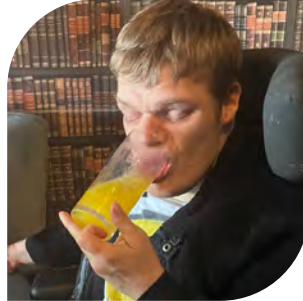


In 2023, we continued to provide specialist wraparound services for adults who are deafblind, many of whom have additional needs and require intensive support.

Anne Sullivan served as Helen Keller's educator for over a decade and accompanied her to Radcliffe College where she became the first deafblind person to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. The pair remained lifelong companions and when Anne died in 1936, Helen was holding her hand.

The Anne Sullivan Foundation is a story of extraordinary courage and passion. It is a story of how a group of concerned parents came together to establish a "home from home" for adults who were deafblind and who needed dedicated specialist support.

After many years of advocating for both services and funding the Anne Sullivan Centre was opened in 1995 as a residential home for people who are deafblind in Ireland. Until then, children who were deafblind were either educated in schools for the deaf or were living in institutions aimed at providing services to the "mentally ill" and "intellectually disabled". This group of founding parents recognized the need to establish specialised quality care, support and educational services to those who are deafblind. Anne Sullivan services today are driven by the same combination of vision, commitment and determination to provide quality services that promote the fundamental rights of those who are deafblind to pursue independent, meaningful, active and fulfilling lives.





Principal Activities

The Anne Sullivan Centre and The Anne Sullivan Foundation work closely together but are two distinct entities, each of which is a registered charity.

The Anne Sullivan Centre.

The Anne Sullivan Centre was established in 1995 by the Foundation and provides specialist services for adults who are deafblind from the Foundation's properties in Stillorgan.

Specialist Residential, Day and Outreach Services

In 2023, the Centre provided specialist wraparound residential services for thirteen adults who are deafblind, many of whom have additional needs and require intensive supports. The Anne Sullivan Centre provides homes where each person's strengths and needs are identified and met within a supportive environment. Our houses are located within the local community, convenient to local amenities. The Centre also provides a day service programme and in 2023 supported two Dublin-based young adults at our hub in Stillorgan and in the community.

Our residential and day services are operated under Section 39 Service Agreements with the Health Service Executive and this is the main source of funding for these services.

In 2023, we continued to provide a national outreach and advocacy service to children and adults who are deafblind, their families, as well as supports for professionals and other service providers. These services were provided free of charge and funded primarily through donations and fundraising by the Foundation.

The Anne Sullivan Foundation.

The Anne Sullivan Foundation was established in 1989 by a group of pioneering parents and friends to promote awareness, education and services for people who are deafblind. It publishes separate consolidated financial statements.

The Foundation owns the organisation's properties at Silver Pines, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. In 2023 money raised by the Foundation supported the Centre's outreach and community services and an advocacy and campaign's programme. In late 2023 it began funding a new role of Partnership and Engagement Manager who is tasked with building a sustainable approach to funding in partnership with individuals, businesses and public bodies.



Principal Activities

Our Residential Service

Our residential service has been operating since 1995 and is made up of four community houses, two self-contained apartments and a community centre. In 2023, we continued to provide specialist wraparound services for adults who are deafblind, many of whom have additional needs and require intensive support. The service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year. The Anne Sullivan Centre provides homes where each person's strengths and needs are identified and met within a supportive environment. Our houses are located within the community and are within easy access to many local amenities.

In 2023

Some key milestones for residents and staff during 2023 included the welcome removal of mask wearing in February 2023 since the pandemic began in March 2020 as well as reengaging in all opportunities in the community to enhance the lived experiences of service users.

In line with our values and best-practice developments in policy and service delivery, the residential service also began working with a number of people we support to identify their future support needs by engaging in an intentional planned journey of discovery guided by the Enhancing Quality for Transition Programme/Social Role Valorisation (SRV).

This is an approach which provides a theory, framework and practical tools to enable people to develop meaningful and rewarding lives through inclusion and participation in their communities in valued social roles e.g. meaningful employment, education, social relationships or volunteering. Staff and residents work in partnership to explore what kind of life a person would like to lead, where and with whom they would like to live in the future, and how we, as a service, can support that person to make that a reality.

Seven staff and three residents engaged in this process during 2023 however due to staffing challenges only one resident remained in the process throughout this period. The ASC and ASF Boards as well as staff are deeply committed to continuing this work and would like to thank the HSE for giving us the opportunity to begin this journey with the support of service users and families.

A key part of how we operate as a service is to ensure a high standard of practice and engagement in continuous professional development. In line with this, the Board commissioned an independent review of our incident management systems in December 2023. We were pleased to note in this review that our systems were commended as robust and of a very high standard.

"The review of incidents at a management level is very good and the oversight at all levels of the organisation is strong. In particular the quarterly incident review meetings are very thorough and are the most comprehensive review / analysis of incidents that I have seen nationally" Wolfe Improve Ltd 2023.



Principal Activities

Our Day Service

Our Day Service has been operating since 2012 and currently provides one-to-one supports to two young adults from our hub in Stillorgan and in the community. Our vision is to support each service user, promoting growth and independence based on each person's strengths, wishes and needs. The focus of our Day Service is on choice and community participation, to enhance each person's opportunity to live a full and enriching life as underpinned by the "Transforming Lives Policy". We strive to create a community where each service user has opportunities for self-expression and self-development within a setting that is caring and supportive and aligned to the HSE's policy on New Directions.

In 2023

Throughout 2023 we were delighted to support both day service users to engage in a diverse range of community-based activities and experiences including swimming, employment, sensory outings and day trips to their preferred choice of location.

Our day and residential services are operated under Section 39 Service agreements with the HSE; this is the main source of funding for these activities. The day and residential service manager and team leader are regular participants on the HSE's New Directions interagency meetings and continue to work to expand our day service programme to offer flexible and impactful support to more adults in their communities. Limited recognition and assessment of deafblindness and dual impairment remains an obstacle to achieving this.

