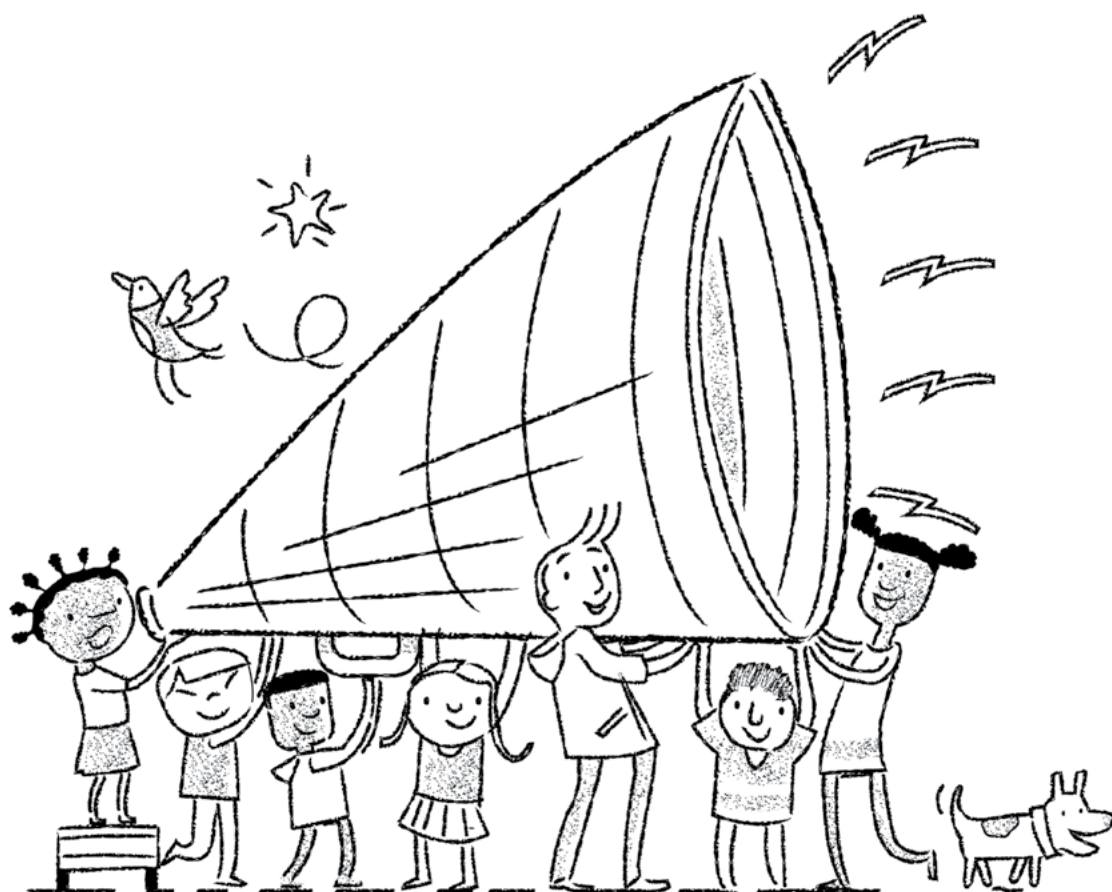


# Uniting Voices for Children



**CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS  
ALLIANCE**

**Directors' Report and  
Audited Financial Statements  
for the financial year ended  
31 December 2017**



## Company information

### ► Chair

Tom Costello

### ► Vice Chair

Noreen Flynn

### ► Treasurer

Colm Bryson

### ► Directors

Tom Costello

Noreen Flynn

Tom Maher

Katie Mannion

Pablo Rojas Coppari

(appointed 09/05/2017)

Maureen Dillon

(appointed 24/07/2017)

June Tinsley

(appointed 11/07/2017)

Colm Bryson

(appointed 6/2/2018)

Grainia Long

(appointed 6/2/2018)

### ► Chief Executive & Company Secretary

Tanya Ward

### ► Auditors

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Brenson Lawlor House

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Morehampton Road, Dublin 4

### ► Bankers

Bank of Ireland

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Allied Irish Bank Plc

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### ► Solicitors

Shannon & O'Connor Solicitors

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Dublin 2

### ► Business address

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Smithfield, Dublin 7

Registered Number: 316758  
Charity Number: CHY 11541  
Charity Registration Number: 20031909

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**Welcome to the Annual Directors' Report for 2017. This is the fourth year since I joined the Board in 2014 where it has been my pleasure to lead as Chair.**

”

This year was a significant one for the Children's Rights Alliance and particularly noteworthy in that we launched a new Strategic Plan 2017-2021. This plan is important because it allows us to focus on key areas where we can make a difference for children. The plan focuses on children in their early years, children living in poverty, child refugees and ensuring children's access to justice.

In 2017, we worked hard to ensure that this plan would be fully funded and were pleased to secure a significant core grant from the Tomar Trust. We are indeed grateful to all our generous funders without whom we would be unable to secure so many impacts for children. Thank you for continuing to believe in us.

A highpoint in 2017 was winning a Good Governance Award. Building on the excellent legacy of my predecessor, Paul Gilligan, the Board and I worked with the staff to consolidate all the key features of good governance. Our aim has been to ensure that the organisation reaches the highest level of compliance. We are therefore delighted that this work was publicly recognised through the Good Governance Awards, developed by the Carmichael Centre. This award helps us to prove to those that put their trust in us that we work effectively and transparently. This is something that our members, funders and the public demands and rightly deserves.

2017 was another highly successful year where important impacts for children were achieved through

our research, policy and advocacy activities. Our Directors' Report details the changes we secured for children and young people in the early years, poverty, child refugees, those experiencing mental health challenges and in terms of changes to the guardian *ad litem* service.

We were delighted to launch a new Access to Justice Project. Here, we seek to ensure that children and families have access to basic legal information. We will set up an information phone line as well as special legal advice outreach clinics around Ireland for children and young people.

We continued to support the roll-out of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – the National Policy Framework on Children and Young People*. We are proud to hold a leadership role in promoting the Framework through the National Advisory Council. We worked closely with government departments and our members, Barnardos, Early Childhood Ireland, One Family, ISPCC and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to influence plans to lift 100,000 children out of consistent poverty.

*Report Card 2017* was one of our most successful launches ever, with blanket coverage secured on broadcast and print media. While some positive progress was recorded in key areas, such as childcare, serious problems persist. 'Traveller and Roma Children' and 'Child and Family Homelessness' fared worst receiving 'E' grades respectively.

None of the above successes would have been achieved without our members who are the lifeblood of the organisation. We look to them working at the coalface with families to tell us where the gaps are, so we can unite voices, develop solutions and make change.

As I am standing down as Chair in 2018, I would like to thank everyone in the Alliance for their steadfast support over the last four years. In particular, I would like to thank the talented and committed staff team expertly led by Chief Executive, Tanya Ward. It has been a great pleasure to work with such a dynamic team who are so deeply dedicated to the work of the organisation.

Heartfelt thanks also to the Board for their invaluable oversight, time and expertise: Noreen Flynn (Vice-Chair), Colm Bryson (Treasurer), Tom Maher, Katie Mannion, Pablo Rojas Coppari, Maureen Dillon, June Tinsley and Grainia Long. Many thanks also to those retired Board members that I have had the pleasure of dealing with and whose contributions have been instrumental to the growth of the organisation.

My role as Chair has been deeply rewarding and brought with it a great sense of personal pride. I know that my successor will continue to bring the organisation to new heights and I sincerely wish them every success in their new role.

**Tom Costello**  
**Chair**

# Directors' report

The Directors present their annual report and audited financial statements of the **Children's Rights Alliance** for the year ended 31 December 2017.

The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102. Although not obliged to comply with the Charities SORP, the charity has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these accounts. The main activities of the charity are charitable.

## 1.1. Objectives, activities, achievements and performance

The Children's Rights Alliance adopted a new Strategic Plan covering the period mid-2017 to 2021. The objectives and activities are guided by a Strategic Plan and this is organised under the following **six key objectives**:



Embedded within these six strategic objectives are four priority issues for the lifetime of the plan which were selected reflecting the interests of our members, gaps in the protection of children's rights, current opportunities for change, financial constraints and where the value and expertise of the Children's Rights Alliance is needed. **The four priority issues are:**

- **Child poverty rates are a significant socio-economic rights issue for children.** The rates of consistent child poverty doubled from 6% in 2008 to 11.5% in 2015. A strong, united voice across society is needed for concerted action and radical rethinking of how we address child poverty which makes this a priority for this plan. This is core work for the Children's Rights Alliance and child poverty can be addressed across the strategic objectives for this period. It will be addressed specifically through strategic Objective 2, ensuring the Government implements a 'whole of government approach' with concrete actions and plans to reduce the numbers of children living in consistent poverty.
- **Early Years' reform is a priority for this plan because the timing is right to push on policy development and investment in the early years.** The driver from a children's rights perspective is to ensure that law reform and policy is not solely motivated by labour activation measures, but ensures that it is about the best interests of the child. It also provides leverage for the development of universal services, early intervention and prevention, re-orientating budgeting approaches, investing in services and educational reform in order to achieve better outcomes for children (see Objective 3).
- **Access to justice for children and young people is essential for the protection and promotion of children's rights.** With the securing of the children's rights referendum, the reform of the Guardian *ad litem* (supporting the voice of young people in child care proceedings) system and the recognition of the need for child friendly courts, now is the time to make a concentrated effort to this critical area for realising rights. This work will be progressed through both the core areas of the charity's work – monitoring and influencing policy and legislation and specifically through a body of funded work under strategic Objective 4.
- **The rights of refugee children to protection, survival and development are seriously at risk in Europe and in Ireland through the Direct Provision system/reception system.** Direct Provision is the Government's system for accommodating people seeking international protection. While in Direct Provision, families are accommodated in full board accommodation and receive a weekly payment. As a very vulnerable group with no political weight, they need a spotlight to be placed on their experiences and lives and pressure to be built within government and in the Oireachtas to address the inhumane direct provision system and provide a reception approach that respects their rights. This work will be progressed under strategic Objective 5, placing a spotlight on grave violations of children's rights which is central to the mission of the Children's Rights Alliance. Other grave violations once identified will be progressed under this strategic objective, organisational capacity allowing.

The identification of these four priorities enables the Children's Rights Alliance to be selective in its choice of areas of work in the face of competing demands, while preserving flexibility to respond to emerging priorities.





## Strategic Objective 1: To secure changes in law to giving meaningful effect to children's rights

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child requires States Parties to undertake all appropriate legislative and administrative measures to implement children's rights (Article 4). Under this objective the Children's Rights Alliance set out to ensure that key legislative/legal developments were monitored and that key changes were secured in legislation for children particularly in the area of the regulation for affordable childcare and the review of the Child Care Act. The Alliance also sought to ensure that the children's rights amendment to the Constitution (Article 42A) is adequately provided for in Irish law including the obligation to legislate for the voice of the child in child care and private law proceedings.

### ► The Child Care Support Bill 2017

Many children are missing out on the benefits of quality early childhood care and education in Ireland because of historic underinvestment and a lack of a strategic approach to development. Ireland has the highest childcare costs in Europe for parents and childcare is largely unregulated in home settings. The introduction of the Child Care Support Bill 2017 represents one of the most significant developments because it aims to provide a statutory basis for a universal affordable childcare scheme in Ireland.

In early 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance prepared a detailed, evidence-based policy critique in response to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA)'s paper on the development of the Single Affordable Childcare Scheme. The paper broadly welcomed the scheme and the fact that so many children and families will benefit from it. However, we also raised key issues in relation to the scheme. In particular, we highlighted the need for the scheme to be of benefit to all children. We also recommended that it should not be available to unregistered childminders. The Alliance subsequently made a submission on the Heads of Bill and General Scheme of the Affordable Childcare Scheme to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children and Youth Affairs. The submission focused on two heads: on ensuring that only regulated early years' providers are eligible to receive the



Alcohol Action Ireland, advocating to reduce alcohol harm



## More affordable childcare for families

Parents with young children are crippled with childcare costs in Ireland. The costs here are among the most expensive in the EU. We called for legislation to roll-out a scheme so that childcare would be more affordable and accessible. The new scheme was introduced in 2017. We welcomed it because it means that every young child in Ireland can benefit, especially those with disabilities or who are disadvantaged.

payment, and also that families in Direct Provision and in undocumented migrant households have access to the scheme. The Bill was published in late 2017 and includes a clear obligation to ensure that only registered providers get access to the scheme. The Bill also enables children in Direct Provision to benefit from the scheme, however, children with undocumented parents are specifically excluded and the Alliance will need to focus on this issue in 2018.

