



Childhood
Development
Initiative

Annual Report 2023

CDI's Vision:

*Every child in Ireland
is thriving, healthy,
happy, and free from
poverty.*



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17557

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Company Number
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St. Mark’s Youth and Family Centre
Cookstown Lane
Fettercairn
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Tel: +353 (0)1 4940030
Fax: +353 (0)1 4627329
E-mail: info@cdi.ie
Web: www.cdi.ie

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Reference and Administrative Information

Directors

- John Paul Byrne (Attended 3 of 4 meetings)
- Mary Corcoran (Resigned on 31 December 2023) (Attended 4 of 4 meetings)
- Madeline Mulrennan (Attended 4 of 4 meetings)
- Elizabeth Nixon (Attended 3 of 4 meetings)
- Catriona Rodgers (Attended 3 of 4 meetings)
- Anita Nolan (Attended 3 of 4 meetings)
- Aisling O Reilly (Attended 3 of 4 meetings)
- Emer Woodfull (Attended 2 of 4 meetings)
- Leon Diop (Attended 4 of 4 meetings)
- Siobhan Swaine (Attended 2 of 4 meetings)
- Frank Fitzpatrick (Resigned on 24 January 2023) (Attended 0 of 0 meetings)
- Jeremiah (Jerome) Bernard White (Appointed on 24 April 2023) (Attended 2 of 4 meetings)
- Noel Denis McCarthy (Appointed on 8 September 2023) (Attended 1 of 1 meetings)

Company Secretary

- Marian Quinn (Resigned on 28 April 2023)
- Boby Philip (Appointed on 28 April 2023)

Registered Office and Principal Address

St Mark’s House, Cookstown Lane, Fettercairn, Dublin 24. D24 PK6P

Auditors

Woods & Partners, Woods House, Canon Street, Kells, Co Meath

Bankers

- Allied Irish Banks PLC, Tallaght, Dublin 24
- Bank of Ireland, Priorsgate, Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Solicitors

Adrian Burke & Associates, 51/52 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2

CDI Mission:

We will improve outcomes for children by delivering quality, integrated, evidence-informed services and workforce development through partnership and innovation.

CDI Values:

We work in partnership with people, taking a strengths-based, family- and child-centred approach focused on children’s rights, responding to needs and driving change.

We use evidence, innovation, prevention, and early intervention approaches to underpin our work.

Tallaght is our home, and we prioritise the needs of this community. We are also committed to transparently sharing our learning to inform policy and practice nationally and internationally.

We are respectful, inclusive, collaborative, and relationship-focused and believe in having fun while we work hard.

Chairpersons' Foreword

In 2023, the Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) achieved the highest level possible in an independent inspection process conducted by the Excellence in Quality Association (EIQA). Discussions with the Data Protection Commission during the year also highlighted that CDI's policies and procedures were well advanced and that the processes were deep, which was unexpected in an organisation of its size.

Neither of these conclusions will surprise those of us who work closely with CDI and see first-hand the diligence, attention to detail, and pursuit of excellence that inform the organisations' governance, service delivery, monitoring systems, and approach to interagency collaboration.

This Annual Report details the outputs and outcomes of our work with children and families, primarily in Tallaght and nationally, and our capacity-building strategies through which we share insights and provide training to others working with and interested in children and families. Never content with the status quo, CDI introduced the NOVA Youth Mental Health Programme in 2023, building on several years of research and consultation. We also progressed our understanding of the impact of parental mental illness on children and worked with the HSE and other partners to identify local needs and potential responses. Offering guidance to parents with a child suspected of having additional needs was also prioritised, along

with several developments relating to parent and infant attachment. Our Doodle STEAM Programme was independently evaluated and demonstrated strong outcomes and opportunities for further development. A review of our Powerful Parenting Programme, completed in 2023, provides important direction for the service progressing in the year ahead.

Interagency working is central to every aspect of CDI's work, and we were delighted to strengthen relationships with our partners throughout the year. We are grateful to our many corporate supporters whose funding enables us to be innovative and responsive; to Tusla for our Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme grant, which supports so much of our work in Tallaght; and also to our statutory and NGO partners whose expertise and insights are so valuable to informing and supporting our engagement with children and families.