Staffing

We employ suitably qualified people who have qualifications in Health Care, Social Care, Psychology and other related areas. In recognition of the need for specialized knowledge and skills the ASF has supported five team members to participate in a MSc in Deafblindness, University of Groningen, Netherlands over the past number of years. Our team of support workers deliver direct supports guided by a small management and administration team. A range of consultant allied health professionals provides comprehensive clinical guidance including Medical, Mental Health, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Dietetics, Music Therapy and Movement Therapy. Many frontline staff have been supported to pursue additional training to provide specialised multidisciplinary support including deafblind Communication, Positive Behaviour Support and Social Role Valorisation

Outreach And Community Services.

Approximately 2% of the global population is deafblind. People who are deafblind face multiple barriers to information, communication and mobility according to World Federation of Deafblind. From an Irish perspective, Census 2022 indicates that there are at least 18,000 people in Ireland who are deafblind or dual impaired whose "hearing and/or vision are impaired to a great extent" and over 50,000 where both "are impaired to some extent". In 2010, the Anne Sullivan Centre established an outreach service in order to extend our specialist supports to people who are deafblind across Ireland in their homes and communities.

Principal Activities

Aine



Aine is a 13-year-old girl who has availed of the ASF Outreach service since 2019. She is diagnosed with Down Syndrome and has cataracts, nystagmus and moderate conductive hearing loss for which she wears glasses and hearing aids and now has a Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) due to chronic ear infections. Aine has attended mainstream school, a special class in another mainstream school and now a special school for the remainder of her education. Our Outreach Consultants have helped her family navigate through these transitions so that her deafblindness wasn't seen as a barrier but just part of who she is as a learner and provided best practice strategies to teachers, SNAs, therapists, Visiting Teachers and family members as needed. When Assistive Technology was being explored, the team was an integral part of the assessment process ensuring that her needs as a deafblind learner were taken on board when choosing a communication device that would be appropriate for her vision and hearing. The team has supported Aine to use communication boards at home so that she is aware of what activities are happening and when. Aine is involved in many leisure and sporting activities in her community; Aine uses her communication symbols to anticipate these activities and understand the order in which they will take place.

The need for specialist supports

The condition of deafblindness is much more than a combination of deafness and blindness. "Deafblindness is a combined vision and hearing impairment of such severity that it is hard for the impaired senses to compensate for each other. Thus, deafblindness is a distinct disability." (Nordic definition www.nordicwelfare.com.)

To help compensate for a combined vision and hearing impairment the sense of touch becomes critically important. The severity of a combined vision and hearing impairment depends on:

- the time of onset, especially in relation to communication development and language acquisition
- the degree and nature of the vision and hearing impairments
- whether it is congenital or acquired
- whether it is combined with other disabilities
- whether it is stable or progressive

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) protects and promotes the right to inclusive health care services and requires the use of a rights-based approach. Ireland signed the UNCRPD in 2018. This Convention recognises deafblindness as



Principal Activities

a distinct disability, however, unlike other European countries, this has yet to be meaningfully applied in policy or practice in Ireland. The presence of a dual impairment is typically not recognised and there is no system for ensuring access to assessment and supports by suitably qualified professionals such as those on our Outreach Team.

Our Outreach Team.

The outreach team consists of two full time specialists and one part time specialist. They work out of locations in Dublin, Cork and Galway and have a national brief.

Our team provides consultancy, assessment, training and support on a nationwide basis to children and adults who are deafblind, their families and support professionals.

Who we support:

We support

- children and adults who are deafblind or dual impaired.
- parents and families.
- education, health and social care professionals as well as voluntary and statutory organisations.

19 new referrals during 2023

Early Intervention: **3**

School age: **3**

Adults: **7**

Senior citizens: **6**

Reason for Referral

- Deafblind strategies/communication support and interventions
- Educational support and recommendations
- Personal Assistant support
- Recently lost vision or hearing; home support
- Advocacy letters to support access to supports and services e.g. housing, SNA, PA, transportation, audiology/ophthalmology waiting lists
- Social groups
- Counselling (ISL)
- Support regarding Assistive Technology

Principal Activities

What we do.

Our team provide direct services and supports, education and training along with information and advice. They lead on the development of innovative and effective new services, while also participating in awareness raising and research.

- Specialist Assessment, Consultation and Support
- Education and Training
- Information and Advice
- Peer group supports, advocacy and campaigning
- Personal Assistants
- Assistive Technology Library
- Multi-Sensory Books
- Active Learning Equipment
- Low, Medium and High Technology Assistive Technology
- Sensory Hub- available to local schools and individuals



"Ella"

"Ella" is a 2-year-old girl with CHARGE Syndrome. She spent the first 13 months of her life in hospital due to the multiple medical conditions related to CHARGE Syndrome. Due to breathing difficulties at birth, Ella has a tracheostomy, which means she needs medical support to help her to manage her breathing. Whilst in hospital, Ella received visits from one of our Outreach Consultants who worked on engaging her through multisensory equipment and toys, encouraging early communication through interaction and introduced an active learning space into her environment. This space facilitates a child who is deafblind to develop their communication, vision, hearing, concept development and actively engage with toys in a safe environment, which was a lifeline for Ella and her family especially during her very long days and months in hospital. When she returned home to the opposite side of the country, our Outreach Team continued to support Ella and her family through home visits. The Outreach Team provides advice, training and support as well as teaching her siblings how best to interact with Ella to encourage her to develop her communication and engagement skills. The Outreach Team is a key part of Ella's multidisciplinary team.

Principal Activities



JC

JC is an 8-year-old boy, diagnosed with Ayme Gripp Syndrome, Pierre Robin, cataracts and hearing impairment. He was referred to the ASF Outreach Team as a baby by his local Public Health Nurse. JC uses a combination of objects, pictures, LAMH signs, gestures and body movement to give and receive communication. The family live in a remote area of Ireland and travel long distances to attend hospitals and other specialists. JC now attends a special school which is over an hour's drive from his home. His family have availed of many aspects of the Outreach Service: home and school visits, co-visits with early intervention, online trainings, virtual consultations, multidisciplinary team meetings and now participates in our new Family Forum. JC has progressed in all areas with our support, particularly regarding his communication. His schoolteachers and Special Needs Assistants (SNA's) attend online training and engage in in person visits throughout the year. The Visiting Teacher Service is also involved; together we create meaningful goals for JC in school and at home. The team performed the Communication Matrix Assessment for expressive communication (particularly for children who are deafblind) with ASF Consultant as the lead. It is great to see JC thrive over the past 8 years and build on skills each visit.