### ► Child Care Act review

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs is conducting a review of the Child Care Act 1991 which is the legal basis for the State's child protection and welfare system. The Chief Executive addressed a Department of Children and Youth Affairs' consultation on the Child Care Act review on 8 September 2017. The Alliance also organised an information event on the Child Care Act review with our legal partners, the Family Lawyers' Association of Ireland and the Bar of Ireland. The event was attended by 45 participants including lawyers, members and other stakeholders. Speakers included Brian Barrington BL, Dr. Carol Coulter and Beatrice Vance BL.

### ► Children of prisoners

In 2017, the Children's Alliance partnered with Dr Fiona Donson and Dr Aisling Parkes of University College Cork and the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) on a project funded by the Irish Research Council. The aim of the project was to focus on raising the profile of the rights of children affected by parental imprisonment (CAPI) in Ireland through advocacy and research.

In May 2017, the Alliance attended the Children of Prisoners Europe Conference in Naples and contributed to the development of an 'Action Plan for Children with a Parent in Prison'. In September 2017, the project ran a national conference, 'Unseen, Unheard: Advancing the Rights and Needs of Children' which was attended by over 70 participants. The focus of the event was on addressing the needs of children with parents in prison.

Speakers at the event included Ilina Taneva, Council of Europe, Tim Haines, Families Outside, Scotland, Larry de Cleir, Bedford Row, Fergal Black, Irish Prison Service and Fergal Landy, Tusla. The project team also presented the Action Plan. The sessions were chaired by Dr Karen McAuley, Head of Policy, Ombudsman for Children's Office, Ireland and Holly Farrell, UNICEF Youth Ambassador.

## Strategic Objective 2: Monitor and identify gaps in the protection of children's rights and improve the effective implementation of law/government policies

In 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance set out to monitor and review policy-related developments and secure changes where there is a significant opportunity to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child. The Alliance also set out to ensure that its Annual Report Card increases its reach with senior decision-makers in Government and with the Oireachtas.

### ► Report Card

The Children's Rights Alliance flagship publication, the Report Card is our unique annual tool for tracking the Government's promises to children in the Programme for Government. Valued by Government officials, the Oireachtas, the media, the community and voluntary sectors, and children and young people, the Report Card has consistently helped to highlight important issues for children and young people. The value of the Report Card lies in its ability to drive the implementation of promises to children in the Programme for Government that changes children's lives for the better. Politicians are elected on these promises and they are sensitive to being evaluated on their progress and against these promises.

Our 2017 independent panel of external assessors chaired by Judge Catherine McGuinness awarded the Government an Overall D+ for its first seven months in office, reflecting a mixed bag for children, with no outstanding achievements quite yet. Report Card 2017 was our most successful launch ever, receiving blanket media coverage. The cumulative audience reach in the media exceeded 2 million.

### ► Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (BOBF)

The implementation of BOBF is a key strategic objective for the Children's Rights Alliance. This is the most important national policy for children and young people in Ireland today. Its implementation infrastructure includes the Policy Consortium, involving all Government Departments and key public bodies, and the National Advisory Council for Children and Young People, which brings together the Children's Rights Alliance and other



stakeholder bodies and individuals in civil society to monitor the implementation of the Policy Framework.

BOBF provides a real opportunity to address important issues such as child poverty, homelessness, and educational disadvantage. In particular BOBF includes a target to lift over 100,000 children out of consistent poverty by 2020. The Children's Rights Alliance working with Barnardos, One Family, the National Youth Council of Ireland and Society of St. Vincent de Paul prepared a paper in late 2016 that was adopted by the National Advisory Council for Children and Young People advising how Government could reach this target. The Chief Executive presented this paper to the Policy Consortium on 1 February 2017 on behalf of the Council.

In June 2017, the Advisory Council alongside the DCYA and the Department of Social Protection convened a roundtable on child poverty to discuss the National Advisory Council's *Submission on Actions to Achieve the Child Poverty Reduction Target* and the Department of Social Protection's paper. The Chief Executive provided support to the Advisory Council Chair in this regard. The roundtable was attended by representatives from NGOs, key civil servants from key government departments, academics and representatives from statutory bodies including the Ombudsman for Children and Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. The Chair of the Advisory Council, Owen Keenan, formally launched the Advisory Council paper and the actions were discussed in detail. The Alliance then supported the dissemination of the paper to members and stakeholders.

The Alliance continues to use other fora to support the implementation of the whole of government approach to child poverty. The Alliance attended the National Economic Dialogue in June 2017 and focused on the need to invest in the affordable childcare scheme which when fully implemented will help reduce child poverty. On foot of this intervention, childcare was named as an ongoing issue to be addressed. We engaged in a significant and sustained advocacy campaign to secure an increase in the Direct Provision payment for children. This was a key recommendation of the Advisory Council's paper. In advance of the Fine Gael leadership contest we intensified our activities in this area due to concerns that the subsequent reshuffle of Ministers could set back our work.

We successfully secured a €6 increase in the Direct Provision payment for children and a 25 per cent increase in the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance as one of the last acts of the outgoing Minister for Social Protection, Leo Varadkar TD. The payment has now increased to €21.60 per

week. This is the second €6 increase to the Direct Provision payment for children in 18 months.

#### ► Homelessness

Child homelessness continues to be the human rights issue of our time. The numbers of children experiencing homelessness and living in emergency accommodation grew from 2,505 in December 2016 to 3,079 in December 2017. The Alliance convenes a members group on Child Homelessness and is active on the BOBF Sub-Group on child homelessness. In 2017, the Chief Executive appeared several times in the national media on the issue of child homelessness. It was a major aspect of Report Card 2017 and the Chief Executive commented on the issue in August 2017 (launch of CSO figures) and on the day of the National Housing Summit on RTE's Morning Ireland (September 2017).

The Alliance launched a research project in 2017 to examine the education needs of children experiencing homelessness. Following a competitive tendering process, Dublin City University (DCU) was awarded the tender. They have conducted interviews with education providers and completed interviews with 19 families and educational professionals in schools and early years' settings. Tusla has been extremely supportive of this project and has helped provide access to the researchers. This research will be launched in quarter 2, 2018.

#### ► National budget

Our Pre-Budget Submission focused on investing in early childhood education and care services and on parental leave. We asked the Government to provide the required investment (€150m) in the Affordable Childcare Scheme (ACS) to ensure its implementation in 2018. This represented an increase of €46m on the previous years' budgetary allocation for the ACS. It is the DCYA's own costs estimation. Our strategy was to support the DCYA in its meetings with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Budget 2018 was published on 11 October 2017 and overall the Alliance was disappointed. While the additional €40 million to Tusla was a 'win', the Budget did not include a big investment to tackle child poverty or other priority areas for us, including paid parental leave. The Qualified Child Increase (QCI) for children was increased by €2 (from €29.80 to €31.80). However, we had looked for €5 and we wanted it targeted towards over 12 year olds, who cost more to feed and have more outgoings. The Budget included nothing towards the cost of education. We carried out media on the day in Buswell's Hotel on RTE 1 television budget reaction panel and on TV3. We were also

**BETTER  
OUTCOMES  
BRIGHTER  
FUTURES**



## New approach to end child poverty

One in ten children in Ireland lives in poverty and this must change. We supported the National Advisory Council for Children and Young People to help shape the Government's plan to lift 100,000 children out of poverty by working cooperatively with Government departments to find solutions. We saw the ripple effect of our work in Budget 2018.



picked up in various broadsheets. We issued a press release in the immediate aftermath on Budget Day and a summary analysis the day after. For the first time, members and those working in the early years' sector received an early years' budgetary analysis post-Budget. This had a 28% open rate, indicating a higher than average level of interest in content and engagement from our 1,600-strong mailing list.

#### ► Brexit

The Alliance prepared a paper on Brexit which we presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the implementation of the Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement on 12 January 2017. In this paper we raised the matter of the European Convention on Human Rights which British Prime Minister Theresa May has previously threatened to withdraw the UK from. This has serious implications for the Agreement as it is a common thread throughout it. The Alliance also highlighted the fact that child poverty is likely to increase both North and South of the border and that serious issues could emerge for children from a child protection perspective, childcare and family law point of view.

The Chief Executive attended a Brexit consultation hosted by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on 30 January 2017. Separately the Alliance wrote to the European Commission negotiators in April 2017. We attended the Eurochild General Assembly and garnered support for joint work on the potential impact of Brexit on children in Ireland, the UK and across the EU. The Alliance convinced Eurochild that they had a role to play in ensuring that the rights of children and young people were protected in the Brexit negotiations. We reached out to the National Partners in Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England and proposed a joint approach on certain cross-cutting issues. The National Partners of the five nations, (UK and Ireland), including the Alliance, made a joint presentation to the group at Eurochild's National Partner meeting in May. This resulted in the publication of a joint statement calling for a dialogue with key negotiators in the UK and EU in June 2016 supported by Eurochild and 15 Partners representing over 2,000 children's rights organisations across Europe. It was launched to coincide with the opening of negotiations on Brexit between the UK and the EU and was picked up by members of parliament in the UK and Ireland as well as media in the UK and Brussels.

The Alliance participated in September 2017 in a cross-party meeting of parliamentarians in Westminster and used the opportunity to highlight the impact of the UK exit on child poverty, child protection and the arrangements in the Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement. We also partnered with the Children's Law Centre

in Northern Ireland to make a joint request to the Public Interest Law Alliance and the PILS Project in Northern Ireland for *pro bono* legal research. A&L Goodbody have completed an initial review of the impact of Brexit for children for both organisations.

Lastly, the Alliance prepared a briefing on behalf of the Council for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in November 2017 on the implications of Brexit for children.

#### ► Legal Aid Scheme

In August 2017, the Legal Aid Board announced that it was no longer providing support via private solicitors to people needing services for family law, guardianship and custody matters. This potentially had a serious impact on very vulnerable families and was arguably a breach of the rights of the child in Article 42A of the Constitution. The story broke on RTE's Morning Ireland radio show and the Children's Rights Alliance issued a press release in response. Separately the Alliance also wrote to the Chief Executive of the Legal Aid Board. The Bar of Ireland and the Irish Family Law Association also took a stand on this issue and the Legal Aid Board responded very quickly and noted that it was withdrawing the cuts.

#### ► Mental health

The Children's Rights Alliance was invited to make a submission to the Seanad Public Consultation Committee on Children's Mental Health in Ireland in May. The purpose of the consultation was to inform the debates on the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill 2016 introduced in the Seanad by Senator Joan Freeman to end the practice of admitting children to adult psychiatric units. The Alliance was then invited to present before the Seanad in June and highlighted the issues of long waiting lists, children in adult units and the need to establish a mental health advocacy service for children and young people.

The Alliance was not appointed to the Youth Mental Health Taskforce and this was a difficulty for the charity in terms of shaping policy for children. However, separately the Alliance met with Department of Health staff in February to discuss child participation on the group. We also disseminated a consultation run by the ISPCC for children. The Alliance did participate in a consultation for the Youth Mental Health Taskforce in June and advocated for the introduction of a mental health advocacy service for children and young people. Following on from the consultation the Department of Health sought a proposal from the Alliance for such a service and a costings. Empowering People in Care (EPIC) which runs a national advocacy service helped the Alliance with

the costings on this. The Alliance's recommendation was included in the Youth Mental Health Taskforce report on the establishment of the service.

