



CEO REPORT

MARY STRINGER

Welcome to the 19th issue of our Newsletter,

As we wrap up the year, we're delighted to reflect on some of the highlights and achievements:

- **Launch of ISL Strategy:** During ISL Awareness week, we launched our ISL strategy, marking an important milestone. Certificates were awarded to staff who completed the first internal ISL level 1 course, a testament to their dedication to improving communication and accessibility.
- **National Safeguarding Day:** This year, we held two significant events to mark National Safeguarding Day. Topics included dignity, rights and the recognition of abuse, emphasising our ongoing commitment to protecting and empowering individuals.
- **Grants Programme:** We proudly launched the third and final round of our grants programme. We eagerly anticipate seeing the positive impacts of the projects funded through this initiative in the coming months.

We want to express our gratitude to the HSE, whose funding makes our services possible, and to our Board of Directors for their unwavering support. A special thanks to our Chairperson Nessian Vaughan for his dedication and support of Reach Deaf Services.

A heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff teams for their commitment and hard work throughout the year.

Most importantly, to the adults and children we support, thank you for trusting us to support you, it is truly a privilege.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



SUPPORT LIVING SERVICES

LINDA TIERNEY - HEAD OF SERVICES



Support Living Services Manager - Sharon Murphy

Our service is in the full swing of Christmas preparations and partying as we head towards the end of the year. It's been an eventful year, and we've had several staff changes and promotions to our ever growing and developing team.

Our second house move of the year happened in October this year and we're delighted that he's settling into his new home for his first Christmas there. We have another house move that we're in the planning stages for and hope to be complete in early 2025.

National Sharing Day 2024

Our Head of Support Services and Supported Living Service Manager attended the HSE National Sharing Day in Dublin Castle in September. The theme of the day was the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015, focusing on the areas of decision making in accommodation, finances, hobbies, and future planning. We watched presentations from disabled people who shared their experiences, including challenges, in the decision-making process. It was a wonderful day of learning and inspiration.

National Safeguarding Day 2024

We continue to work with our service users to support them to access their rights. We had a meet up in November 2024 to celebrate National Safeguarding Day and discussed financial safety and service user rights. Our Practice Team lead the event, and we had huge engagement from the service users and our staff team.

Click on the link to watch the video >>> [Adult Safeguarding Day](#)



Staff Party

It was a lovely night on December 7th to celebrate with all staff who could make the party. We plan to prepare in advance next year so that more staff can make it and we will look for staff to be part of the planning process.

Thank you to all involved this year and a special thanks to Louise Sheerin (Office Manager) who went above and beyond with preparations to make the night special for staff and creating lovely Christmas Cracker prizes with some crafty, creative and thoughtful gifts from the staff contributions to the party.

Hope to see more of you there next year to celebrate all the hard work and wonderful supports provided from all staff to the people we support across the service.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff team in Supported Living Service for supporting service users to create wonderful memories this year. We're full steam ahead planning to make 2025 another successful year for our service users and our staff team.

Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year ahead for all.

Christmas Parties

Our service users have been enjoying the Christmas celebrations, partying and winning prizes.



EDUCATION SERVICES

LINDA TIERNEY - HEAD OF SERVICES



Redmond O'Shea

Since the last publication of the Newsletter, life in Boarding has been busy with boarders involved in various fun-filled activities, programmes and events. Our new group of boarders have settled in well, enjoying the home from home experience and making a new network of friends.

Both girls and boys completed a 6 week programme, called the Healthy Food Made Easy programme: A community cooking programme that was developed under the Slaintecare Healthy Communities. There was great interest from both boys and girls with this programme, and on average we had 14-16 participants each week. This course was run in Joe's and the facilitator would call in each week to help boarders improve their cooking skills, eating behaviours and nutrition knowledge.



Each week the boarders with the support of the chef made a healthy meal, and enjoyed the rewards at the end of each session. The aim of the programme is to help you make healthier food choices within budget. This course was ISL supported by our own staff interpreters. The facilitator who organised this course for us, had the following to say,

"I really just wanted to say a huge thank you to those of you who hosted the 'Healthy Food Made Easy class.'" In particular, thank you to our partners ... that allow us to use their kitchen facilities...since we do not have kitchens of our own, this is invaluable, and we have not had to turn anyone away because of your dedication to your community. A most sincere thank you"

We are booked in again for this course for our senior boarders to help them prepare for independent living and this will commence in January 2025.