Specialist Assessment, Consultation and Support.

Deafblindness or dual sensory impairment has a distinct impact on communication, learning, mobility, cognition and socialisation. It often presents alongside other conditions and disabilities. Assessment and support requires specific training and expertise which our team can provide, individually or working alongside other clinicians.

Our team provides assessments where there is a diagnosed or queried impairment of both hearing and vision and a need for assessment in areas including communication, learning, cognition and mobility. Based on this assessment we furnish a report with recommendations and work to provide ongoing direct supports or refer to others who may be in a position to do so.

Hilary Devlin an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer CHI @ Temple Street & Crumlin Hospitals Vision Ireland wrote endorsing our outreach service as follows:

"I just wanted to drop a line to acknowledge and thank both Deirdre and Sorcha who I have the pleasure of working with in my role as ECLO in CHI Crumlin and Temple Street.

Principal Activities

When I have had a child who is referred to me with dual sensory loss, the response from both Deirdre and Sorcha has been immediate, compassionate and generous. When I speak to a parent after their child's diagnosis or recent visit to the hospital, they are often frightened and scared particularly around not feeling they are able to communicate with their baby. Deirdre and Sorcha provide them with practical advice and support as well as the emotional side of things.

I cannot commend them both enough and in this world when we are often complaining about lack of services it is important to take the time to thank and congratulate individuals who are doing such a great job".

How to access supports

Individuals, family members or professionals looking for advice or support can contact us by phone (01) 2898339, email outreach@annesullivan.ie or through our website www.annesullivan.ie



"Sarah"

"Sarah" is a 41-year-old woman, diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis (tumours on the brain) since she was 19 years old. In 2022 Sarah lost her sight completely. Until then, Sarah was living independently in Dublin however on losing her sight she moved home to live with her family in a remote area of Ireland. Sarah uses a unique method of communication that the Outreach Team had not come across before, called print-on-cheek. Communicators spell out words using the Block Alphabet on her cheek and she uses speech to communicate expressively. Sarah loves cooking and has the support of a carer in the mornings to help her to go shopping, cook her meals and attend to daily care needs including communication (reading out her texts and emails). Sarah is an independent young woman and would prefer to be living independently but due to her decline in vision she is no longer able to read emails/texts and her family worry about her safety especially at nighttime. Sarah has availed of our Outreach Services for communication support, assessments, connecting with other services, co-visits with Speech and Language Therapist, training for respite workers (Deafblind Awareness and training specific to client), Advocacy, as well as MDT meeting attendance.



Principal Activities

What to expect:

Each referral or request for support will be reviewed and allocated to one of our specialists who will arrange a follow up by phone or email to discuss which services we can provide which would be of most benefit. Our intervention may include:

- Advice and information over the phone or by email.
- Assessment of Need: Visiting to provide specialist assessment of areas including vision, hearing, communication, mobility and assistive technology.
- Reports explaining the outcomes of an assessment and providing clear, evidence-based recommendations for strategies, resources and services that would be of benefit.
- Providing training for individuals, groups, family members and support staff.
- Ongoing follow up support in person, online or over the phone.
- Collaborating with other services or sources of information.
- Liaising with other service providers and participating in Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings.

Education and Training

One of the most important ways to highlight and support the needs of people who are deafblind is by providing training and workshops to raise awareness of deafblindness, its impact and the practical steps which can be taken to create meaningful change. Like previous years the team presented at the Deafblind International Conference which was held in Ontario Canada in June 2023 as well as guest lecturing at third level institution e.g. UCD Masters Programme in Disability Studies.

The Outreach team provides training and awareness to individuals and groups including families, carers, and a broad spectrum of professionals who support people who are deafblind. Training courses are tailored to meet the needs of the individual or group and cover a myriad of topics including a general overview of the condition of deafblindness, the assessment process, early intervention techniques, teaching strategies, developing communication systems, specific conditions that cause deafblindness and information on Assistive Technology. 156 participants attended our bespoke training in 2023 from national and international organisations and educational institutions.

Principal Activities

Quotes from participants who attended our course-

"We can see how these methods of communication can work for many people and not only those who are deafblind. I wish ALL support staff and families were REQUIRED to attend these trainings."

"I found the course very informative and has empowered me with more tools of understanding to work with Deaf Blind clients. The trainers were very professional in their delivery"

"Wonderful insight and really made me aware of the unique challenges encountered. More importantly what can I do different in my practice to support learning."

Advocacy and Campaigning.

We have over 30 years' experience of providing services and advocating for people who are deafblind in Ireland. The team is committed to networking with similar organisations around the world to ensure that people who are deafblind in Ireland have access to services based on best practice models developed internationally.

The Dail unanimously ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in March 2018. The Convention commits signatories to take action to bring about necessary changes to support equal rights, equal participation and inclusion of people with disabilities. The UNCRPD makes a clear distinction between people who are deaf, people who are blind and people who are deafblind; thus deafblindness is a unique disability. Specifically, Article 24 explicitly recognises deafblindness as a condition that is different from deafness and blindness. Our ask of the Government is to appoint dedicated professionals to support people who are deafblind, to ensure better coordination of services and to initiate dedicated care pathways to ensure that appropriate supports are identified and provided.

A primary objective of the Anne Sullivan Foundation is to raise awareness and advocate for the rights of individuals with deafblindness. Hearing the voice of people who are deafblind is critical to how we operate and whom we represent as an organisation. We are grateful to the Advocacy group, led by the Cork participants, who inform us on the issues they need support with and how we can make positive changes to support people who are deafblind nationally. During the year the advocacy group, all of whom are deafblind, continued to provide invaluable insights into the supports needed to ensure that people who are deafblind are fully included in society. They met nine times during 2023. In conjunction with other disability organisations the ASF advocated for the relocation of the ISL signer and the font size on RTE news with sign; this was a very positive outcome for all those with hearing and vision difficulties.

In addition, the Campaigns and Advocacy manager successfully supported several outreach clients to secure housing, remain in education and have a medical assessment completed under the National Treatment Purpose Fund. The Advocacy and Campaigns officer resigned in Q 3 of 2023 – this post remains vacant at the time of writing this report



Principal Activities

Collaboration, Partnerships and Funding

Collaboration and partnerships are essential to how our outreach and community services are delivered. Individual donations, grants and corporate partnerships enabled us to expand the services and supports we provided in 2023.