In terms of other developments, the Alliance was asked to nominate potential members to serve on the Mental Health Commission. Following an open call to members, the Alliance made three nominations and the Minister, Helen McEntee TD, appointed one of nominees Aaron Galbraith. He is a member of St Patrick's Mental Health Service's Youth Advisory Panel.



## Legal Aid Board made a u-turn to benefit families

Legal aid is an essential service for families, especially those living in below the poverty line. We were disappointed when the Legal Aid Board was forced to restrict referrals to the District Court providing legal advice and representation for families. We called upon the Legal Aid Board to reconsider its position saying that this decision could not happen or else families would be delayed in accessing legal advice in serious family law situations. A few days the Board agreed to defer these restrictions and continued to provide its good work to families in crisis.



## Mental health advocacy service

Young people experiencing mental health difficulties need more support. Their voices must be better heard and their families fully supported. This is why we called for the establishment of a mental health advocacy service for young people. This recommendation was accepted by the Youth Mental Health Taskforce which was published in 2017.



### Strategic Objective 3:

To drive home the need to invest in children early and build political support for greater access to quality services to ensure that children's rights are fulfilled

Traditionally the rights of younger children have been overlooked. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recognises early childhood as a distinctive period in human development and has called on States to introduce an integrated approach that respects, protects, and fulfils the rights of individual children to give them the best start in life. The ideal approach to early childhood development is integrated, child-centred, family focused, community-based, society supported and focuses on health, learning and behavioural development.

The Children's Rights Alliance's work in this area was stepped up following an agreement with Start Strong, which wound down in summer 2016. As part of its exit strategy Start Strong secured a grant from the Katharine Howard Foundation, the Atlantic Philanthropies and the Community Foundation for Ireland for the Children's Rights Alliance to continue aspects of its work. In continuing Start Strong's work, the Alliance worked to integrate Start Strong's learning and issued two Early Years E-Bulletins (April and June 2017) to 1,600 Start Strong contacts and Alliance members/stakeholders and Children's Rights Alliance members/friends (500+ contacts) and key government officials. This communication tool was very effective in increasing our visibility as an early years' stakeholder. The newsletter also communicates our early years' work as well as research and policy developments that are relevant to developing child-centred early years' policy and law.

#### ► Political panel

The Children's Rights Alliance convened a political panel discussion on 9 May 2017 at our AGM to debate the current state of play in early years' policy. With cross-party participation, panellists included Government and opposition representatives including Jan O'Sullivan TD (Labour), Anne Rabbitte TD (Fianna Fáil), Jim

Daly TD (Fine Gael), Richard Boyd Barrett TD (People before Profit) and Kathleen Funchion TD (Sinn Féin). Fergus Finlay, Chair of the Alliance's Early Years Advisory Group and Alliance Board member chaired the discussion. There was a clear consensus for greater action for the needs of children in their earliest years, with strong contributions from our members and interested groups in the audience.

#### ► Affordable childcare working group and the childminding working group

The Children's Rights Alliance was invited by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to join the Working Group on Childminding. With regard to the latter, the Alliance invested considerable time into this initiative in terms of attending meetings, researching regulation in particular and providing support to draft the final report. The group will report to the Minister in January 2018 with recommendations for a ten-year strategy on childminding. The Alliance has adopted the position that in order to receive public monies under the forthcoming Affordable Childcare Scheme or the Free Preschool Year, childminders must be Tusla-registered so that the State is only providing public monies to services where child safety and protection risks are minimised and where redress mechanisms and complaints procedures are available to children and parents. This will require legislative, policy and guideline development. This is an important commitment in terms of making an impact on children's lives as there are more childminding services (approximately 22,000) than centres (around 4,500).

The Alliance was invited to participate in the DCYA's Working Group on School Age Childcare Standards and the Early Years Manager represented the Alliance on the Working Group which was established on foot of a commitment in the Action Plan on School Age Childcare developed by DCYA and the Department of Education and Skills. The Working Group developed quality standards for use in afterschool and out-of-school settings for children from school-going age to twelve years, which will be part of the quality assurance regime for the sector. Again, the Alliance advocated that a child rights approach should be adopted to quality standards and to the regulation of the sector.

### Strategic Objective 4:

To promote access to child-friendly justice in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings

Access to justice is essential for the protection and promotion of children's rights including through the Constitutional amendment on children (Article 42A). When faced with the justice system, children are thrown into an intimidating adult world which they cannot understand and are most vulnerable when they come in contact with it as a victim, witness or defendant or when judicial or administrative interventions are required for their custody or protection.

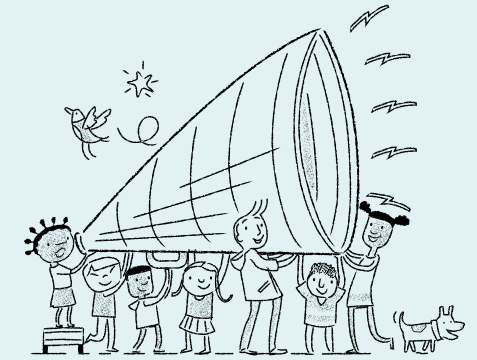
The Children's Rights Alliance secured funding in 2017 to establish an Access to Justice Project under its new Strategic Plan to establish a helpline, promote awareness of children's rights and entitlements and establish a suite of child law clinics throughout the country in 2018.

#### ► Child Care Amendment Bill 2017

Under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children have a right to be provided with the opportunity to be heard in any judicial or administrative proceedings affecting them, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body (Art 12). Currently this area is unregulated and is at the discretion of judges to appoint a guardian *ad litem* in child care cases before the courts.

The main purpose of the Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2017 is to reform the Guardian *ad litem* service so it can be provided to benefit the greatest number of children and young people, so that their voices can be heard in child care proceedings and that this service will be of high quality and sustainable into the future. A Guardian *ad litem* (GAL) (Guardian at Law) is an independent professional person (usually a social worker) who is appointed to represent the wishes and interests of a child in specified court proceedings.

In 2017, the Alliance formed a Working Group of eight members to advise on the Child Care (Amendment) Bill and it met on three occasions. The Alliance prepared an initial submission on the Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2017 and



## We launched a brand-new Access to Justice Project

Children and young people have many rights but too many are not aware of them. We launched a new Access to Justice Project so children and their families have better access to information. The project's aim is to set up an information phone line as well as special legal advice outreach clinics around Ireland for children and young people.



## New Guardian *ad litem* office in Department of Children and Youth Affairs

A Guardian *ad litem* is a person that provides children with an independent voice to make sure a child's opinion is heard in court in child care law proceedings. Our call was accepted to establish an independent office for the Guardian *ad litem* service within the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. This development is one of the most important law reform developments for children in recent years.

was invited to address the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children and Youth Affairs on same in February 2017. In this submission, the Alliance focused on the scope of the proposed new Guardian *ad litem* service and its independence in terms of funding. We also proposed that such a service should be located within the Courts Service or another relevant statutory body.

Currently GALs can be made party to proceedings and have the power to cross-examine witnesses meaning that they can hold the State to account when they fail to uphold the rights of the child. However, the Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2017 proposed to make the GAL a special witness to help judges make decisions in the best interests of children. However, the Alliance was concerned that this change would mean that GALs would not be able to stand up for the rights of children by initiating proceedings on behalf of a child when the State fails to uphold their rights.

In quarter three, the Children's Rights Alliance sent a follow-up submission to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs focusing on the impact of reducing the status and scope of GALs in legal proceedings. In particular we focused on the GAL to have the possibility to be a party to proceedings.

In December 2017, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs announced that it would establish a new Executive Office for the Guardian *ad litem* service within its remit. This was one of the most important law reform developments for children in 2017. Placing this service within a public body will help to ensure that this vital service to children remains independent and publicly-funded and will in time move to the family law courts.

In late 2017, the Alliance supported the National Advisory Council for Children and Young People to prepare a submission for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and the Minister for Justice and Equality on the need to develop a single unified service for the voice of the child in public and private law proceedings. The Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 provides that a child views expert can be appointed to advise a judge in private law proceedings on the views of the child. However, this service will not be paid for by the State and will not be a regulated service. Bringing together the GAL and child views expert into one service would ensure that children have equal access and not face an inequality in the courts based on the type of proceedings that they are subject to.

### ► Constitutional conference

In 2012, 58% of the Irish electorate voted to strengthen children's rights in the Constitution. The Alliance held a major conference on 8 November looking at the impact of the Children's Referendum five years on with Barnardos and the ISPCC. 135 people attended the conference, which brought together delegates from across the NGO, legal, academic and public and private sectors to see what positive change has happened for children and what gaps remain. High-level contributors included Hon. Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, the Hon. Mr Justice Henry Abbott, Mary O'Rourke, former Chair of the Joint Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children and Prof. Geoffrey Shannon, Special Rapporteur on Child Protection.

The conference focused on the impact of the referendum on children's lives and on the courts in particular. Also, how the referendum has been interpreted by judges, how children's voices are heard in private and public law proceedings and to what extent the courts and the justice system are now more child-friendly. There was a general consensus that the referendum has been positive for children's rights in certain areas.



## Strategic Objective 5: To put a spotlight on serious children's rights violations, in particular, the rights of children seeking international protection

Globally there are more displaced children and young people than ever before. Approximately 1.5 million people sought protection in EU member States in 2016 and about a third were children mostly from conflict zones (Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq) (Unicef 2017). The Children's Rights Alliance identified the treatment of child refugees and asylum seekers as its foremost initial spotlight issue for the current strategic plan. In particular the Alliance set out to ensure that reception conditions and accommodation for children, young people and their families seeking protection respects their rights. The Alliance is also seeking to ensure that government services for incoming refugees are organised and delivered in a family-friendly way and that the needs of refugee children are addressed.

### ► Reforming the reception system for children seeking protection

In 2015, the Government's Working Group on Direct Provision and the Protection Process (the McMahon Group) published a report with recommendations for reform of the accommodation, supports and the international protection system for children and families seeking protection.

With the support of the Community Foundation for Ireland and the Tony Ryan Trust, the Children's Rights Alliance recruited a Child Refugee Project Manager, Hilary Harmon. The aim was to build on its work in defending the rights of refugee children in February 2017 and, over the course of 2017, the Government continued implementing recommendations from the McMahon Group in relation to Direct Provision. For example, one of the major issues with Direct Provision had been that people seeking protection did not have an effective way to complain about ill-treatment. Complaints to independent bodies are essential to ensuring government and service providers can identify issues and improve the service they are providing.

Following extensive advocacy by the Alliance at both a national and international level in April 2017 the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality,





## Increase in payment to asylum-seeking children

Children living in Direct Provision accommodation are among the poorest children in Ireland. They are prevented from enjoying their childhoods like other children because their families cannot meet the costs of everyday life. Children are denied normal things like joining the local GAA club or going to a friend's birthday party simply because they are too poor. We helped to convince the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD to increase the payment these children receive by €15.60 to €21.60. It still falls short of the QCI of €31.10 but it's a step in the right direction.

Frances Fitzgerald TD clarified the remit of the Ombudsman for Children Office to allow them to take complaints from asylum seeking children in Direct Provision for the first time. To encourage and support children and young people to engage with the Ombudsman's Office we held an information event on 12 April for those working with children in Direct Provision. The event aimed to inform second tier advice givers on the types of complaints that the Ombudsman would engage with and the processes and procedures around taking a complaint.

A core goal for the Children's Rights Alliance to transform Direct Provision and end the institutionalisation of children and families, is to shape the development of national standards for reception accommodation. Standards are essential to ensuring that living conditions are adequate and consistent across all Direct Provisions centres. On foot of the McMahon Report, the Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, committed to developing national standards in June 2016.

In June 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance organised a large scale conference *Measuring Up for Children: Reviewing Progress on the 'McMahon' Recommendations*. The McMahon Report was a landmark document published in 2015 which contained many important recommendations on changing Direct Provision and the asylum process. The conference aim was to highlight areas where recommendations for children had not been implemented and to build political pressure for action.