Our staff maintained their good humour, work ethic and focus on high-quality services throughout several staffing changes, some funding uncertainties (which were addressed in late 2023) and some significant changes to internal processes. The Board is grateful to all our staff for their efforts and continued dedication to improving outcomes for children and families. There was considerable engagement between Board members and our staff during the year, and this has enabled a deeper understanding of roles, mutual

respect, and recognition of the range of expertise that enables CDI to deliver such a range of evidence-informed services.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to our Board and Committee members, who share their time and wisdom with such generosity, taking seriously their responsibilities to both support and scrutinise. Our Board members fully recognise the need for transparency and rigorous processes, and they have contributed to ensuring these principles underpin our approach through their vigilance, challenge and detailed consideration of compliance requirements.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the employees, service providers and community partners, without whom CDI could not achieve its goals. Our CEO, Marian Quinn, works tirelessly and continuously to further the strategic goals of CDI, support the work of the organisation and, most importantly, maintain meaningful and sustainable relationships at all levels. Tallaght is our home, and the support of the local community and stakeholders allows us to work collaboratively for the benefit of all.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the enormous contribution of my predecessor, Professor Mary Corcoran, who chaired the Board of CDI for the last number of years, was previously a Board member, and also served on our Research Advisory Committee. Mary's academic credentials, commitment to

community-based services, and knowledge of national structures made her a valued and respected colleague. We are delighted that she has remained on our Human Resources and Remuneration Committee, ensuring we maintain organisational memory.

I am honoured to have taken on the role of Chair of the CDI Board. I know firsthand the benefits of the services provided in the community to children, families, and those working with them, and I look forward to working with the Executive to provide direction for CDI's next phase.

Catriona Rodgers,
Chair,
CDI Board of Directors



1. GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

1. Governance and Compliance

1.1 Progress on actions

During 2023, we welcomed several new people to our governance structures, with two new Board members joining and two more identified to join in early 2024. Specifically, the Board progressed a succession plan for the current chair, Prof. Mary P. Corcoran, with plans for the new chair, Catriona Rodgers, to take up the role from January 1st, 2024.

The Business Development and Communications Committees were merged to improve activity alignment, and significant progress was made in aligning our objectives to the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and using these as a framework for engagement with external bodies. The expertise of our board and committee members enabled this, along with the approval of our Business Development Strategy.

We achieved the highest possible rating in our annual [Excellence in Quality Association \(EIQA\)](#) inspection, with the inspector noting



CDI has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to high standards and to continuously improving services they provide to their local community. We rarely see the Q Mark principles so well executed – to enter at Level 2 is unusual, and to achieve Level 3 within three years is something that has been achieved by only very few organisations.

CDI remained fully compliant with all regulatory and legislative requirements and again achieved the [Charities Institute of Ireland's 'Triple Lock'](#) certification.

CDI is committed to ensuring that the personal data of our stakeholders and employees is secure and safe. We implemented a roadmap to compliance with Data Protection Legislation resulting in the formulation of various Data Protection supporting policies and procedures. CDI also ensured all CDI staff completed Data Protection training and, on an ongoing basis, implemented activities to raise staff awareness of CDI Data Protection Policies and procedures. CDI engaged with the Data Protection Commission for guidance on our approach and received very positive feedback on the depth and breadth of our understanding and procedures.

An annual performance review was undertaken with the Board in October, with positive feedback on all aspects of communication, decision-making and reporting. It was noted that Board membership should better reflect the community CDI serves, which will be addressed in early 2024.

A Wellbeing Working Group was established in 2023 to ensure ongoing consideration of and actions to promote staff wellbeing. The annual team residential in October included a facilitated session on working together and

agreements on internal communications. Staff were invited to nominate a representative to attend management team meetings to raise issues, provide feedback, and propose developments. This new structure will be monitored in the year ahead.

Staff recruitment and retention was an ongoing challenge across all programme areas and a draw on resources. Efforts will be made to enhance our communications in relation to recruitment and streamline administrative tasks in the new year.

1.2 Challenges and Opportunities

The Board welcomed the Workplace Relations Commission's (WRC) decision to establish a mechanism to benchmark charity salary scales against statutory pay scales. Staff recruitment and retention have been a challenge for CDI in the last year, reflecting similar experiences across the sector. This process is anticipated to support the recruitment and retention of high-calibre staff.

It is also recognised that the initial guidelines provided by funders regarding pay restoration are likely to require significant attention from both the executive and the Board.

Data protection compliance was daunting at the outset of 2023, given the diversity of documentation required and its

interdependence. A detailed implementation plan enabled us to make incremental progress, building on the foundational documents. The tenacity and attention to detail of CDI personnel were critical in this regard.

Plans to progress becoming a trauma-informed organisation were on hold during 2023 due to a change in personnel. This will be revisited in 2024.

1.3 Targets for 2024

CDI will continue to be vigilant in its compliance activities, maintaining its regular review of policies and implementation. A consultation process will commence in quarter three to inform CDI's next Strategic Plan, which is anticipated to be approved by the Board in late 2024.

We will undertake an annual Board performance review in late 2024 and continue to focus on succession planning for both Board and committee members.



2. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

2. Business Development

2.1 Progress on actions:

2023 was a year of transition for Business Development with the departure of our former manager and the arrival of our new manager, Jonathon Doyle, in July. Jonathon brings 20 years of experience working in the not-for-profit sector, designing and developing interventions for children and young people and working with corporate and philanthropic bodies to see those interventions come to fruition.