Literacy Project.

Reading is an integral part of childhood development. Imagination and creativity nurture cognitive and social development but, unlike most of their peers, children who are deafblind may only have a limited number of books available that are accessible due to their reduced hearing and vision.

Supported for a third year by funding from RTE Toy Show Appeal this ground-breaking project worked with volunteers all over Ireland to create a library of accessible multi-sensory books for children who are deafblind or dual sensory impaired to borrow and enjoy. Books can be borrowed from the ASC, are loaned to schools across the country and are available in two public libraries, Dun Laoighre and Leixlip; who now host a collection of these books for anyone to use.

Active Learning Library

As with books, many of the other strategies, tools and equipment that children who are deafblind need to develop early learning, play and creative skills remain largely unknown, unavailable or too costly to access in Ireland.

Continued support from the RTE Toy Show Appeal in 2023 allowed us to develop the Literacy Project into a new area. Building on the approach of working with volunteers, schools and community groups, we began building a library of Active Learning and Sensory Equipment for children between the ages of 0-4 or those that are functioning at that developmental level.

We make and loan innovative tools and equipment that can be used to enhance a deafblind child's life. Together with volunteers we produce equipment including active learning spaces ('little rooms'), resonance boards, sensory frames/trays, slant boards, activity/peg boards, adapted books and tactile blankets.

Assistive Technology Library

Our Assistive Technology (AT) Library was developed with funding from the National Lottery, the AIB community fund and the Ireland Fund.

Assistive technology is a broad term that refers to hardware and software that enables people with disabilities to live independent lives. People who are deafblind can benefit from a wide range of assistive technology devices. This can include those developed for people who are blind/visually impaired or deaf/hard of hearing but can also include devices that cater specifically for those who are dual impaired. The wide variation in people's individual sensory



Principal Activities

abilities means devices may not work as intended or may need to be customised and tailored to meet their needs.

The AT Library aims to increase the availability of higher tech devices and reduce the financial burden on people who are deafblind or their families by facilitating people to borrow devices to try out and test before a purchase is made.

Items can be borrowed for any length of time so that a person can assess their suitability and weigh up the pros and cons of making such an investment. We also have a braille printer and swell form graphics machine should any school, organisation or individual wish to use it to adapt materials to support someone who has multisensory issues/ is deafblind. Assistive Technology offers enormous opportunities and potential to people who are deafblind to access the world, to communicate and to be socially included in society.

Our libraries hosts 47 pieces of equipment and 300 adapted books that caters for all age groups and abilities

Sensory Hub

offers a multi-sensory space to both children and adults which is adapted to the individual needs of each user. It aims to reduce sensory overload and is a space where service users can connect, regulate and access sensory equipment to support them to feel grounded and regulated. It is envisaged that it will be a venue which will be open to the wider community in 2024. For more information please contact Sorchá at outreach@annesullivan.ie





Structure. Governance and Management

The Anne Sullivan Centre CLG (Company Limited by Guarantee) is a company (registration no 413994) which was incorporated on 17th January 2006. The company is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and is governed by a constitution, in accordance with The Companies Act 2014. Our residential services are regulated by HIQA – all reports can be found at www.HIQA.ie and www.annesullivan.ie.

At the Anne Sullivan Centre we have a shared goal of ensuring that we provide safe, quality, person centred and effective supports to the people who use our services. Good governance is the cornerstone of how we provide these services; key to this is ensuring an efficient and effective organisation which is underpinned by accountability, robust systems and structures which are supported by effective leadership and organisational culture.

The Board identifies challenges and uncertainties and monitors the level of risk, its budgets, compliance responsibilities and operational activities throughout the year through its Board meetings, its sub committees and its risk register. A proactive approach is taken to risk management and mitigating measures implemented to reduce or control risks on a regular basis by the management team and the Board.

During 2023, the ASC, similar to other section 39 organisations, found it increasingly difficult to attract and retain suitably qualified front line staff, given the competitive pay rates elsewhere. Feedback from staff through the ASC's staff engagement survey and staff consultation fora is that whilst staff really enjoy working at the ASC, they are moving on mainly due to pay and conditions.

As a response to this critical risk, the Anne Sullivan Centre Board mid-year signed off on an increase of one point of their current pay scale (2018) for frontline support workers who were not at the top of their scale. This was warmly received by all frontline staff.

To note, the ASC is part of the broader campaign for Pay Parity aligned with Section 38s and HSE staff, a campaign led by DFI and the Wheel. Staff welcomed the 8% agreement negotiated at the WRC in late 2023, however it is important to note that section 39 organisations are still lagging behind and most have not received any additional core funding since 2008 despite the continuous increases in the cost of living.

The Board of the ASC is responsible for the strategy and overall performance of the organisation and in so doing met eleven times during 2023. Its activities included approval of and periodic review of annual budgets, internal financial controls, risk management and the performance of the CEO. Decisions not reserved to the board fall to the responsibility of the CEO who provides a report to the board at each of its meetings.

The ASC has a Board handbook which was updated and signed off on by the Board in March 2023. This handbook outlines the principles and obligations of Board members. It has a conflict-of-interest and loyalties policy which applies to all Board members and holds a register of conflicts of interests and loyalties.



Structure. Governance and Management

The Board is committed to succession planning and as a Board takes responsibility for identifying skills gaps on the Board on an ongoing basis. The Board delegates responsibility for the selection of new members to two Board members. Prospective Board members, following due diligence, are recommended to the Board for appointment at the next appropriate Board meeting.

When considering succession planning or Board composition the Board considers the current composition, skills, experience and knowledge on the Board and seeks to recruit additional members where there are gaps in expertise and specific skills. The Board recognises the importance of having the voice of service users on the Board either directly or indirectly through family representatives.

Board Induction: Each incoming Board member receives a comprehensive customised induction on joining the Board. They also are invited to attend the Board induction course which is run through Carmichael.