The Department of Justice and Equality invited the Children's Rights Alliance onto the Standards Advisory Group to help develop standards on reception accommodation for refugees. Through our work on this group we aimed to build momentum to ensure they were developed and influence the content to ensure the rights of children seeking protection are protected and respected.

The Alliance wants to get families into 'own-door' self-contained accommodation so that children can enjoy family life. We want families to feed and nurture their child in a normal environment, like other families. An initial draft of the standards has been prepared and is due to go for public consultation in quarter 2 of 2018.

We have been working with the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA), the state agency responsible for Direct Provision, to make self-

contained, family-friendly accommodation a reality for families. There have been improvements to 13 Direct Provision centres. Now, 2,504 residents have access to communal kitchens or shared cooking stations. RIA is also conducting a nutritional audit to identify gaps and deficiencies in the current food that is provided. We will then know how the food can be improved, and how to ensure that children and families are well-fed. The findings will be integrated into the national standards.

The Government also opted into the EU Reception Conditions Recast Directive in 2017. It does include important conditions for how the State should respond to children in the protection process. The Directive contains a dedicated section on children and their rights and provisions to cater for a child's healthcare, psycho-social and material needs. The Children's Rights Alliance and its members had repeatedly called for Ireland to sign up to this and were very pleased that the Irish Government committed to signing up to this EU-wide directive on 21 November.



## Asylum-seeking children have somewhere to complain if they are mistreated

For years, children in Direct Provision were not able to make complaints to the Ombudsman for Children when they experienced ill-treatment. In fact, they were the only group of children in Ireland who were prevented from doing this. We called for Government to clarify that asylum seeking children could make complaints to the Ombudsman for Children, and, the former Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald, worked hard to make this happen.



## Strategic Objective 6:

To continue to build a strong membership and ensure that the Children's Rights Alliance has the people, systems, structures, procedures and resources in place to deliver on our strategic objective.

### ► Organisational development

In 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance set out to ensure that it is well-managed and conformed to all legal requirements. In this regard, the detail of governance and membership activities are covered in the section on structure governance and management. The biggest organisational development project for the Alliance in 2017 related to its ICT system and equipment. Following an audit and a tendering process with several external IT companies the Alliance prepared a two-year plan for the replacement of its computers and server.

### ► Staffing

In 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance retained a high calibre staff that is dedicated and high performing. In 2016, strategic planning external evaluations reported that the team was 'high quality', 'punches way above its weight' and is authoritative, expert, credible and trusted.

The Children's Rights Alliance team grew in 2017 with the recruitment of Hilary Harmon as Child Refugee Project Manager (February 2017) and Julie Ahern as Access to Justice Manager (December 2017). Thanks to funding from the Bar of Ireland and the Irish Family Lawyers' Association, Beatrice Vance BL also completed the Catherine McGuinness Fellowship and Aisling Mulligan BL was recruited to fill the position in September 2017.

Individual staff performance is monitored and evaluated using an organisational performance and development review. Staff are allocated tasks in their annual appraisal based on actions from the annual work plan. Staff are then required to prepare monthly individual plans and report on progress in their monthly staff supervision meetings with their line-manager. The purpose

of these meetings is to provide employees with a predictable time where they have their line-managers' undivided attention. Staff supervision at the Alliance contributes to good morale, productivity and the prevention of problems.

Staff are also monitored in a bi-annual/final appraisal and are required to complete project updates against project plans, and to complete quarterly reports on progress against the annual work plan. The structure and process for the Chief Executive's annual appraisal is agreed with the Remuneration Committee, conducted by the Chair, and reported as completed annually to the Board.

### ► Ashoka changemaker award

One of the last, great highlights of 2017 was when the Chief Executive, Tanya Ward was named by Ashoka Ireland as one of Ireland's Top Ten Changemakers in a special supplement in the Sunday Times on 17 December, titled 'Ashoka10: A Decade of Change'. The selection process followed a detailed analysis that included 328 interviews and aimed to recognise those who have contributed most to social change in Ireland. In an exclusive profile and interview feature on each of the top 10 Changemakers, Tanya describes her work over the years as Chief Executive of Ireland's umbrella children's organisation and how she has "made it her mission to fight social injustice as effectively as possible".

### ► Communications

The Children's Rights Alliance set out in 2017 to ensure that all communications supported its strategic objectives. The Alliance issued 40 press releases in 2017 – an increase on 29 releases in 2016 – and secured sustained broadcast, online and print media interest throughout the year.

The Report Card launch in February was our most high-profile launch of the year. A lower level of media coverage for the Report Card in 2016 had been due to our decision that year to delay our launch until after the February General Election as the Board did not want to influence its outcome. In 2017, we wanted to ensure blanket media coverage so devised a communications strategy that placed a strong focus on securing broadcast media coverage.

In volume terms, the overall audience reach for broadcast media outweighs that of print and the level of trust generated via broadcast media channels is far greater than that of any other

medium. In this regard, particular focus was placed on securing coverage on television, national radio and regional weekday morning radio shows in Ireland's key urban regions. The cumulative audience reach for this year's Report Card exceeded 2 million. Radio accounted for more than half of this audience (approx. 1.2 million), followed by online (468,000), print (287,000) and television (246,000). Ensuring our presence in new areas allowed us to forge new relationships in the media and is helping to shape our communications plan under the new Strategic Plan 2017-2021. An independently conducted communications audit, completed in 2017 will also feed into this process.

Other areas where we gained significant media coverage include child poverty rates, around our conference on child refugees, on the Direct Provision payment to children, the HPV vaccination, the rights of children born through assisted human reproduction, the need for quality affordable childcare and Brexit. These provided additional opportunities for developing the profile of the charity. We were also visible around the time of Budget 2017 in terms of its impact on children and appeared on dedicated budget programmes on RTE News and TV3 as well as in the *Irish Independent*, *Irish Examiner* and the *Sunday Business Post*.

We appeared on all major national news agenda setting stations, local stations and there were at least 195 mentions of us in 2017 (an increase on 122 mentions in 2016) in broadsheet (*The Irish Times*, *Irish Independent* *Irish Examiner* and *The Times Ireland*), tabloid and regional newspapers. The Chief Executive wrote two opinions that were printed in the *Irish Examiner* (on the fifth anniversary of the Children's Referendum and Brexit) and a total of three opinions in the *Irish Independent* (on our Report Card, childminding and the national budget). The increase in coverage during the year can be attributed to an increase in Report Card coverage as well as an increase in profile for the charity overall.

Television and radio interviews were mostly national in focus and included: RTÉ Radio 1 Drivetime x 8 (including one-to-one interviews and news packages), RTÉ Morning Ireland x 4, and RTÉ Today with Sean O'Rourke x 2, Newstalk Breakfast x 2, Newstalk's The Hard Shoulder with Ivan Yates, RTÉ Television and Radio News, Today FM and numerous regional stations.

The Children's Rights Alliance was successful in increasing its social media profile in 2017. On Twitter, the Alliance gained 2,835 new followers



## Chief Executive named a Top Ten Changemaker by Ashoka Ireland

It's always the icing on the cake when our work is recognised publicly. One of the last, great highlights of 2017 was when the Chief Executive, Tanya Ward was named by Ashoka Ireland as one of Ireland's Top Ten Changemakers. In an exclusive interview, Tanya described her work over the years as Chief Executive of Ireland's umbrella children's organisation and how she has "made it her mission to fight social injustice as effectively as possible".



(the total at the end of 2017 was 12,469). On Facebook, we received 844 new Facebook page likes (the total at the end 2017 was 7,365).

Our website had 164,800 unique users visit in 2017. This is a 24% increase on 2016 and is due to the fact that we had increased success with Report Card and a greater public recognition.

#### ► Evaluation and monitoring

Since 2012, the Children's Rights Alliance has adopted an evaluation and monitoring framework developed by Compass Partnership that monitors objectives, outputs and outcomes under the Strategic Plan 2017-2021. As part of this monitoring process the Children's Rights Alliance team comes together on a quarterly basis to review progress against the outputs set in the Alliance Annual Work Plans. This exercise is impact/outcome focused and captures whether planned activities are on-track, delayed or have been postponed or otherwise changed. Information from these quarterly reviews is used to generate Board reports and funder reports. An independent evaluator will be appointed in 2018 following a commissioning process to undertake an independent evaluation at the mid-point in the plan to identify key impacts, challenges, risks and any need for readjustment of the Strategic Plan objectives.

#### ► Premises

The Children's Rights Alliance is a co-owner of a building, 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7 with Empowering People in Care Limited (EPIC). A formal agreement is in place between the Children's Rights Alliance and EPIC that was prepared by Eamonn Shannon, solicitor, to cover all aspects of managing the building. A management group involving the Chief Executives and administration staff of both organisations meet quarterly to oversee the running of the building. A joint bank account is also in place for the management of the building.

A building development plan commenced in 2016 with the repair and insulation of the roof and upgrades to the fifth floor for occupancy. In 2017, the heating system had to be replaced on the top floor and the Alliance agreed to relocate the front door to remove an alcove space at the entrance of the building on account of security issues.



## Paternity leave for fathers

We convinced the Government of the importance of paternity leave – so that fathers can spend more precious time with their babies. Up to then, Ireland lagged far behind most of its EU counterparts. Yet we know that children benefit hugely having both their parents with them in the early weeks of life. Paternity leave was rolled out in 2017 and 30,000 fathers took this leave up in 2017.

## 1.2. Financial review

The statement of financial activities, statement of comprehensive income and statement of financial position and cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2017 are set out on pages 42 to 49.

The Children's Rights Alliance is financed by a mix of statutory, philanthropic and voluntary funding. The charity also receives membership fees and rent.

In 2017, the Alliance continued to implement its strategy to diversify its funding base to ensure that it remained independent, sustainable and able to deliver its core objectives. However at the beginning of the year, the Alliance decided to focus on generating more core funding and pursue less small grants. The rationale for the former was due to the fact that the Alliance in recent years had been successful in securing grants for key projects but not necessarily for core costs. This meant that the charity did not have sufficient funds to invest in capital activities such as replacing the ICT system or upgrading the building. Moving away from pursuing so many small grants resulted in the Alliance having more time to dedicate towards developing additional core sources of funding.

In 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance received a total of €627,348 in restricted income from two principal sources: government grants (32%) and philanthropic sources (65%). Government sources included the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government/Pobal and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. Philanthropic funding continues to be an important source of funding for the charity and helps ensure its independence. The principal philanthropic sources came from the Community Foundation for Ireland (€30,000) and the Irish Youth Foundation (€12,500) for the Report Card project; the Katharine Howard Foundation for the early years' project (€64,735); the Community Foundation for Ireland (€90,000) and the Tony Ryan Trust (€100,000) for the child refugee project. In 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance was successful in securing funds for an Access to Justice Project for a three-year period at €107,096 per year and a larger grant from the Tomar Trust for a total of €585,417 over a three-year period for a project to the Alliance to address child poverty and the need to invest in public services for children. A total of €207,017 was received from

the Trust in November 2017 for activities in 2018 and this is accounted for in deferred income.

The remaining 3% of total restricted income represented funds for our Catherine McGuinness Fellowship Programme which supported a barrister to work within the Alliance's Legal and Policy Team one day a week and is funded by the Bar of Ireland and the Irish Family Lawyers Association; a conference on the Constitutional amendment for children which was principally funded by Dublin City Council with support from Barnardos and the ISPCC; for access to justice work (EU) and a donation for our Know Your Rights campaign.

At the end of year, the Children's Rights Alliance carried a surplus of €239,731 in restricted funds. The most significant reasons for the surplus was on account of the timing of the first annual payment of the Access to Justice Project (received in July 2017) and the fact that the post holder for that project started in December 2017. A total of €100,958 remained at the end of the year. The other main reason was due to the fact that planned expenditure in relation the child refugee project/ funded by the Tony Ryan Trust did not happen in 2017 with €64,577 remaining. Expenditure on this project will take place in 2018. Lastly, the child refugee project carried an additional €50,879 at the end of the year which was received to fund the project post holder into 2018.

