

07

NEWSLETTER

December 2020

Volume 7

WELCOME

Alan Smyth, Editor.



Dear Reader,

I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work done by everyone in CIDP & NCDP during a very challenging year. We have tried to keep life as normal as possible in our services and across the organisation in the face of Covid 19. However, the teams across the organisation met this head on and we adapted our services to cope with this and ensure our service users in St Josephs House were safe and the boarders were supported throughout their time at home when schools were closed. Also the Chaplains continued to provide support to those who needed it across Ireland You can see within the newsletter the different updates.

None of this would have happened without the dedication and hard work of the team in CIDP and I want to thank everyone for the energy and focus you all gave to keep things moving in a difficult year.

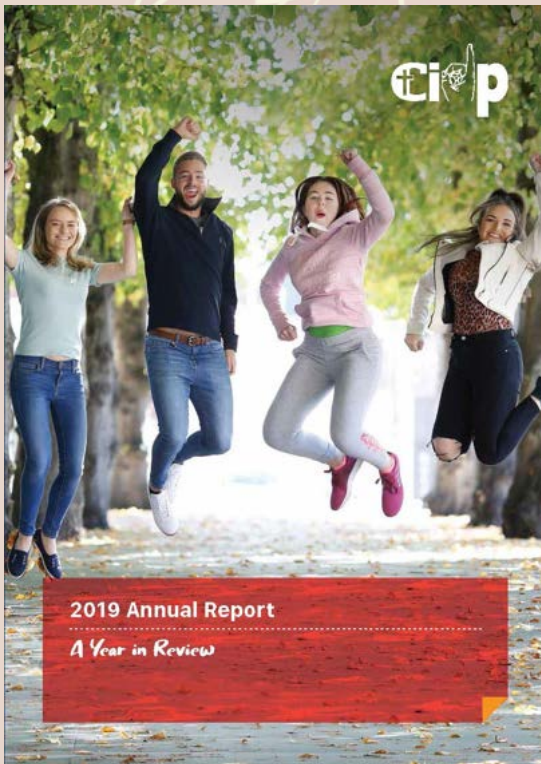
This is my last month in my role as CEO of CIDP as I step down. After an internal process we have appointed an Interim CEO, Tara McBreen. Tara will be known to many as she has been a driving force behind the decongregation of St Josephs House and will now bring her experience to the CEO role in CIDP. I wish Tara all the best in this new role.

In closing I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone both within CIDP and across the wider Deaf community and organisations for all the support over the last 5 years. It has been a pleasure to work in such a driven community and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2020 has been a challenging year on so many fronts and I am sure, like me, you are looking forward to a better year in 2021.

Keith Adams

ANNUAL REPORT

CIDP Annual Report is on the cidp website
<https://www.cidp.ie/annual-report-2019/>



NEW BOARD MEMBER

CIDP would like to announce the appointment of John Cleere as a board members of CIDP



John Cleere is Head of Corporate Services in the Courts Service with responsibility for Finance, Court Funds, Risk Management and Procurement amongst other things. In addition to being an Accountant he has a Diploma in Corporate Governance and is a qualified Company Secretary. He has worked in the Courts Service since 2000, prior to which he worked in the private sector in a number of industries; postal, insurance and technology. He joined the Finance & Audit Committee of CIDP in November 2016.



ST JOSEPH'S HOUSE

It has been a frenetic year in St Josephs House not only with the impacts of Covid 19, but also the plans to transition our residents into the community or other more appropriate accommodation. The lease on the main house expires on the 5th February 2021 and we have no option to extend this which was putting pressure on the timelines for transitioning everyone to new locations. After many long discussions with both the HSE & HIQA we have been able to secure an extension on the three buildings, known as Riverside, Woodlands and Kinsella until October 2021 and have agreed with HIQA that this can provide accommodation for those residents for whom we have not yet identified alternative accommodation. This is a smaller building with a smaller number of bedrooms and will be fully vacated before the end of October 2021 as we continue to work with local authorities, the resident and their supports to secure accommodation of their choice.