Reserves: The ASC received €3,599,337 in 2023 of which €4,530 was through voluntary donations. All other income is either restricted or allocated income for specific projects or services. Therefore, the ASC does not hold any reserves. 92 % of our income comes from the HSE monthly and we are dependent on this to deliver our day and residential services. The ASC's ambition is to accumulate reserves which would allow one month's costs to be covered in the event of delayed funding from the HSE, however, this is difficult to achieve within the current climate of inflation and stagnation of increased funding from the HSE since 2008.

The ASC and ASF Board will continue to review all funding model options going forward. The aim will be to develop a roadmap (day/respite/residential/outreach) to create quality fit for purpose services that reflects the needs and wishes of the people we support.

Board members

| Directors | Board attendance |
|--|------------------|
| Aidan Waldron (Chair) | 11/11 |
| Keith Adams | 9/11 |
| Tony Bartak | 11/11 |
| Karen Coleman | 3/11 |
| Zack Deasy | 3/11 |
| Frank Furlong | 6/11 |
| Maire McKenna (Resigned in October 2023) | 2/8 |
| Frank McKenna (Resigned in October 2023) | 2/8 |
| Lorraine Lally | 9/11 |
| Vicki O' Connell (Appointed June 2023) | 4/5 |
| Declan Reilly (Appointed June 2023) | 4/5 |
| Sarah Governey (Appointed June 2023) | 5/5 |

Structure. Governance and Management

Committees

Finance Committee

This committee met on three occasions during 2023. It takes responsibility for the company's audit and control functions. The committee reviews the Anne Sullivan Centre's finances, budgets, financial regulatory compliance and the internal control environment of the Centre. It provides oversight and control on the finances and sustainability of the Anne Sullivan Centre.

Members: Frank Furlong, Zack Deasy, Attending: Bryony Carroll (accountant)
Grace Kelly Hartnett (CEO)

| Name | Position | Attendance |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Frank Furlong | Chairperson and Director | 2/3 |
| Zack Deasy | Director | 2/3 |

In addition, the Anne Sullivan Centre has the following operational working committees which comprise Board members, staff, family representatives and external advisors.

Board Quality and Safety Committee

The function of this committee is to ensure that the Anne Sullivan Centre adheres to good governance principles & practices as outlined in the ASC governance manual. A primary function is to oversee quality and safety on behalf of the Board. The committee is comprised of non-executive and executive members. The Quality and Safety Board Committee operates on behalf of, and reports directly to, the Board via the Directors Aidan Waldron and Tony Bartak. This committee met twice during 2023.

Members: Aidan Waldron (Chairperson ASC Board), Karen Coleman (ASC Board member), Tony Bartak (ASC Board member), Trevor Beatty (Quality Improvement and Service Development Manager), Grace Kelly Hartnett (CEO and PIC (Person in Charge), Bronwyn Kircher (Safeguarding Officer), Dermot Blake (Family representative and member of the Human Rights Committee)

Safeguarding Committee

The Anne Sullivan Centre (ASC) is committed to safeguarding service-users. We operate a person-centred and zero-tolerance approach towards abuse and neglect. The ASC strives to create and nurture an open culture where people can feel safe to raise concerns. It is the responsibility of all who work or volunteer with the Anne Sullivan Centre to ensure that service-users are treated with respect and dignity, have their welfare promoted and receive support in an environment in which every effort is made to promote positive support and to prevent abuse. The committee met once in 2023.

Members: Karen Coleman (ASC Board member and designated officer), Bronwyn Kircher (designated officer), SORCHA Nallen (designated officer), Saoirse Fox (external advisor) and Grace Kelly Hartnett (CEO).



Structure. Governance and Management

Human Rights Committee

The Anne Sullivan Centre (ASC) recognises that all people have the same constitutional and statutory rights. The rights of individuals are clearly defined under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (2006). As an organisation we have a responsibility to ensure that the Human Rights of the people we support are respected and that they are supported to exercise their Human Rights.

The ASC Human Rights Committee (HRC) is an oversight committee that seeks to ensure that due process has been followed whenever someone's rights have been restricted. The committee must satisfy itself that the type of restriction imposed offers the best support to the person and is fair and sound, is considered a temporary rights restriction, is the least restrictive and is regularly reviewed. The Committee also has a role in supporting staff in understanding of and training in Human Rights. The HRC is composed of a group of people with a diversity of backgrounds and a broad range of experiences – both from within and outside the ASC.

Members are Colm Lennon (Social Care Manager), Desmond North (St John of Gods-Chairperson), Benny McCabe (external advisor), Bronwyn Kircher (ASF Advocacy and Campaigns Manager), Stephen Cassin (ASC Social Care Worker), Roseanna Doherty (NLN), Mark Harding (ASC Day and Residential Services Manager), Dermot Blake (Family Representative), Sorchá Nallen (Designated Officer) Karen Farrelly (Team Leader)

Wound Management Committee

The Anne Sullivan Centre (ASC) is cognizant that wound management is a critical area that can affect the wellbeing of residential and day service-users. Service-users who are deafblind are often more susceptible to acquiring wounds/bruises than individuals who have sight and hearing. It is critically important that the ASC takes proactive measures to ensure that wounds/bruises are prevented where possible, discussed in detail and treated effectively. This committee comprises the quality improvement and service development manager, the residential services manager, key staff and the CEO and PIC. The committee meets at least quarterly.

Operational Quality Improvement and Safety Committee.

Quality is an integral part of the Anne Sullivan Centre's strategic objective. Our strategic aims guide our actions to deliver a service that is compliant and one which places emphasis on the preferences and wishes of individuals using our service. Our commitment is never to compromise on the safety, compliance and quality of our services. This requires everyone who works with the Anne Sullivan Centre (ASC) to be engaged, to understand their responsibility and to be empowered to act in support of individuals and families.

The ASC Quality and Safety Committee provides a forum to consider, monitor and improve the quality and safety of care and support provided. The committee met twice during 2023 to review data and agree actions relating to quality improvement plans.



Structure. Governance and Management

Challenges and risks

The ASC maintains a register where risks are evaluated and mitigated. Risk is a standing item on the Board agenda and the risk register is reviewed by both the Quality and Safety Committee and the ASC Board. To note there were no complaints received during 2023. Notwithstanding the many positive initiatives undertaken by the State over the past number of years to improve the services and lives of people with disabilities, there remain many challenges. As an organization, we are cognisant that there are 18,000 people who are deafblind in Ireland many of whom have at least one other disability. There are still many significant gaps in policy and legislation which erode the rights of people who are deafblind to participate as full and equal citizens in Irish Society. 2023 marks the fifth anniversary of Ireland's ratification of the UNCRPD; progress in implementing same has been slow and there is still much to do to realise the rights of people with disabilities.