The most significant form of unrestricted income generated by the Alliance related to membership income/direct debit donations (€43,643) which was down from €55,598 in 2016 due to smaller investments made by key members. A total of €28,645 was raised from rental income and management fees towards the building on 7 Red Cow Lane.

Overall the accounts are showing a net loss in unrestricted funds of €7,529. This is due to the fact that €5,080 from Eurochild was treated as income received in 2016 as a debtor and this had to be offset against restricted funds in 2017 to remedy. The remainder of the loss is on account of the Alliance not accounting for sufficient depreciation in its management accounts on its assets in 2017.

In 2017, Co-Orch approached the Children's Rights Alliance and proposed raising funds for the charity through a joint musical event in June 2017. It cost approximately €7,867 to stage in the event in CHQ (Dublin 1) and the event raised a total of €20,910 for the Alliance.

We would like to pay tribute to the generosity of our funders and members for their continued belief and support in the work of the Children's Rights Alliance.

#### ► Policy for holding reserves

The Children's Rights Alliance Board has set a reserves policy in place to ensure that the charity's core activities could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. This takes account of the cost of making staff redundant in an emergency situation, risks associated with variances in planned income versus expenditure and the charity's contractual commitments. The Alliance must carry six months operating costs in a readily realisable form. The reserve threshold is advised by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee in line with the Annual Budget and is approved by the Board. The reserve is held in a 30 day deposit account and the Committee reviews the interest rate bi-annually to ensure the highest return on savings.

The Chief Executive and the Treasurer monitors the reserves on a quarterly basis by reviewing the balance sheet and bank account statements.

The unrestricted cash reserves were €356,993 at the end of 2017 and given that overall expenditure amounted to €696,491 this meant that the Alliance remained within its reserves policy for the year.

#### ► Policy for investments

In 2017, the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee invited Davy Stockbrokers Charity Division to advise the Children's Rights Alliance on its reserves policy and consider whether it should develop its investment policy. In light of the amount of the Alliance's unrestricted cash reserve which stood at approximately six months of annual operating costs, it was clear that the Alliance had to retain its cash reserve in a low-risk deposit account. However, it was also evident that given the low interest rates on deposit accounts, the real value of its reserve was devaluing and that there was a need to increase the reserve particularly in light of the economic uncertainty that may arise on account of the UK Exit's from the European Union. In the preparation of its organisational Budget for 2018, the Board approved allocating 2.5% of annual income towards the charity's

cash reserve from unrestricted sources to enable the Children's Rights Alliance to grow its reserve.

#### ► Apportionment

In 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance developed a new budgeting template to allow clear apportionment of income against activities and related expenditure. In addition, the Alliance's systems allow for grant income to be apportioned against specific funded costs.

#### ► Principal risks and uncertainties

The Children's Rights Alliance uses its Risk Register to monitor and mitigate risks arising across the full range of its activities. The directors have identified that the key risks and uncertainties that the Children's Rights Alliance faces include maintaining sufficient funding, ensuring adequate operational controls, and ensuring strong governance. The Alliance mitigates its core financial and related control risks as follows:

- It continually monitors the level of activity, prepares and monitors its budgets, targets and projections;
- Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of financial policies and procedures which controls the authorisation of all transactions and projects;
- It has a policy of maintaining reserves of six months operational expenditure, which allows the company to meet its statutory obligations. The company has developed a strategic plan which will allow for diversification of future funding and activities;
- It closely monitors emerging changes to regulations and legislation on an ongoing basis;
- It has minimal currency risk and credit risk. The company has no interest rate risk due to the fact that the company has no borrowings.

The directors are aware of the key risks to which the company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the company and are satisfied that there are appropriate systems in place to address these risks. At a governance level, potential risks relate to maintaining sufficient skills. At an operational level, risks relate to potentially poor business planning, health/safety and ICT risks. At a human level, they relate to ensuring the charity is sufficiently staffed to avoid staff burnout. At a financial level potential risks relate to budgetary control and retaining sufficient funding to deliver core activities.

## 1.3. Structure, governance and management

#### ► Governing document

The Children's Rights Alliance is a company limited by guarantee, and not having a share capital incorporated in the Republic of Ireland under the Companies Act 2014. The company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of the members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding one Euro.

The company was set up under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by a Constitution and is managed by a Board of Directors. The Articles of Association and Constitution were last amended at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 10 May 2016.

The objectives for which the Children's Rights Alliance is established as per the Memorandum of Association are as follows:

- To act as a charity for the benefit of children in Ireland regardless of race, religious belief, gender, family status, sexual orientation, disability, social and economic status, membership of the Traveller Community;
- To promote awareness of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Republic of Ireland;
- To disseminate information and views on the implications of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- To provide and assist in the provision of public education on matters relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- To support and enhance the teaching of a children's rights perspective to all relevant professionals and in all relevant subject areas;
- To promote the relief of poverty among children in Ireland and to raise funds and to help raise funds for any such relief or for charitable purpose;
- To advance the education (including academic, social and physical training) of children within Ireland;
- To advance the study of, promote research in, and organise study conferences, courses and seminars relating to, children and their rights within Ireland and throughout the world.

In order to meet the requirements of the Companies Act 2014 a special resolution was put to members to enable the Board to change the name from Children's Rights Alliance – Republic of Ireland Limited to Children's Rights Alliance – Republic of Ireland.

The Children's Rights Alliance is a registered charity (CHY 11541) and in 2017 complied with its obligations to submit annual returns on its core activities to the Charities Regulator.

#### ► Mission

The Mission of the Children's Rights Alliance is to realise the rights of children in Ireland through securing the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Children's Rights Alliance will have succeeded in its Mission, when there is: An Ireland that has given full effect to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which will mean that children's rights are:

- Integrated into our mind sets;
- Protected by our laws;
- Reflected in our policies;
- Evidenced in wider society.

#### ► Values

A core set of values guides all aspects of the Children's Rights Alliance work which should:

- Reflect concern for the rights and needs of all children, based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Facilitate the active participation of member organisations in the development and implementation of its objectives and policies;
- Consult with children and young people when appropriate;
- Foster positive working relationships with other organisations, both statutory and non-statutory, in pursuance of its aims and objectives;
- Foster positive working relationships with the media;
- Reflect an ongoing strategic and cost-effective approach;
- Ensure openness and transparency;
- Incorporate regular monitoring and evaluation of its work;
- Ensure dynamic and flexible responses to changes in the environment regarding children's rights.



### ► Founding patron

Professor Geoffrey Shannon was appointed the Children's Rights Alliance's Founding Patron in 2014. Professor Shannon is Ireland's leading expert on children's rights and child care law and is the State appointed Special Rapporteur on Child Protection and first Chair of the Adoption Authority of Ireland. Professor Shannon in his role as Founding Patron continued to provide support to the Children's Rights Alliance by providing legal opinion on certain children's rights and childcare law matters and acted as a keynote speaker at the joint Children's Rights Alliance/Barnardos/ISPCC conference on the Fifth Anniversary of the Constitutional Referendum. We are very grateful to Professor Shannon for being our Founding Patron and we thank him for injecting his passion for children's rights into our work.

### ► Governance

The Board of Directors is committed to achieving the highest standards of governance. The Children's Rights Alliance has fulfilled the recommended guideline actions for compliance as a Type C organisation which is defined by the Governance Code for Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland. The formal board decision giving effect to this was made in September 2015 and the Children's Rights Alliance is now listed on [www.governancecode.ie](http://www.governancecode.ie) as one of the fully compliant organisations. The Alliance has also signed up to the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising, drawn up by the Irish Charities Tax Reform Group (ICTR) (now merged with Fundraising Ireland to form Charities Ireland) and going forward will benchmark its practice against the new Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public issued by the Charities Regulator in 2017.

The Board adopted a new form of Governance Handbook in 2015. This handbook sets out the organisation's governance policy, procedures and practices to ensure that the Alliance uses transparent decision-making to direct its resources and exercise power in an effective and accountable way. The Board of Directors engaged in a yearly Board review process in December. This comprised both an annual Board Skills Assessment and a Board Effectiveness Review. The results of both alongside the meeting attendance log were used by the Board to carry out its annual assessment of its performance. Areas identified for further strengthening Board effectiveness included strengthening the Board expertise



## Co-Orch charity orchestra raises the baton and raises €21,000

On Midsummer's Day, Co-Orch, who are a charity orchestra performed an amazing rendition of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in aid of the Children's Rights Alliance. This truly memorable event saw many of our members and friends joining us on the night for this musical extravaganza. It was also a great opportunity for us to invite our funders and supporters as a thank you for believing in us.

through Board co-options and potential changes in the organisation's founding rules to enable this. Following its two-year planned review, the Board updated the Governance Handbook in December 2017 and increased the areas exclusively reserved for the Board in the area of senior appointments to the staff and Board oversight on procurement above a value of €5,000.

In 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance submitted its Annual Report in compliance with its legal obligations under the Charities Act 2009 to the Charities Regulator. The Alliance previously registered with the Lobbying Register in 2015 and submitted its quarterly returns in compliance with its legal obligations under the Lobbying Act 2015 throughout 2017.

In light of the increasing governance and financial requirements on the organisation and the impact that it is having on the Chief Executive's workload, the Board agreed in winter 2016 to establish a new Head of Governance and Finance. This role was created on a three-day basis and the recruitment cycle commenced in December 2017. In particular, the main functions of the role are to support the Chief Executive to develop, drive and manage the implementation of the governance, HR and financial strategies, policies and organisational rules. The role will also have primary responsibility for preparing budgets, multi-annual forecasts, co-ordinating risk management plans across the organisation, procurement and responding to funder audits. Another key aspect of the position will be supporting the Company Secretary.

In November 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance won the Good Governance Award 2017 (Category 2, income between €250,000 and €1 million). The Good Governance Awards recognise, support and encourage adherence to good governance practice by non-profit organisations in Ireland. The Awards were developed by the Carmichael Centre with the support of the Charities Institute Ireland, Dóchas, Volunteer Ireland, The Wheel, Davy, Governance-Online.com, Mason Hayes Curran and Mazars Ireland. Winning this award was very significant for the Children's Rights Alliance Board because a considerable amount of work has been invested in governance projects.



## We won a Good Governance Award

We won a Good Governance Award 2017. These Awards, developed by the Carmichael Centre recognise, support and encourage adherence to good governance practice by non-profit organisations in Ireland. Governance is all about how we hold ourselves accountable, how we make decisions and how we communicate this to those we work with. Good governance helps us to prove to those that put their trust in us that we work transparently and that we are effective in what we do so we were delighted to win this Award.

### ► Directors

The Children's Rights Alliance is governed by a Board of Directors with a maximum number of 10 people. All Board members work in a voluntary capacity and do not receive any remuneration or expenses.

Unless otherwise stated the following have served as directors for the entire period following re-election at the last annual general meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS	Board meeting attendance for 2017	Skills Area
► Tom Costello (Chair)	9/9	Policy. Public Services. Strategic Planning. Leadership. Philanthropy.
► Fergus Finlay (Vice Chair)	4/5 (resigned 11/7/2017)	Policy. Sector Knowledge. Strategic Planning. Leadership. Public Services. Communications.
► Noreen Flynn (Treasurer)	7/9	Education Policy. Sector Knowledge. Public Services. Employment. HR.
► Tess Noonan	7/9 (resigned 5/12/2017)	Sector Knowledge. Quality Assurance Systems. Child Protection. Organisational Development.
► Catherine Keane	8/9 (resigned 6/2/2018)	Solicitor. Law. Policy. Government and Public Services. Employment Law.
► Tom Maher	7/9	Sector Knowledge. Strategic Planning. Monitoring and Evaluation.
► Katie Mannion	9/9	Solicitor. Law. Policy and Research. Sector Knowledge.
► Maureen Dillon	3/6 (appointed 24/07/2017)	Sector Knowledge. Operational Manager. Fundraising.
► Pablo Rojas Coppari	5/6 (appointed 09/05/2017)	Sector Knowledge. Policy and Research.
► June Tinsley	2/3 (appointed 11/07/2017)	Public and Advocacy. Sector Knowledge. Government and Public Services.
► Mairead Healy	1/3 (resigned 9/5/2017)	Sector Knowledge. Fundraising.
► Denise Charlton	1/3 (resigned 9/5/2017)	Strategic Planning. Policy and Research. Government and Public Services.
► Michael Barron	3/4 (resigned 9/5/2017)	Public affairs. Sector Knowledge. Government and Public Services. Fundraising.