This is an emotional time for many who have been involved in St Joseph's House, but it will also be an exciting time as our service is transforming from a residential model of care to focus on a more person-centred community model of support

We are delighted to advise that to date, seven residents have made the transition and are now living in their new homes in the community supported by our service. Six other residents have agreed dates to move to their new accommodation. They are busy with support staff getting their homes ready and are excited to start their life in new home. The service is facilitating some sleep overs where possible, to ensure a smooth transition while we continue to work closely with the HSE and HIQA to firm up move dates for all our residents.

Some of our residents will be transitioning to the new nursing home in DVI. Due to the impacts of Covid 19 and the lockdown earlier this year the nursing home is now not expected to be ready until early March 2021. Given that we have reduced bed capacity after the 5th February 2021 and having listened to family feedback on a proposed interim transition this side of Christmas, we have worked closely with the HSE and have identified appropriate quality Nursing Homes within County Dublin that can accommodate our residents until such times as the nursing home in Cabra is ready in early March. To ensure our residents transitioning to the interim nursing home are fully supported we will have staff move with them to support them in ISL during this time.

We wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and are looking at plans for how we might accommodate families who want to call and say hello to residents in the house over Christmas and will keep you updated.

Thank you!



Due to the outbreak of Covid 19, activities have been restricted in the residential however this has not dampened spirits, we have had a number of successful take away evenings and staff have continued to support individual's interests as much as possible. In addition we continue to hold weekly cookery sessions in house and we have many emerging chefs.

Residents have been supported to use video calling to help link in with family and friends, which has resulted in more residents becoming more technically aware.

As a thank you to our staff for all their hard work, a number of evenings have been planned to run virtual quizzes, raffles and tutorials on cocktail making which should be fun!

We would like to welcome Lianne Quigley who is leading on the nursing home workstream. We would also like to welcome on board our new staff members including Ciara Moloney, Dominic McGreal, Katarina Djordjevic.

One of our resident's family members nominated Michael Duddy, a staff member as an Actimel frontline hero. As a result, St Joseph's House was awarded two iPads. The nomination was very much appreciated. Well done Michael and all of the other frontline hero's of St Joseph's House who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic.

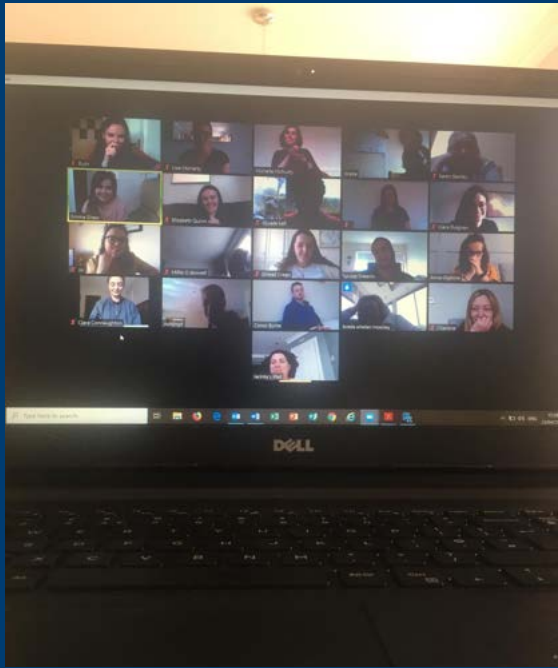
We owe our residents, families and dedicated staff a big thank you for working with us through this unprecedented time during the pandemic and are delighted to advise we remain Covid free to date. This could not have been achieved without the support and co-operation of the people we support, the understanding of their families and our dedicated staff team.