Like last year, key challenges for the ASC and ASF include the changing needs of service users, the increasing numbers of people accessing our outreach service especially those aged between 0-4 years, the ongoing and increasing capital costs associated with providing safe and compliant residential services, the recruitment of volunteers and Personal Assistants to support deafblind people in the community, the ongoing pressures associated with regulation and compliance and the critical issue of staff recruitment and retention within the sector most especially section 39 organisations. Given that most disability services are provided by voluntary disability organisations a priority for Government must be to resource and support a sustainable voluntary sector. The Anne Sullivan Centre welcomed the once off cost-of-living fund announced in late 2022 and urges the Government for this to continue.

The ASC expects to receive in excess of €3.3 million in funding from the HSE each year and is dependent on the regular and timely payment of these grants as set out in our Service Agreements. The risks of a delay in funding, cuts or withdrawals are always a risk however this risk is mitigated by ongoing transparent and open engagement with the HSE.

A key priority for the ASF and ASC is ensuring that service users are living a good quality of life, have valued social roles and are seen as valued members of their community. The Boards remain committed to taking on this challenge with the support of residents, families, HSE, donors and funders.

Another significant challenge is to reach out to the often-unseen population of people who are deafblind to provide specialized supports and services and to advocate for and with people who are deafblind. Our ability to respond to this ever-increasing demand will be dependent on securing additional resources both human and financial and is a key pillar of our strategic plan. The Anne Sullivan Centre is cognizant that people who are deafblind continue to face significant challenges. We are determined to continue our mission to continue Anne Sullivan's legacy by facilitating people who are deafblind to pursue meaningful, active, fulfilling lives by providing advocacy and support services in partnership with people who are deafblind, families, statutory, voluntary organizations and the local communities.



Structure. Governance and Management

Strategic updates 2023 Services

Residential

Key strategic priorities identified by the team for 2023 and agreed by the Board were:

- Continue to develop a residential property road map through analysis and engagement, which reflects the needs and wishes of the people we support. We will be clear about where people want to live and with whom. The SRV programme began in January 2023 and continues to be a work in progress. Seven staff members completed the training, and three residents engaged in the process. This strategic pillar will continue throughout the life span of the current strategic plan.
- Seek to expand the number of people accessing ASC Day Services. This may take a different form to the current model of day service provision. There were no new referrals to the day service in 2023, however, some bespoke workshops were successfully piloted in 2023.
- Sustain the ratio of one vehicle per house/service to facilitate service users “living ordinary lives in ordinary places” – achieved.
- Continue with maintenance and upgrade of houses in line with budget capabilities and safe premises- achieved. €73,989 invested during 2023.
- Expand on the vocational/educational and personal development goals for service users and to continue with a positive risk-taking model of support to service users. - achieved and on going
- Develop the social care worker role to take on leadership/management skills development- achieved.
- Continue to build the sense of team within the ASC- feedback from our staff engagement survey indicates a good sense of team with 95% saying that they are proud to work with the ASC and almost 80% recommending the ASC as a good place to work.

Other developments of note within residential services during 2023 included:

- As part of our commitment to succession planning the day and residential services manager took on the role of person in charge.
- One staff member successfully completed the Masters in Deafblindness with Groningen University, Holland.
- We upgraded our fire safety systems due to health and safety issues. We would like to acknowledge the capital funding received from HSE Meath to enable us to do this.
- We upgraded two ensuites in our houses – thanks to the HSE in Cork for funding same.
- We were delighted to receive the pandemic bonus in January 2023 recognizing the commitment and dedication of frontline staff throughout the Covid pandemic.



Structure. Governance and Management

- After the resignation of one long-standing senior manager, we restructured the team reallocating roles and tasks in order to strengthen efficiencies and broaden responsibilities.

Outreach

Strategic priorities for 2023:

- Expand the outreach service and secure funding for one service/staff member. During 2023 we were successful in securing funding from the Toy Show, The Ireland Heart of the community fund and the AIB community fund which enabled us to continue to diversify our outreach offering and to expand our Assistive Technology Library. We were also delighted to receive €10,000 from the Reach Deaf Services fund to run 4 community events for people who are deafblind across the country – one of which occurred in 2023 – a family day for children with CHARGE syndrome.
- Continue with the deafblind training course- achieved. 156 people completed this in 2023.
- Review and develop a Personal Assistance support service for several people who are deafblind and are part of our outreach service- partially achieved. (funding secured from the HSE however, finding suitably qualified PA's who are skilled in deafblind communication is an ongoing challenge).
- Extend our reach by utilizing trained volunteers to provide community-based supports to people who are deafblind- three new volunteers recruited and engaging in community support during 2023
- Integrate the deafblind training programme into staff induction- achieved.
- Promote deafblind awareness by presenting at conferences and through the online training programmes – achieved

Outreach - Assistive Technology, Literacy and Sensory Libraries

Strategic priorities agreed for 2023 were:

- Continue to develop and extend technology-based supports to people who are deafblind, their families and other professional support networks. AT library is in place and equipment is being loaned to service users.
- AT session integrated into deafblind awareness training course. - achieved.
- An AT hub will be developed offering high- and low-tech equipment and sensory books to people who are deafblind- achieved and ongoing.
- Develop the literacy project to incorporate adapted low-tech equipment for children and adults who are deafblind- achieved.
- Increase awareness of assistive tools and augmentative technologies to improve the lives of people who are deafblind. The outreach team will have run a series of AT modules to increase awareness of the technology available and provide training to the public on what technologies are available- achieved and ongoing. Over 70 people benefited from these sessions.



Structure. Governance and Management

- Develop and optimize relationships with strategic organisations and universities to further develop AT tools to support people who are deafblind. Ongoing.
- The website will be reviewed and modernized and will be a key point of contact for deafblind awareness and fundraising efforts. Accessibility assessment complete and ongoing. Website committee established – ongoing.
- Maintain and enhance the “resource catalogue” so that the public are informed about assistive technologies and tools available to support people who are deafblind- a UCD social science student led on this project and successfully updated the catalogue which is available on our website.