Christmas dinner for boarders prepared by our two chefs Ann & Ray & kitchen staff Valerie & Sean.

On 11th December we enjoyed a Christmas dinner and dessert prepared by our own chefs Ann & Ray and a big thank you to Sean and Valerie too.

We all got to sit down together and enjoy the company of the boys and girls. Afterwards we relaxed in Joe's watching Christmas movies, playing UNO and pool. It was nice to come together for the festive season. - Jacqueline O'Brien Social Care Leader
We had many exciting activities in boarding.

In November we celebrated Movember and had a talk to the older boarders about the importance of male mental health. We also tasted many new foods during the Romanian culture day where Emilia prepared traditional treats and presented each food, everyone enjoyed trying new things and learning more about Romanian culture. Boarders and staff made their annual trip to Farma Phobia to celebrate Halloween. It is Ireland's biggest Halloween event. A great experience was had by all. There was a stream of haunting experiences, Pumpkin trial, waterpark parties and a festival. It was fun-filled experience with lots of very scary moments.

In December we went ice skating in Blanchardstown as per our Christmas tradition. As well as having cosy days watching Christmas films, making Christmas cards and decorations. Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all pulling Christmas crackers and having delicious food prepared by Ann and Ray.

Our Christmas party is to follow soon where they will get a visit from Santa, decorate gingerbread and take part in many fun games.

Boarders in 5th year went to Cork to see the Bishopstown Community School musical " Gimme, Gimme, Gimme." It was a fantastic show, and it was fully inclusive of ISL.

Transition year students successfully completed their work experience placements recently. This provided them with a great opportunity to experience day-to-day life in the workplace. This was an invaluable placement to equip and prepare them for the future.

Dublin Fire Service also visited boarding and delivered a valuable and informative presentation to the boarders on Fire safety

Staff updates

We would like to congratulate and welcome our new members of staff, Sorcha Collins, Laura Slattery and Ciara Coffey. Sorcha is based in St. Joseph's and Laura and Ciara are based in St.Marys

Season Greetings to you & Best Wishes for 2025



CHAPLAIN FOR NCDP

FR PADDY BOYLE



Dublin & Outreach

Frankie Berry | Mobile: 0871004829 | Email: frankie@reachdeafservices.ie

Munster:

John Patrick Doherty | Mobile: 0879062947 | Email: johnpatrick@reachdeafservices.ie

Ulster:

Denise Flack | Mobile: 00447428178932 | Email: denise@reachdeafservices.ie

John Patrick

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Volunteers

Before we embrace the warmth of Christmas, I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful volunteers who organized the Lourdes reunion at DVI recently. It was truly a blessing to witness such a beautiful gathering, and I appreciate the effort that went into creating this special event. Your dedication and hard work made it a memorable experience for everyone involved, and it is a testament to the strength and spirit of our community. Thank you for your time and commitment!

As Christmas draws near, I want to extend a message of care and connection to you during this special time. This time of year reminds us of the beauty of hope, love, and togetherness, even in the simplest of moments. Whether you are surrounded by loved ones or spending these days more quietly, please remember that you are deeply valued and never forgotten.