The Board of Directors met nine times in 2017 and the reason for the additional meetings was due to the development of the organisation's Strategic Plan 2017-2021. Under the Board Rotation policy (see below), Mairead Healy, Denise Charlton and Michael Barron resigned from the Board at the AGM. Fergus Finlay resigned from the Board on 11 November 2017 and June Tinsley currently Head of Advocacy at Barnardos was co-opted to fill his position.

The Board is supported by a committee structure which deals with specific aspects of the company's business. There were four standing committees in 2017. The Chief Executive, Tanya Ward, was in attendance at all these subcommittees. The Office and Finance Manager, Patricia Hoey, was present for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, and the Membership and Public Affairs Officer, Julie Ahern, acted as Secretary to the Nominations Committee.

FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE	Attendance for 2017
► Noreen Flynn (Treasurer)	6/6
► Tom Costello	2/3
► Tess Noonan	3/4
► Catherine Keane	1/2
► Tom Maher	6/6
► Colm Bryson	5/6
REMUNERATION COMMITTEE	Attendance for 2017
► Noreen Flynn (Chair)	2/2
► Tom Costello	2/2
BOARD STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE	Attendance for 2017
► Michael Barron (Chair)	2/3
► Tom Costello	3/3
► Noelle Spring (independent member)	3/3
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	Attendance for 2017
► Tom Costello (Chair)	3/3
► Noreen Flynn	3/3



### ► Decision-making

The Board has the following matters specifically reserved for its decision:

- Approval of the company's strategic plans, annual business plans and budgets;
- Projects outside the scope of the strategic plan;
- Significant acquisitions, disposals and assets of the company;
- Major investments and capital projects, delegated authority levels, financial and risk management policies;
- Oversight and approval of procurement contracts over €5,000;
- Approval of all organisational policies including, governance, risk, staffing, financial, child safeguarding statement, data protection, health and safety;
- Appointment/removal of Committee chairs and members;
- Final appointment and approval of the auditors;
- Approval of annual reports and accounts;
- Approval of new staff positions, appointment of senior staff, including the Chief Executive, and signature of employment contracts;
- Appointment, remuneration and assessment performance of the Chief Executive;
- Approval of changes to the membership, membership categories and rates;
- Membership and endorsement of external campaigns or initiatives;
- Litigation.

The Board delegates authority on certain duties and responsibilities to sign legal documents, contracts for services and funding contracts to the Chief Executive. The day-to-day management is also delegated to the Chief Executive and staff. This includes contributing to and the implementation of the strategic plan; leading, recruiting and managing the staff; managing the organisation

and its finances effectively and efficiently; consulting and linking with members; representing the Children's Rights Alliance; contributing to national policy development affecting children and developing mechanisms for involving children and young people in the work of the organisation.

### ► Reporting

The Chief Executive reports directly to the Board. Board meeting agendas are planned in advance between the Chair and the Chief Executive, and in 2017 a Board Planner tool showing the full projected business of the Board spread throughout the year was introduced. A report is prepared by the Chief Executive and submitted to the Board one week in advance of meetings. Organisational information gathering systems have been established to ensure that Board reports contain accurate and relevant information. The Board report follows a prescribed format with key standing items such as the Chief Executive report and the Finance, Audit and Risk Report. The Board papers report against performance objectives set by the Board and focuses on strategic developments and impacts, as well as on difficulties and risks.

The Board's Finance, Audit and Risk report is approved by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee in advance of meetings of the Board. This report summarises the overall organisational position and reports against a budget approved by the Board. Variances are calculated and explained. Trend analysis and projections are included together with a comparison against expenditure from the previous year. Key issues are identified with sufficient explanation.

### ► Selection and induction of board members

The Board of Directors of the Children's Rights Alliance is a body of elected or, in a minority of cases, appointed (co-opted) individuals (Board members) who jointly oversee and govern the activities of the organisation. The Children's Rights Alliance Board act on behalf of, and is subordinate to, the member organisations of the Children's Rights Alliance.

In line with the Articles of Association, the number of Directors shall not be less than three or more than ten. At every AGM, one third of elected Board members must retire under rotation arrangements prescribed therein. If the number of elected Board members is not divisible by three, then the nearest number to a third must retire. All Board

members who retire by rotation are eligible for re-election if they wish to continue on the Board. However, Board members can only serve a total of three terms. The Board can also co-opt a Director onto the Board and co-opted Directors hold office only until the next AGM after which time they may either be reappointed or vacate the office. The current Chair of the Board was co-opted in 2014 and reappointed at each AGM since then.

Board induction occurs as soon as possible after an individual has been selected to join the Board. In all cases this is scheduled to take place before attendance at the first meeting. Induction is the responsibility of the Chairperson and the Chief Executive and involves a face-to-face meeting covering, the role and aims of the Children's Rights Alliance, its governance structures, its core activities, history and successes.

Also covered is an introduction as to how the Board functions, as well as the role and responsibilities of becoming a member of the Alliance Board. A new Director also receives an induction pack which will include at a minimum the: Children's Rights Alliance Constitution, governance handbook, Strategic Plan, minutes and the Board Book from previous Board meetings, organisational financial procedures and policies manual, Staff Handbook, and audited Accounts from the previous year. A board meeting is organised in June which also introduces new Board members to the organisation's legal obligations, the organisation's policies and their review periods.

In April 2017, the current Chair notified his intention to retire as chair in May 2018. At that point, the Nominations Committee recommended a process to manage the succession of the chair between July and December 2017 which involved: (1) drawing up a list of specifications needed for the incoming chair paying particular attention to the content/approach in the Strategic Plan 2017-2021 and the current landscape; (2) organising interview meetings with prospective internal and external candidates. It was agreed that internal candidates would be identified by asking Board members to express an interest in the position. External candidates were to be identified paying attention to the person specification and approached directly by the Chair/Chief Executive. Board members were also encouraged to recommend external candidates for interview; (3) the Nominations Committee would report at each Board meeting on the status of this work and will aim to make a recommendation for an incoming chair by January 2018.

### ► Management

The Children's Rights Alliance is managed by a Chief Executive who is supported by: a Legal and Policy Director, an Office and Finance Manager, a Communications and Development Manager, an Early Years Manager, a Child Refugee Project Manager, an Access to Justice Manager, a Senior Legal and Policy Officer (on maternity leave), a Legal and Policy Officer (covering maternity leave), a Communications and Membership Officer, and the Children's Rights Alliance Catherine McGuinness Fellow.

### ► Membership

The size and diversity of our membership gives the Children's Rights Alliance its credibility, mandate and voice for children. The Children's Rights Alliance is member-led, member-informed and unites over 100 member organisations and bodies. This includes NGOs, representative bodies, local community groups and service providers. Sectors represented include: unions, universities, hospitals, education, child welfare, youth, early childhood education, girl guides/scouts, anti-poverty, housing, faith based, family support, human rights, health promotion, youth justice, sports, migrants/refugees, LGBTI+, disability, mental health, domestic violence, rape crisis and professional organisations representing teachers, school principals, social workers, psychologists and child care workers.

In 2017, the number of full members fell from 113 to 111. Over the period 6 left the membership mainly due to organisational closure and lack of funding. However, in 2017, the Alliance only received applications from four full members: Cybersafe Ireland, An Clean, Mercy Law Resource Centre and the National Museum of Childhood. The reason for the fall in applications was partly due to the Membership and Public Affairs Officer dedicating more time to build the capacity of the Legal and Policy Team to support the Report Card project, governance projects and the fact that the Alliance did not run a membership recruitment campaign. In 2018, the Alliance agreed to combine a communications post with membership and make it full-time with a view to improving the overall communications and services available to members.

As part of our membership work in 2017, the Children's Rights Alliance included the following:

Membership information supports

- We provided members with specific updates on developments under Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People) in October, August and May and BOBF activities and updates featured in our bi-monthly members' e-bulletins. All emails to members were sent to our 500 strong members email list which has a high open rate of between 15 and 20 per cent.
- 32 Oireachtas Monitors were issued in 2017 – one for every week the Houses of the Oireachtas were sitting. This continues to be one of the most valued resources among Children's Rights Alliance members and friends.
- Bi-monthly e-bulletins were sent out to members and friends in 2017 setting out legal, policy and legislative developments for children and young people.
- We supported members with briefings on key developments such as Slaintecare Report, the Concluding Observations for Ireland of the UN Committee on the Convention against Torture and the EU Semester process and key reports and developments. We issued three specific updates for members on Brexit in 2017 in recognition of the continuing developments in this area and the impact it will have on the lives of children and young people.
- We issued several coordinated submissions on behalf of the members in 2017 including on the:
  - Seanad Public Consultation on Youth Mental Health;
  - Mental Health Taskforce for the Department of Health;
  - Reform of community nursing (submitted in association with the PEIN);
  - BOBF Mid-Term Review;
  - Consultation on school admissions for the Department of Education and Skills;
  - Consultation on early years' focused inspections for the Department of Education and Skills;
  - Issues for young people for the Policing Authority of Ireland;
  - Guardian *ad litem* review for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

- **Acting as the designated Social Partner** voicing member's concerns regarding disadvantaged children since 2003. We have built up a strong relationship with other Social Partners and actively participate in collaborative work within the Community and Voluntary Pillar.
- **Coordinating membership and provision of organisational support** to our members to share information and come up with solutions for children. In 2016, the Children's Rights Alliance supported our members to meet throughout the year in relation to:
  - Child and youth homelessness: The purpose of this group is to update members on developments and to look at how members can work together to help prevent homelessness and help minimise the impact of homelessness on those children affected. It met twice in 2017;
  - Early Years: The Alliance also formed an Early Years' Advisory Group made up of members and external stakeholders to inform the work of the Children's Rights Alliance's new Early Years initiative. The group involves former Start Strong Board members and Children's Rights Alliance members. It met three times in 2017 and was chaired by Fergus Finlay;
  - Child Refugees: The Alliance formed this working group to advice on the direction of its Child Refugee Development Project. The group involves both members and key stakeholders and met twice in 2017 and was chaired by Denise Charlton;
  - Guardian *ad litem* Reform: This members' group informed the Alliance's actions in relation to the Government's plans to reform the hearing of the voice of the child in child care proceedings. It met on two occasions.

1.4. Reference and administrative details

**Name of charity:** Children's Rights Alliance – Republic of Ireland

**Charity number:** CHY 11541

**Address:** 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7.

**The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as follows:**

- Tom Costello
- Noreen Flynn
- Tom Maher
- Katie Mannion
- Pablo Rojas Coppari (appointed 09/05/2017)
- Maureen Dillon (appointed 24/07/2017)
- June Tinsley (appointed 11/07/2017)
- Colm Bryson (appointed 6/2/2018)
- Grainia Long (appointed 6/2/2018)
- Catherine Keane (resigned 6/2/2018)
- Tess Noonan (resigned 5/12/2017)
- Mairead Healy (resigned 9/5/2017)
- Fergus Finlay (resigned 11/7/2017)
- Michael Barron (resigned 9/5/2017)
- Denise Charlton (resigned 9/5/2017)

**Chief Executive and senior management to whom responsibility for the day to day management of the charity is delegated**

**Chief Executive:** Tanya Ward  
**Office and Finance Manager:** Patricia Hoey

**Names and address of professional advisors**

**Auditors:** JPA Brenson Lawlor, Brenson Lawlor House, Argyle Square, Morehampton Road, Dublin 4.

**Solicitors:** Shannon & O'Connor Solicitors, 26 Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin 2.

**▶ Setting the pay and remuneration of the charity's key management personnel**

The Chief Executive's salary for the year was €85,352, in addition 10% of salary was paid as employer's contribution into a defined contribution pension scheme on behalf of the Chief Executive.