Advocacy and Campaigning Strategic priorities agreed for 2023

- Implement the advocacy and campaigns strategy to achieve recognition of deafblindness- ongoing.
- Develop a step-by-step implementation plan on how and when to implement the key elements of the strategy- ongoing.
- Submit briefings, policy updates and formal submissions to government departments on deafblindness. Arrange meetings with policy makers to advocate for the recognition of deafblindness and supports for people who are deafblind- ongoing
- A minimum of 4 formal meetings will take place during 2023- achieved.
- Continue to connect with the advocacy group members to support the campaign for the recognition of deafblindness. Continue to develop and expand this network of advocates to lead on self-advocacy & campaigning efforts. Complete and ongoing.
- Develop partnerships with national and international organisations to support our call to action to effect change for people who are deafblind. DeafBlind International conference in Canada, members of Disability Federation Ireland, Deafblind International, good links with Sense Scotland and other international deafblind organisations.

Partnerships and Engagement Strategic priorities agreed for 2023

- Employ a client partnership manager to build relationships with corporate bodies and develop a corporate relationship strategy. Achieved. Funding applications in progress. Once off capital grants secured for capital costs and AT library.
- Secure additional funding to enable appropriate pay parity for staff. The Disability Federation of Ireland in partnership with The Wheel and associated disability organisations agreed an 8% pay uplift at the Workplace Relations Committee in late 2023. This continues to be a work in progress.
- Secure funding for one outreach staff member- partially achieved, project specific funding secured.



Structure. Governance and Management

- Continue to build relationships with HSE (Disability Sections) nationally to ensure quality service delivery and ongoing funding partnerships- ongoing.
- Seek to increase funding allocation from CHO's- partially achieved, capital costs covered by some HSE areas.

Governance

Strategic Priorities agreed for 2023

- Continue with a gap analysis of current Board needs/skills and appoint new members as a matter of priority. - three new Board members were appointed in June 2023.
- Maintain full compliance with all regulations inclusive of the Charities Regulators Governance Code- achieved
- Invest in focused Board succession planning as an integral component of this strategic plan. - achieved and ongoing. Workshop facilitated by Carmichael on Board roles and the Governance Code.
- Progress our IT systems to enhance our accountability, tracking and effective usage of our resources- achieved - we are a noncash and primarily paperless organisation.
- Monitor expenditure monthly and seek to remain within budget- budgets are monitored at least monthly. At the end of 2023 the ASC has positive reserves of €7,544 mainly due to the once off cost-of-living subsidy given to charities by the Government in 2023 to address cost of inflation increases.
- Review the appropriateness and applicability of the current time management proposal- Introduce a time management system that can talk to payroll - Find My Shift in place.



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Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023



Directors' Annual Report

The directors present their Directors' Report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Directors' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Directors' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the directors of The Anne Sullivan Centre CLG present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 2023.

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 yet 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.

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 movement in funds for the year amounted to (€59,371) (2022: €57,076).

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

In common with many other companies of this nature, The Anne Sullivan Centre Company Limited by Guarantee depends on government funding 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 financial year-end which would require disclosure in the financial statements.



Directors' Annual Report

Taxation Status

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

Auditors

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

McInerney Saunders resigned as auditors during the financial year and the directors appointed McInerney Saunders Audit Limited, (Chartered Accountants) to fill the vacancy.

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.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The Company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the social enterprise sector. The Company subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

The Companies Act 2014

The Charities Act 2009

The Charities SORP (FRS102)

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.

Signed on behalf of the Board

Zack Deasy

Director

Date: 17th September 2024

Aidan Waldron

Director

Date: 17th September 2024



Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

for the year ended 31 December 2023

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

Zack Deasy

Director

Date: 17th September 2024

Aidan Waldron

Director

Date: 17th September 2024



Independent Auditor's Report

for the year ended 31 December 2023

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 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cashflows, 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 2023 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.

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.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.



Independent Auditor's Report

for the year ended 31 December 2023

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 therein. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information 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.

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' Annual 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 complied with by the charity. 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.



Independent Auditor's Report

for the year ended 31 December 2023

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 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 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 a going concern. 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 a going concern.



Independent Auditor's Report

for the year ended 31 December 2023

- 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 audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Donagh Waters

for and on behalf of
MCINERNEY SAUNDERS AUDIT LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
38 Main Street
Swords
Co. Dublin
Date: 17th September 2024



Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2023

| Notes | Restricted Funds 2023 € | Unrestricted Funds 2023 € | Total 2023 € | Total 2022 € |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Incoming Resources | | | | |
| Charitable activities: | | | | |
| Income from fundraising and grants | 3,301,419 | 297,918 | 3,599,337 | 3,659,436 |
| Resources Expended | | | | |
| Charitable activities: | | | | |
| Overheads | 3,301,419 | 357,289 | 3,658,708 | 3,602,360 |
| Total resources expended | 3,301,419 | 357,289 | 3,658,708 | 3,602,360 |
| Net movement in funds for the year | - | (59,371) | (59,371) | 57,076 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | |
| Balances brought forward at 1 January 2023 | - | 66,915 | 66,915 | 9,839 |
| Balances carried forward at 31 December 2023 | - | 7,544 | 7,544 | 66,915 |

Approved by the Directors on 17th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Zack Deasy
Director

Aidan Waldron
Director



Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2023

| | Notes | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|---|-------|----------------|-----------|
| Current Assets | | | |
| Debtors | 9 | 255,933 | 272,833 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 36,588 | 44,608 |
| | | 292,521 | 317,441 |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 10 | (284,977) | (250,526) |
| Net Current (Liabilities)/Assets | | 7,544 | 66,915 |
| Total Assets less Current Liabilities | | 7,544 | 66,915 |
| Funds | | | |
| General Fund (unrestricted) | | 7,544 | 66,915 |
| Total funds | 13 | 7,544 | 66,915 |

Approved by the Directors on 17th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Zack Deasy
Director

Aidan Waldron
Director



Statement of Cashflows

for the year ended 31 December 2023

| | Notes | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|--|-------|-----------------|-----------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Net movement in funds | | (59,371) | 57,076 |
| | | (59,371) | 57,076 |
| Movements in working capital: | | | |
| Movement in debtors | | 16,900 | (151,769) |
| Movement in creditors | | 34,451 | 74,437 |
| | | | |
| Cash generated/(expensed) from operations | | (8,020) | (20,256) |
| | | | |
| Change in net funds resulting from cash flows | | (8,020) | (20,256) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2023 | | 44,608 | 64,864 |
| | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023 | | 36,588 | 44,608 |

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Anne Sullivan Centre Company Limited by Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office of the company is Brewery Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin which is also the principal place of business of the company. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

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.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102".