John Cradden a freelance Journalist is working with residents and staff to capture all our fond memories of St Joseph's House. We would be delighted if you have any memories you would like to share. If you would like to provide some information or send in a story or photograph please send to john@johncradden.ie



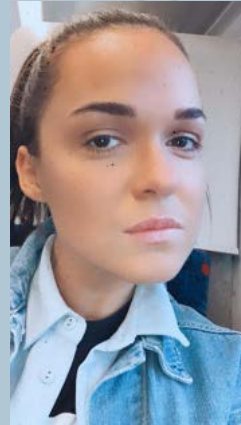
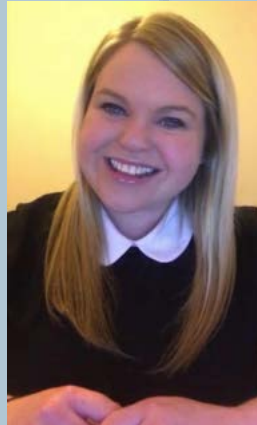


ZOOM



DEAF INTERPRETING

The Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College has developed a unique and exciting course - a Deaf Interpreting program which starts in September 2020. Several staff in St. Joseph house, Schools, residences and CIDP will attend this course over a year to become Deaf Interpreters. We wish Joanne Chester, Lianne Quigley, Sabrina Hanley, Sally Byrne, Susan Whelan and Wendy Murray the best of luck in their studies!



LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCE



An account from his lockdown experience from Madars

At first I was like 'yes!' when I found out the school was closed for two weeks, it was great being off school. But after a while, especially when the lockdown was extended, I was bored and started missing school and my friends. It was difficult doing homework at home and when I needed support for my homework, it had to be via video call which wasn't the same as face to face. I am happy to be back at the boarding and seeing my friends again.



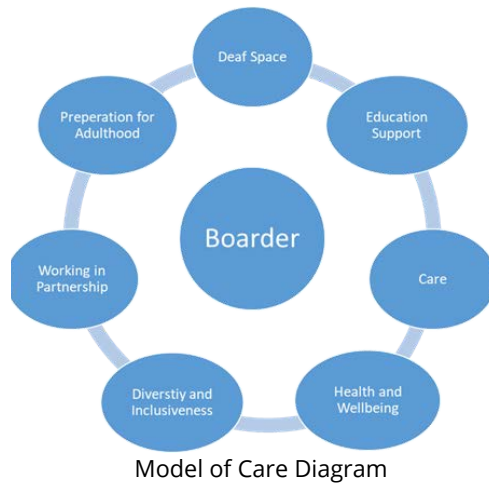


BOARDING (ST MARYS & JOSEPHS)

As a Boarding team, we worked remotely from March to June during the first national lockdown. This involved doing outreach with the Boarders, organizing daily activities online, and taking our work online. The team pulled together to provide support to the Boarders in the way of Out-reach work, art classes, treasure hunts, play therapy sessions online which was a great support to Boarders and was a way for us all to stay connected during those difficult few months.

In addition to this, some staff were redeployed to support the residents in St Joseph's House and in the community when needed, to ensure that there was as much support as possible during the pandemic. This meant staff had to take on new roles as they were needed including a driver, care assistant, night staff and sleepover staff. It was fantastic to see the whole organisation coming together for the good of the residents, and it gave us an opportunity to experience first-hand the different sections in our organisation, and the great staff teams and work that is happening throughout. Some staff were on standby to be redeployed to HSE nursing homes and continued to do outreach work during this period too.

We used this opportunity and time to do an overview of our documentation and to move our paper based system online. This was a lengthy process but we achieved it while working remotely. It also gave us a chance to become more amalgamated as a staff team, having joint meetings online and working cohesively as one staff team to fulfil our goals and working where required as the need arose under the direction of the Head of Care Lisa and Manager Ashling. In September, we decided to amalgamate the teams in Boarding and so there have been a few changes in our staffing teams. Ruth Kelly and Emma Shaw are now working in St. Joseph's boarding Campus and Jackie O'Brien and Geraldine O'Connor are now working in St. Mary's Campus.