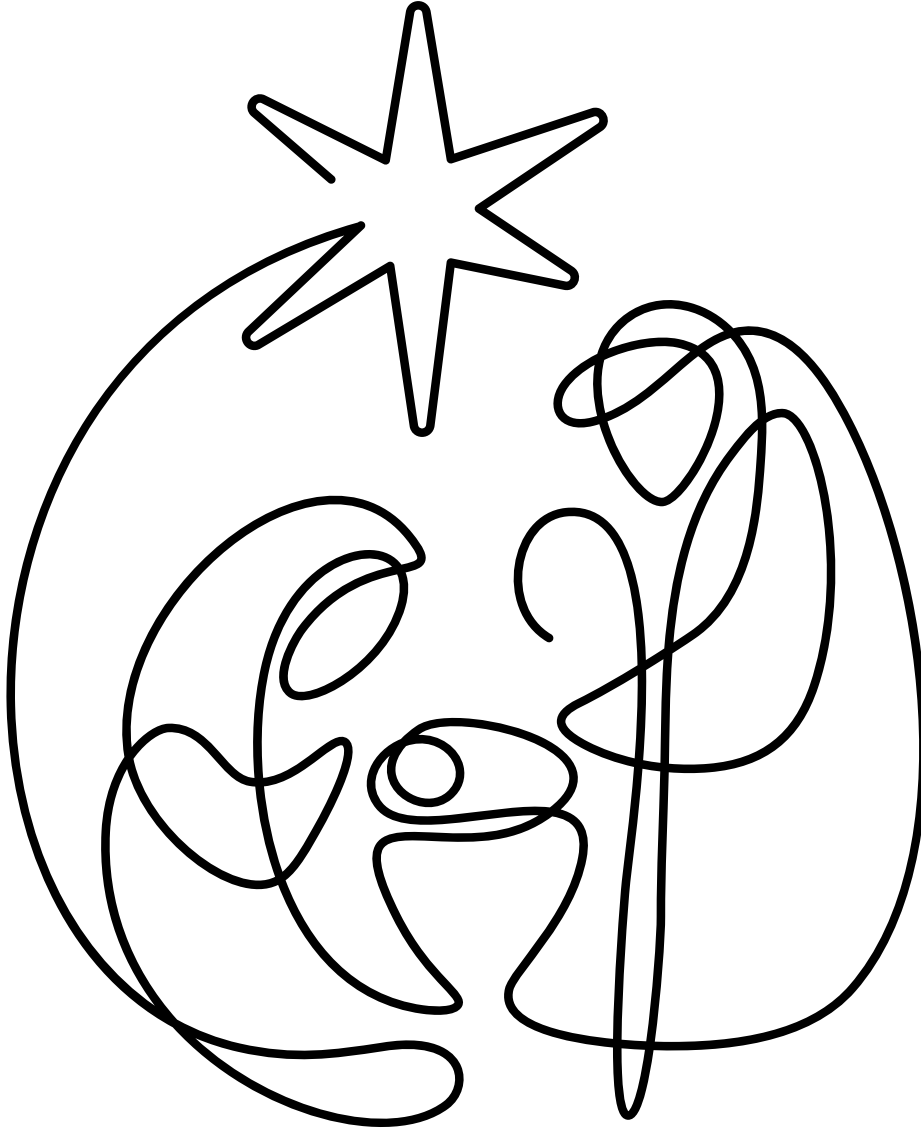
Throughout Christmas, with your permission, I will continue visiting and supporting members of our Deaf community across the Munster region. Whether you find yourself in a hospital, a care home, a mental health facility, a prison, living independently at home, or facing challenges such as homelessness or addiction, I am here to assist you in whatever way I can.

Christmas is a time when we remember that light shines even in the darkest places. St. Antony of Padua exemplified this spirit through his compassion and dedication to those in need. One story tells of him in prayer, holding the Infant Jesus in a vision, his face radiant with love and awe. This moment reminds us of the humility of the Nativity—God entering the world in simplicity and peace. In today's fast-paced world, the Nativity invites us to pause, reflect, and embrace values like humility, tenderness, and hope. Whether through small acts of kindness or moments of quiet reflection, we can bring light to others, just as the Christ Child brought light to the world.

If you would like a visit or a conversation during this time, please don't hesitate to reach out. I would be honored to spend time with you, listen, and share in both the joys and challenges of this time. If you know someone in the Deaf community who might appreciate a visit or some support, and you have their permission, please let me know so that we can reach out together.

Let us also remember the strength of our community. Even when life feels difficult, we are never truly alone. Every act of kindness, every smile, and every moment of connection brings us closer to one another.

May this Christmas bring you peace and comfort. May you feel the warmth of care and the reassurance that you are cherished. Wishing you a Christmas filled with light, love, and hope for the year.



Reach Deaf Services
Deaf Village Ireland
Ratoath Road
Cabra
Dublin 7



Reach Deaf Services

Tel : 01-830 0522

Email: info@reachdeafservices.ie



CHY: 1394
RCN: 2002138

Editor: Alan Smyth
Email: alan@reachdeafservices.ie