Fund accounting

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income received which can only be used for particular purposes, as specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the charity.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds consist of General and Designated funds.

- General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the board, in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
- Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that the board has, at its discretion, set aside for particular purposes. These designations have an administrative purpose only, and do not legally restrict the board's discretion to apply the fund.

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.



Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

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.

Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities include income earned from the supply of services under contractual arrangements and from performance related grants which have conditions that specify the provision of particular services to be provided by the company. Income from government and other co-funders is recognised when the company is legally entitled to the income because it is fulfilling the conditions contained in the related funding agreements. Where a grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors.

Grants from governments and other co-funders typically include one of the following types of conditions:

- Performance based conditions: whereby the company is contractually entitled to funding only to the extent that the core objectives of the grant agreement are achieved.

Where the company is meeting the core objectives of a grant agreement, it recognises the related expenditure, to the extent that it is reimbursable by the donor, as income.

Time based conditions: whereby the company is contractually entitled to funding on the condition that it is utilised in a particular period. In these cases the company recognises the income to the extent it is utilised within the period specified in the agreement.

In the absence of such conditions, assuming that receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured, grant income is recognised once the company is notified of entitlement.

Grants received towards capital expenditure are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable, whichever is earlier.

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.



Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Taxation

The company has been granted charitable tax status and is therefore exempt from corporation tax on its normal activities. Irrecoverable value added tax is expensed as incurred.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the company from government agencies and other co-funders, but not yet received at year end, is included in debtors.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash on deposit at banks requiring less than three months notice of withdrawal.

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 - 25% 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.

Reserves Policy

While the company is a charitable body, not trading for profit, any surplus arising will be spent on the charitable objects of the company as soon as possible, and within two years, unless designated or restricted to a future planned project in accordance with the charitable objects of the company.

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

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 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 foreseeable future and, as such, it is therefore appropriate to continue to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

5 NET INCOMING RESOURCES

| | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Net Incoming Resources are stated after charging/(crediting): | | |
| Auditor's remuneration: | | |
| - audit services | 7,572 | 7,345 |

6 INVESTMENT AND OTHER INCOME

| | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Insurance claims receivable | - | 9,868 |

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS PRIOR FINANCIAL YEAR

| | Motor vehicles € | Total € |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Cost | | |
| At 31 December 2022 | 9,750 | 9,750 |
| Depreciation | | |
| At 31 December 2022 | 9,750 | 9,750 |
| Net book value | | |
| At 31 December 2022 | - | - |

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

8. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

The staff costs comprise:

| | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Wages and salaries | 2,611,975 | 2,538,926 |
| Social security costs | 273,979 | 267,795 |
| Pension costs | 130,219 | 132,028 |
| | 3,016,173 | 2,938,749 |

Average number of employees

| | 2023 Number | 2022 Number |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Residential social care workers | 63 | 63 |
| Administration | 5 | 5 |
| General Operative | 1 | 1 |
| Chief executive officer | 1 | 1 |
| | 70 | 70 |

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 | 1 | 1 |
| €50,000 - €59,999 | 10 | 10 |

* CEO remuneration amounted to €87,405 and pension contribution amounted to €8,741.

The directors did not receive any remuneration during the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

9 DEBTORS

| | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Grants receivable | 170,478 | 235,789 |
| Other debtors | 4,463 | 12,318 |
| Prepayments | 10,742 | 24,726 |
| Deferred HSE funding | 70,250 | |
| | 255,933 | 272,833 |

10 CREDITORS

| | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|--|----------------|-----------|
| Amounts falling due within one year | | |
| Trade creditors | 18,409 | 22,038 |
| Taxation and social security costs (Note 12) | 55,819 | 58,970 |
| Other creditors | 21,270 | 81,456 |
| Accruals | 189,479 | 88,062 |
| | 284,977 | 250,526 |

11 TAXATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

| | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Creditors: | | |
| PAYE / PRSI | 55,819 | 58,970 |

12 PENSION COSTS - DEFINED CONTRIBUTION

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Pension costs amounted to €130,219 (2022- €132,028).

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

13 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

| | Fixed assets | Current assets | Current liabilities | Balance 31 December 2023 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | € | € | € | € |
| Restricted funds | - | 113,988 | (70,250) | 43,738 |
| Unrestricted funds | - | 178,533 | (214,727) | (36,194) |
| Total funds | - | 292,521 | (284,977) | 7,544 |

14 ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

| | Balance 1 January 2023 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Balance 31 December 2023 |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | € | € | € | € |
| Restricted funds | - | 66,915 | 3,301,419 | 297,918 |
| Unrestricted funds | (3,301,419) | (357,289) | - | 7,544 |
| Total funds | 66,915 | 3,599,337 | (3,658,708) | 7,544 |

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

During the year the company received contributions from The Anne Sullivan Foundation in the amount of €240,285 (2022: €217,344), which is regarded as unrestricted funding. The two parties are connected as they have Board members in common. At the year-end €126,741 is receivable from the Anne Sullivan Foundation and is included in grants receivable.



Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Anne Sullivan Centre Company Limited by Guarantee operates from buildings that are owned by The Anne Sullivan Foundation, and sometimes uses assets that are owned by The Anne Sullivan Foundation, on a rent- free basis.

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

16 RESTRICTED FUNDING

During the year funding in the amount of €3,301,419 was receivable from the HSE and is regarded as restricted funding. All other funding receivable by the company is regarded as unrestricted funding.

17 POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the financial year-end.

18 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 17th September 2024. .

The
Anne Sullivan
Centre
for people who are deafblind

The Anne Sullivan Centre

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