We were thrilled to be in a position to safely re-open our service at the end of August. A lot of work was carried out over the summer to ensure we adhered to the HSE guidelines and applied the necessary social distancing rules. The new protocols meant creating "pods" for the Boarders to reduce the spread of transmission in the houses. It also saw the introduction of facemasks, hand sanitizers, social distancing and many more protocols and both the Boarders and staff adapted very well to the new environment. We want to thank the staff for working so hard throughout this pandemic and we would like to extend our admiration to the Boarders who continue to play an integral role, adhering to infection control and necessary restrictions in the Boarding environment. We would also like to thank the parents/guardians for their continued support and for encouraging their son/daughter to follow the HSE guidelines.

We are pleased to advise that a new tailored Model of Care for our Boarding service has been approved by the Board of CIDP. The Model of Care broadly defines the way services are delivered and outlines best practice for Boarders as they progress through the stages of Boarding. The key areas as outlined in the diagram will inform our everyday work and delivery of services, ensuring it is of the highest quality with each individual Boarder at the core.

Two new Boarders started with us in September, you are very welcome Chloe and Oisin, we hope you settle into the Boarding campus and make new friends!

Sadly, some of our staff have left us or are taking a career break, and we miss you all dearly and wish you all the best in your new adventures. They are as follows, Jacqueline Kiernan, Breda Whelan Mooney and Breda O'Grady. It was a pleasure working with you all! We also want to welcome two new staff members, Lisa Kelly who started in St. Mary's and Sara Kelly in St. Joseph's Boarding Campus. Pamela Orani also joined our team as a relief worker in November. You are all very welcome and we look forward to working with you in the coming year. Michelle McLaughlin also became a full time staff member in St Joseph's Boarding, wishing you all the best Michelle!

We would also like to congratulate Ciara Duignan on the birth of her beautiful baby daughter Fiadh and wish her well as she commences her maternity leave. Charlene Gannon will be acting Social Care Leader while Ciara is on maternity leave and we wish her every success in this role..

We are trying to normalize the day-to-day life of our Boarders and facilitate as many fun and creative activities as possible. As Christmas approaches, we are focusing on how we can make the build-up exciting and are planning some fun zoom Christmas parties, Christmas decoration competitions and Christmas jumper days to ensure everyone is going into the Christmas holidays with some Christmas cheer!





BOARDING (ST MARY & JOSEPH)

How we zoomed through Lockdown

Niall Ivory

“Technology is best when it brings people together.” (Matt Mullenweg, Social Media Entrepreneur)

It’s undeniable over the years how beneficial and transformative technology has been for the Deaf community. To highlight this I can speak to how, over the difficult months of the Lockdown when the two boarding campuses closed their gates in March, technology has helped strengthen the sense of community among the staff and boarders.

I had never heard of zoom and as for Tik tok, it may as well have been a foreign land. But these apps further revealed their value in keeping open the lines of communication with our boarders while we worked from home. Soon after the lockdown it was decided to host a Zoom outreach programme with the boarders. The aim was to maintain a link and support those boarders who required it. The energy and creativity that the staff displayed was inspiring. For example there was Covid information packs sent to parents with resources for all kinds of activities and links to ISL Covid information updates, a tik tok dance by staff to the boarders was uploaded. There was also exercise zooms, quiz zooms, individual zoom sessions and treasure hunt zooms to name but a few.

The finale was a large zoom with all the staff and boarders who were leaving us this year, this proved very poignant as they did not get the opportunity of the annual goodbye barbecue and party they deserved. The boarders that left this year John Joe Byrne, Japhet Ogu, Evan Maguire, Angelo Bundac and Liam Huynh will be greatly missed by St. Josephs boarders, the staff and the school as they all played a unique part in our small community and to repeat that final zoom we wish them all the best in their future endeavours and we hope our contribution to their development and independence will stand them in good stead. The excellent results from their final exams stands testament to the hard work they put in over the years and we would like to congratulate them on their achievements and recognize the dedication of the staff in the school who provided zoom class sessions.