The Children's Rights Alliance originally used public service pay scales and pay ranges within the charity sector as a reference in setting salaries for employees. However, salaries are now frozen in the Children's Rights Alliance and adjustments to salaries have not been made in response to changes in public service pay scales. However, in 2017, the Board decided to commission Quality Matters to review its salaries and compensation policies against the wider sectoral norm. Quality Matters had already conducted a national survey on pay and benefits in the community, voluntary and charitable sector in 2015, and again in 2017, for the Community Foundation for Ireland. Quality Matters delivered its final report to the Alliance in October 2017 and found that the Alliance's pay and compensation policy compared very favorably against the sector norms particularly in terms of pay for some roles, sick leave (the Alliance's provides 30 days paid sick leave per year) and maternity leave (the Alliance pays 50% of salary for 30 weeks and provides a further 30 weeks off as unpaid leave). In terms of moving forward, the Board proposes to appoint an independent HR consultant to recommend the pay scale and compensation policy that should be in operation following consultation with the staff and a review of other factors such as the charity's reserve.



## 1.5. Exemption from disclosure

The charity has availed of no exemptions, it has disclosed all relevant information.

## 1.6. Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The charity does not hold any funds or other assets by way of custodian arrangement.

### ► Likely future developments

The charity plans to continue the activities outlined above in its objectives and activities in forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

### ► Events after the end of the financial year

There were no post balance sheet events which require disclosure.

### ► Research and development

The charity carried out research relating to its activities during the year.

### ► Political donations

The charity did not make any political donations during the year.

### ► Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at the charity's premises, 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7.

### ► Statement on relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

(a) so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and

(b) each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

### ► Auditors

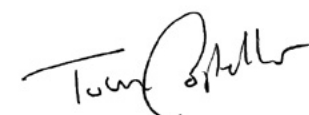
In accordance with section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, the auditors, JPA Brenson Lawlor, will continue in office as auditors of the charity.

**Approved by the board of directors and signed on its behalf by**

**Colm Bryson**  
Treasurer



**Tom Costello**  
Chair



**Date: 26 March 2018**

### ► Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors' report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. 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.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial

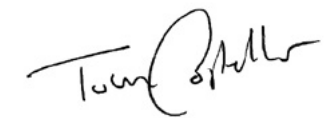
information included on the company's website. Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**Approved by the board of directors and signed on its behalf by**

**Colm Bryson**  
Treasurer



**Tom Costello**  
Chair



**Date: 26 March 2018**

# Independent auditors' report

## ► Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Children's Rights Alliance - Republic of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of financial position, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 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 state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its surplus 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 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 (ISAs Ireland) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those 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 the 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 charity'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.
- In forming our opinion, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosures made in Note 2 to the financial statements concerning the directors' confidence in the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the availability of sufficient finance to ensure the continued operation of the charity for the foreseeable future. In view of the significance of this matter we consider it should be drawn to your attention but our opinion is not qualified in this respect.

## ► Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## ► 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 in our opinion:

- the information given in the Director's Report is consistent with the financial statements; and



- the Director's Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes 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 and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

► **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of director's remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

► **Responsibilities of director for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Director's 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 the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have 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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

*IAN LAWLOR*

**Ian Lawlor**  
for and on behalf of JPA Brenson Lawlor

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Audit Firm

**Date: 26 March 2018**

Argyle Square  
Morehampton Road  
Donnybrook  
Dublin 4  
D04 W9W7



# Statement of financial activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account) for year ended 31 December 2017

	NOTES	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
<b>▶ Income</b>			
<b>Donations and legacies</b>			
Donations and fundraising income		85,846	128,160
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>			
Government grants		383,999	299,675
Other funding		408,380	131,190
Rental and management fee income		28,645	18,963
Eurochild			10,160
IYF		12,500	12,500
<b>Income from Investments</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>435</b>
<b>▶ TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>919,564</b>	<b>601,083</b>
<b>▶ Expenditure on charitable activities</b>			
Staff costs	8	566,227	421,363
Depreciation of fixed assets		6,663	6,573
Operational costs		123,601	141,521
<b>▶ TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>696,491</b>	<b>569,457</b>
<b>▶ Net Income</b>			
		223,073	31,626
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		-	-
<b>▶ Net movements in funds for the year</b>			
		223,073	31,626
<b>▶ General fund balances brought forward at beginning of the year</b>		<b>631,319</b>	<b>599,693</b>
<b>▶ General fund balances carried forward at end of the year</b>		<b>854,392</b>	<b>631,319</b>



# Statement of comprehensive income

(for year ended 31 December 2017)

	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Surplus for the financial year	223,073	31,626
▶ TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	223,073	31,626

# Statement of financial position

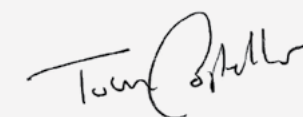
(as at 31 December 2017)

	NOTES	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
<b>▶ Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	292,769	298,281
		<b>292,769</b>	<b>298,281</b>
<b>▶ Current assets</b>			
Debtors	11	833,786	422,760
Cash at bank and in hand	14	868,228	594,220
		<b>1,702,014</b>	<b>1,016,980</b>
<b>▶ Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	(1,140,391)	(683,942)
<b>▶ Net current assets</b>		561,623	333,038
<b>▶ TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>854,392</b>	<b>631,319</b>
<b>▶ Reserves and funds</b>			
Accumulated funds – restricted	17	239,731	9,158
Accumulated funds – general	20	614,661	622,161
		<b>854,392</b>	<b>631,319</b>

Approved by the board of directors  
and signed on its behalf by



**Colm Bryson**  
Treasurer



**Tom Costello**  
Chair

Date: 26 March 2018



# Statement of cash flow

(for year ended 31 december 2017)

	NOTES	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Net cash flows from operating activities	13	274,965	267,262
▶ Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for tangible fixed assets		(1,151)	-
Interest received		194	435
▶ Net cash flows from investing activities		(957)	435
▶ Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		274,008	267,697
▶ Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		594,220	326,523
▶ Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		868,228	594,220

# Notes to the financial statements

(for year ended 31 December 2017)

## 1. General information

These financial statements comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of financial position, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes on pages 40 to 57 constitute the individual financial statements of Children's Rights Alliance – Republic of Ireland for the financial year ended 31 December 2017.

Children's Rights Alliance – Republic of Ireland is a charity limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The Registered Office is 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7, which is also the principal place of business of the charity. The nature of the charity's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Director's Report on pages 4 to 32.

### ► Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102). The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

### ► Currency

The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

## 2. Going concern

The charity is substantially dependent on discretionary income to cover its operating expenses and to meet its stated objectives as stated in the director's report. Such income normally takes the form of grants, fees and other funding. The charity has secured commitments for most of its funding for 2018.

The directors believe that income will continue at an adequate level for the foreseeable future so that the company can continue in operational existence. In these circumstances the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

## 3. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

### ► Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice-Charities SORP (FRS 102) "The Financial Reporting

Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2014.

### ► Tangible fixed assets

All tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at historic cost. This includes legal fees, stamp duty and other non-refundable purchase taxes, and also any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by



management, which can include the costs of site preparation, initial delivery and handling, installation and assembly, and testing of functionality.

Freehold land and buildings are revalued on the basis of fair value determined from market-based evidence by appraisal undertaken by professional valuers. Revaluations are subsequently carried out with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the end of the financial year.

Revaluation gains, are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity unless the gain reverses a previous revaluation deficit on the same assets that was previously recognised in the income and expenditure account, in which case the gain is also recognised in the income and expenditure account.

Revaluation deficits are recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent that they reverse previous gains recognised in equity in respect of the same asset. Revaluation deficits in excess of previously accumulated gains in equity on individual assets are recognised in the income and expenditure account.

► Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset systematically over its expected useful life, on a straight line basis, as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% Straight line
Computer equipment	20% Straight line
Furniture & equipment	20% Straight line

An amount equal to the excess of the annual depreciation charge on revalued assets over the notional historical cost depreciation charge on those assets is transferred annually from the revaluation reserve to the income and expenditure reserve.

The residual value and useful lives of tangible assets are considered annually for indicators that these may have changed. Where such indicators are present, a review will be carried out of the residual value, depreciation method and useful lives, and these will be amended if necessary. Changes in depreciation rates arising from this review are accounted for prospectively over the remaining useful lives of the assets.

► Fund accounting

The following funds are operated by the charity:

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for the specified purposes as laid down by the donor/grantor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted funds

General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital or capital expenditure.

► Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Membership fees

These are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities of the year in which they are receivable.

Donated services

Gifts in kind are valued at the cost that would be incurred if the company engaged the services.

Grants

Grants of a revenue nature are credited to incoming resources in the period in which they are receivable. Grants received in advance for specific future periods or when the specific conditions are not yet met are carried forward as deferred income.

Donations

Donations are credited to incoming resources in the period in which they are receivable. Donations received in advance for specified periods are carried forward as deferred income.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Where practicable, donations of goods and services are included in donations in the financial statements at their fair value. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh the benefits, then the income and associated expenditure is not recognised.

► Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds;
- Expenditure on charitable activities; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

► Capital grants and donations

The charity receives government grants in respect of certain projects. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred income.

► Retirement benefit costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme. Retirement benefit contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the income and expenditure account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to the retirement benefit scheme are treated as assets or liabilities.

► Financial instruments

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash consists of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents consist of short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Other financial liabilities

Trade creditors are measured at invoice price, unless payment is deferred beyond normal business terms or is financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate. In this case the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, and the financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

► Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

► Judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The directors consider the accounting estimates and assumptions below to be its critical accounting estimates and judgements:

Going concern

The directors have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements which demonstrate that there is no material uncertainty regarding the company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. On this basis the directors consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the company was unable to continue as a going concern.

Comparative figures

Where necessary comparative figures have been regrouped on a basis consistent with the current year.

Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

Taxation

No charge to current or deferred taxation arises as the charity has been granted charitable status under section 207 and 208 of the Tax Consolidation Act 1997, Charity No CHY 11541.The charity is fully tax compliant.

#### 4. Income from investments

	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Bank interest receivable	194	435
	194	435

#### 5. Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation

Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/ (crediting):

	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Depreciation of tangible assets	6,663	6,573
▶ Audit remuneration (including VAT)		
Non audit services	7,995	5,535
Non audit services	615	615

#### 6. Directors' remuneration and transactions

There are nine directors at the date of approval of the financial statements, none of whom receive any remuneration or expenses from the charity.

##### Key management personnel

The Chief Executive's salary for the year was €85,352, in addition 10% of salary was paid as employer contribution into a defined contribution pension on her behalf.

#### 7. Staff costs

The average monthly number of persons employed by the company (excluding directors) during the financial year analysed by category, was as follows:

	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Administration	2	2
▶ Policy and research	5	4
▶ Communication and information	2	2
	9	8

Their aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Wages and salaries	473,283	352,876
▶ Social security costs	50,046	37,232
▶ Pension costs	42,898	31,255
	566,227	421,363

All the amounts stated above were treated as an expense of the company in the financial year. No amount was capitalised into assets. Holiday pay is not provided as annual leave is not allowed to be carried forward unless exceptional circumstances.

The number of higher paid employees was:

	2017	2016
▶ Salary band		
60,000- 70,000	1	-
70,001- 80,000	-	-
80,001- 90,000	1	1



## 8. Retirement benefit information

Retirement benefit costs	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Retirement benefit charge	42,898	31,255

### Defined contribution scheme

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for its employees. The scheme is externally

financed in that the assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

## 9. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold premises ▶ €	Plant & Machinery ▶ €	Furniture & Equipment ▶ €	Total ▶ €
▶ Cost or valuation:				
At 1 January 2017	309,469	16,828	49,792	376,089
Additions	-	-	1,151	1,151
At 31 December 2017	309,469	16,828	50,943	377,240
▶ Depreciation:				
At 1 January 2017	12,378	16,828	48,602	77,808
Charge for financial year	6,189	-	474	6,663
At 31 December 2017	18,567	16,828	49,076	84,471
▶ Net book value				
At 31 December 2017	290,902	-	1,867	292,769
At 31 December 2016	297,091	-	1,190	298,281

On 18 December 2014, the charity entered into a contract together with Empowering Young People in Care Limited (EPIC) to jointly purchase a property at 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7. The total cost amounted €613,938. The purchase was completed on 28 January 2015. Atlantic Philanthropies agreed to provide €200,000, by way of a non-repayable capital grant, toward their share of the purchase price. Half of the cost is recognized in the cost of freehold premises.