Over the lockdown staff were redeployed, with a cohort working in St. Joseph’s house and in the community, all organized through WhatsApp groups and emails. Staff reported having a great experience working with the residents and staff in St Joseph’s house and some boarding staff to their credit, continued to help out over the summer months.

I am in a unique position to be working in the boarding and having my father in St Joseph’s house and it was a privilege to be able to bring the staff who work in St Joseph’s house who relied on public transport on our minibus. From that perspective, I witnessed the dedication of the staff there and felt assured of dad’s wellbeing when I witnessed the stringent protocols put in place to keep Covid at bay in St Joseph’s house, the staff there have my warmest gratitude and admiration.

The boys and girls boarding staff should be proud of the work they carried out over the last few months and not to forget or underestimate the impact of the zoom sessions they had with the boarders in relation to their mental health and well-being and in combatting isolation and loneliness. Well done one and all, see you on zoom soon!

Eoin Miller – Past Boarder

Eoin is a past pupil of the Holy Family School and a boarder in St. Joseph’s Boarding Campus, Cabra. He travelled to boarding from Co. Kildare. Eoin was a boarder for six years and we were privileged to have worked with him. He has a list of achievements which include the following: He took part in a speak out campaign, “No One Came Knocking on My Door” for young social innovators and the team were awarded second place in the all- Ireland final.



He received his full driving licence at the age of eighteen. He completed his Applied Leaving Cert Examinations in 2019 and achieved a distinction. Following that, he pursued a PLC course for one year in engineering studies at Greenhill Community College, Dublin where he received a distinction. He can now claim the title “A Man of Distinction”.

He is a role model for all our boarders which proves that if you focus and apply yourself to your studies and work you will achieve your goals. He is a young man of principle setting high standards in all the tasks he undertakes. He is thoughtful, kind, inclusive and was always willing to help out. He is an inspirational person for all young people. The staff here in St. Joseph’s are very proud of him as a person and his achievements and is greatly missed on campus. Eoin recently announced that he was offered a place on the car mechanic apprenticeship course with Audi.

I and all the staff team in Joes boarding wish him every success

Redmond O’Shea
Social Care Worker



Like every other activity in the D.V.I. the chaplaincy and all its various activities has been adversely affected by the Coronavirus and particularly when lockdown started in March it meant that the Emmaus Chapel had to close its door to the weekly Mass on Saturday evening. This was particularly difficult as the Mass and the social gathering after Mass were an especially important part of the chaplaincy and looked forward to by so many of the deaf Community. Another very difficult aspect of the onset of Covid-19 has been the restrictions placed on visits to hospitals and nursing homes.

Lourdes Pilgrimage: Another casualty of the onset of the virus was that the annual Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes had to be cancelled. The deaf community has in recent years played an important role in the pilgrimage, as pilgrims, as helpers and interpreters. While the cancellation of the Pilgrimage was regrettable, the Pilgrimage Committee hosted a Virtual Pilgrimage with Masses, Holy Hour, Evenings Prayers etc. there were ISL interpreters at all the main events of the Virtual Pilgrimage.

One of the most interesting developments resulting from the Coronavirus has been the use of IT. People have been finding new ways of communicating and keeping in touch. Zoom meetings are now the norm. We have installed WebCam into the Emmaus Chapel. Every week there are ISL signed Masses in Clondalkin and in Bonnybrook and in the Emmaus Chapel. There are daily prayers on Facebook in which hundreds of people partake. So in spite of the restrictions there are a lot of things happening. It was great to see the children come back to school in September. Many thanks to the parents, teachers SNAs and the staff of the school for the tremendous work they did to make that happen. We recently scheduled the ceremonies for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. We wish the children and their parents and families every blessing. Because of the rapidly changing circumstances it is difficult to always plan ahead.



www.churchservices.tv/dvi

Who knows where we will be in a few weeks' time. In the meantime, on behalf of the Chaplaincy Team we wish you every blessing and keep safe.

Fr. Paddy, Frankie, Denise and John Patrick



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