The Board authorised the use of €109,469 from the Children's Rights Alliance's reserves towards

the purchase of 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield. This investment was made because it would reduce the rental costs for the Children's Rights Alliance in the long-term and would provide a sustainable footing for its future growth. In addition the company advanced a loan on completion to EPIC of €50,000 on normal commercial terms, repayable over two years. The loan was fully repaid at the 31 December 2016.

The directors have considered the value of the fixed assets as at the 31 December 2017 and they provide for impairment if necessary (nil: 2016).

## 10. Debtors

	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Trade debtors	832,929	422,541
▶ Prepayments and accrued income	857	219
	833,786	422,760

## 11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Credit card	571	518
▶ Pension's contributions payable	4,252	725
▶ Trade creditors	7,780	7,964
▶ Deferred income	1,104,435	648,506
▶ Other creditor- PAYE/PRSI	14,393	13,607
▶ Accruals	8,960	12,622
	1,140,391	683,942

Included in deferred income for 2017 are:

- Tomar Trust in the amount of €585,417 to support the core of the alliance in the Child Poverty Prevention project. This grant relates to future years expenditure; subject to performance conditions being met.
- An amount of €214,192 to fund future costs for the position of an Access to Justice Manager and any other costs relating to the Access to Justice Project.
- Department of Environment, Community and Local Government-Pobal, in the amount of €134,922 to cover future staff costs of the Alliance covering period January 2018 to June 2019.
- Early years grant for the years 2018 to 2019 in the amount of €84,705.
- The Community Foundation for Ireland in the amount of €60,000 to fund future expenses to be incurred in the production of the annual Report Card for 2018 and 2019.
- Start Strong in the amount of €22,843.
- Department of Children and Youth Affairs in the amount of €1,500 for future costs to be incurred on the Children's rights study.
- Rental income in the amount of €856 received in advance.

## 12. Net cash flows from operating activities

	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Surplus for the financial year	223,073	31,626
▶ Depreciation on tangible assets	6,663	6,573
▶ Investment income	(194)	(435)
▶ (Increase) in debtors	(411,026)	(171,781)
▶ Increase in creditors	456,449	401,280
▶ Net cash inflow from operating activities	274,965	267,262

## 13. Components of cash and cash equivalents

	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ Cash at bank and in hand	868,228	594,220
	868,228	594,220

## 14. Events after the end of the financial year

There were no post balance sheet events which require disclosure.

## 15. Membership

The Children's Rights Alliance- Republic of Ireland is a company limited by guarantee and not having share capital. Every member is liable for the debts and liabilities of the company in the event of a winding up, for such amounts as may be required but not

exceeding €1 each. The total number of member organisations at 31 December 2017 was 111 full time members, 1 associate member and 35 individual members. (31 December 2016: 113 full time members, 1 associate member and 32 individual members).

## 16. Restricted funds

	1 Jan 17 ▶ €	Income ▶ €	Expenditure ▶ €	Transfer ▶ €	31 Dec 17 ▶ €
▶ Project					
Government Grants	-	203,999	(196,499)	714	8,214
CFI (Child Refugee project)	-	90,000	(39,121)	-	50,879
KHF (Early Years Grant)	3,169	64,735	(64,353)	-	3,551
CFI (Report Card)	-	30,000	(30,357)	357	-
IYF (Report Card)	-	12,500	(12,872)	372	-
CFI (Educational Needs)	-	7,000	(3,857)	-	3,143
Constitutional Event	-	5,468	(6,474)	1,006	-
Access to Justice	-	107,096	(6,138)	-	100,958
Bar of Ireland	3,620	6,720	(5,537)	-	4,803
MDAC (European Lawyers)	2,369	2,659	(2,958)	-	2,070
Tony Ryan Trust	-	100,000	(35,423)	-	64,577
Tomar Trust (Child Refugee project)	-	1,250	(357)	-	893
Pol O'Murchu	-	1,000	(357)	-	643
Eurochild (Child Refugee project)	-	(5,080)	-	5,080	-
▶ TOTAL	9,158	627,347	(404,303)	7,529	239,731



Restricted funds refers to income received which is to be used for a specific purpose, most of the restricted income that the charity receives is to cover certain individual's payroll costs.

#### ► Restricted funds prior year

	1 Jan 16 ► €	Income ► €	Expenditure €	Transfer ► €	31 Dec 16 ► €
<b>► Project</b>					
Training Project	1,828	-	(1,828)	-	-
Child Law Audit Project	184	-	(184)	-	-
Early Years Grant	-	31,190	(28,021)	-	3,169
Government grants	-	110,724	(110,724)	-	-
Innovating European Lawyers	-	16,717	(14,348)	-	2,369
Eurochild (Child Poverty Conference)	-	10,160	(10,160)	-	-
IYF (Report Card)	-	12,500	(12,500)	-	-
Department of Children & Youth Affairs	-	44,951	(44,951)	-	-
The Bar of Ireland	1,260	5,720	(3,360)	-	3,620
<b>► TOTAL</b>	<b>3,272</b>	<b>231,962</b>	<b>(226,076)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,158</b>

## 17. Related parties

On 18 December 2014, the charity entered into a contract together with Empowering Young People in Care Limited (EPIC) to jointly purchase a property at 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7. EPIC and Children's Rights Alliance jointly own this property and during 2016 jointly agreed to lease office space to other charitable organisations.

The Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF) is a funder for the Children's Rights Alliance and is also a joint tenant to EPIC and the Children's Rights Alliance and occupies the top floor. The Prevention and Early Intervention Network (PEIN) is also a Children's Rights

Alliance member as was Equate. In 2017, the Alliance sublet an office to both PEIN and Equate on floor four. In the case of all tenants, they have been charged rent at market rate and management fees are calculated on the relevant running costs from the previous year. Equate terminated its lease in early October 2017.

## 18. Grant disclosures

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Name of Grantor</b>	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government - Pobal	Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
<b>Actual name of each individual grant</b>	Scheme to Support National Organisations in the Community & Voluntary Sector (SSNO)	Social Partnership Related Funding of the Community and Voluntary Pillar	1. Support in the coordination of activities relating to the community and voluntary sector as they relate to the implementation of better Outcomes, Brighter Futures and the advancement of cross-sectoral priorities therein. 2. Consolidate and enhance children's rights and entitlements through engagement with key frontline services through the Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures Implementation Structures.	Review the list of human rights and equality commitments for children under outcome 5 of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures the National Policy Framework 2014-2020	Analysis of refugee children accepted through the EU relocation and resettlement programme
<b>Purpose for which funds are applied</b>	Salaries and Wages	Salaries and Wages	Salaries and Wages, event costs, overheads	To cover costs of study	To fund research costs
<b>Amount and Term of the total grant awarded</b>	€269,844.00 Term: July 2016 to June 2019	€18,840 per annum Term: 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2017	€180,000 Term: 1 Jan 2017 to 31 Dec 2017	€ 7,000	€ 5,000
<b>The amount of the grant taken to final income in the financial statement</b>	€89,948	€18,840	€180,000	€ 7,000	€ 3,500
<b>Where relevant, the amount of capital provided and the reporting policies being used in relation to current and future instalments</b>	SSNO expenditure reports submitted every 6 months, as set out in agreement. Additional reports submitted at certain intervals. No capital grant received.	Annual report and application submitted each year. No capital grant received.	Agreed work plan submitted and an annual report submitted each year. No capital grant received.		Agreed final report to be submitted
<b>► Employee Benefits, excluding Employer Pension Costs</b>			<b>Overall figure for Total Employer Pension Contributions</b>		
We do not provide any employee benefits other than Employer Pension contributions			€42,899		

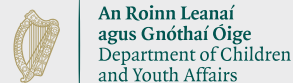
19. Accumulated funds- general

	2017 ▶ €	2016 ▶ €
▶ At the beginning of the year	622,161	596,421
▶ (Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(7,500)	25,740
▶ At the end of the year	614,661	622,161

20. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements and authorised them for issue on 20 March 2018

Thank you to our funders in 2017  
for their incredible support and for believing  
in the work that we do for children.



Founded in 1995, the Children's Rights Alliance unites over 100 members working together to make Ireland one of the best places in the world to be a child. We change the lives of all children in Ireland by making sure that their rights are respected and protected in our laws, policies and services.

- Ag Eisteacht  
Alcohol Action Ireland  
Amnesty International Ireland  
An Cosán  
ASH Ireland  
Assoc. for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD)  
Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland (ASTI)  
ATD Fourth World – Ireland Ltd  
Atheist Ireland  
Autism Network Ireland  
Barnardos  
Barretstown Camp  
Bedford Row Family Project  
BeLonG To Youth Services  
Care Leavers' Network  
Catholic Guides of Ireland  
Child Care Law Reporting Project  
Childhood Development Initiative  
Children in Hospital Ireland  
COPE Galway  
Cork Life Centre  
Crosscare  
Cybersafe  
Dental Health Foundation of Ireland  
Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, UCC  
Disability Federation of Ireland  
Down Syndrome Ireland  
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre  
Early Childhood Ireland  
Educate Together  
EPIC  
EQUATE  
Extern Ireland  
Focus Ireland  
Foróige  
Future Voices Ireland  
Gaelscoileanna Teo  
GLEN- the LGBTI equality network  
Immigrant Council of Ireland  
Inclusion Ireland  
Independent Hospitals Association of Ireland  
Institute of Guidance Counsellors  
Irish Association for Infant Mental Health  
Irish Association of Social Workers  
Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway  
Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)  
Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL)  
Irish Foster Care Association  
Irish Girl Guides  
Irish Heart Foundation  
Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO)
- Irish Penal Reform Trust  
Irish Primary Principals Network  
Irish Refugee Council  
Irish Second Level Students' Union (ISSU)  
Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children  
Irish Traveller Movement  
Irish Youth Foundation (IYF)  
Jack & Jill Children's Foundation  
Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice  
Jigsaw  
Kids' Own Publishing Partnership  
Law Centre for Children and Young People  
Lifestart National Office  
Mental Health Reform  
Mercy Law Resource Centre  
Migrant Rights Centre Ireland  
Mounttown Neighbourhood Youth and Family Project  
MyMind  
National Childhood Network  
National Museum of Childhood  
National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers (NOTA)  
National Parents Council Post Primary  
National Parents Council Primary  
National Youth Council of Ireland  
One Family  
One in Four  
Parentstop  
Pavee Point  
Peter McVerry Trust  
Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI)  
Realt Beag  
SAFE Ireland  
Saoirse Housing Association  
SAOL Beag Children's Centre  
Scouting Ireland  
School of Education UCD  
Sexual Violence Centre Cork  
Simon Communities of Ireland  
Social Care Ireland  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Sonas Domestic Violence Charity  
Special Needs Parents Association  
SpunOut.ie  
St. Nicholas Montessori College  
St. Nicholas Montessori Teachers' Association  
St. Patrick's Mental Health Services  
Step by Step Child & Family Project  
Suas Educational Development  
Teachers' Union of Ireland  
Terenure Rugby Football Club  
The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children  
The Prevention and Early Intervention Network  
The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway  
Traveller Visibility Group Ltd  
Treoir  
UNICEF Ireland  
youngballymun  
Youth Advocate Programme Ireland (YAP)  
Youth Work Ireland

# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ALLIANCE

Uniting Voices for Children

Founded in 1995, the Children's Rights Alliance unites over 100 members working together to make Ireland one of the best places in the world to be a child. We change the lives of all children in Ireland by making sure that their rights are respected and protected in our laws, policies and services.

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