2023 also saw significant additions to our Business Development Committee, including amalgamating our Business Development and Communications Committees. The first task of this new committee was to approve our three-year business development strategy, and we are all very excited to see how this plan materialises over the coming years.

CDI benefitted from the support of several philanthropic and corporate partnerships in 2023, which allowed us to continue to meet the varied challenges faced by those we work with. Examples of some of the interventions we were able to carry out thanks to this generosity include the following:

- Thanks to the generous support of the [Children's Rights Alliance](#) and [Enterprise Rent a Car](#), CDI was able to support a number of families during the Summer and Christmas holiday period. Families involved with our services received food

parcels and vouchers for their shopping to ensure they could cope during this difficult period due to significant increases in the cost of living.

- Thanks to the generosity of several supporters, our [NOVA Youth Mental Health Project](#) ran some interventions throughout the year. This included working with nine primary and secondary schools to deliver a programme to support children and families to bounce back from the difficulties they may have encountered during the pandemic and to address any increases in Emotionally Based School Avoidance. Our NOVA coordinator also supported further targeted support to families in need through our Meitheal+.
- CDI were also the recipients of a grant from Leargas for us to work with Malta National Anti-Bullying Service to train their staff in [Restorative Practices](#).

Our consultancy work continued to thrive in 2023, with CDI being awarded some important projects, as follows:

Teen Parent Support Programme

Tusla initiated a review of the national [Teen Parent Support Programme \(TPSP\)](#), which consists of 12 projects, to inform its expansion under the European Social Fund (ESF). The review involved a desk-based analysis of TPSP documents, national policies, and best practices. Consultation with 55 stakeholders

was also conducted, informing findings and recommendations. CDI was commissioned to undertake this work.

While Tusla decided not to publish the report, it is being used to inform internal discussions about expanding the TPSP.

Evaluation of Citywise Education Interventions

This consultancy support will help [Citywise Education](#) evaluate the efficacy of its Fast Track Academy (FTA), Afterschool, Leadership, and STEAM programmes and the positive impact they can have on young people.

CDI has worked with [Rethink Ireland](#), Citywise Education, and other key stakeholders on this important project, and we look forward to publishing our findings in early 2024.

In addition, CDI has now been placed on a panel of expert consultants with rethink Ireland, opening further opportunities to undertake work on a commissioned basis.

2.2 Challenges and opportunities

CDI is conscious of the need to balance its eagerness to stretch itself and utilise the expertise within the team alongside a pragmatism regarding what is feasible and maintaining our commitment to providing high-quality outputs.

Our panel of [Associate Quality Specialists](#) is an invaluable resource for us. They enable CDI to take on additional initiatives with minimal impact on the team.

Developing a new website during 2023 put some promotional activities on hold.

2.3 Targets 2024

We will extend our panel of Associate Quality Specialists in 2024 to ensure that we have the required range of subject matter experts and geographical spread to enable responsiveness.

A contact mapping process will be completed in early 2024 to inform further development of our contacts in the corporate and philanthropic sectors.

We will continue to apply for grants and consultancies that fit with our strategic plan, with a target of 15 applications per annum. We anticipate the success rate will improve year on year.

We will continue to build on strategic relationships to embed best practices and evidence-based approaches further. We have developed strong partnerships with several statutory, voluntary, and philanthropic partners and are always exploring new opportunities and partnerships.



A comprehensive implementation plan will be developed to ensure full implementation of our Business Development Strategy. This includes finalising the alignment of our outcomes to the SDGs and developing relevant materials to support corporate engagement.

Licence agreements will be developed and in place with all organisations delivering CDI programmes.

We would like to thank all our partners who supported our work and innovation throughout 2023.



3. COMMUNICATIONS

3. Communications

3.1 Progress on actions:

The launch of our new website was the culmination of efforts to enhance user experience and accessibility. The revamped platform provides:

- Visitor-Centric Approach: Our redesigned website prioritises the user experience to cater to the diverse needs of our professional and parent community.
- Improved quality: Users can expect a significant enhancement in content quality and navigation, ensuring seamless access to valuable resources and services.

- Engaging Content: Explore engaging content, including podcasts, videos, and testimonials, curated to provide users with invaluable insights and inspiration.
- Enhanced Accessibility: Our new website simplifies the user journey, empowering individuals to find relevant information and resources effortlessly.
- Comprehensive Offerings: From courses and events to many resources, users can delve into various tailored offerings designed to meet their interests and requirements.
- [Parents Hub](#): Introducing our dedicated Parents Hub, featuring age-specific information and invaluable tips designed to support and guide parents in their journey.

In addition to online activity, CDI staff also participated in and presented at a number of key events during 2023. These included:

- Presenting to the intergovernmental oversight group of the newly established [Child and Wellbeing Poverty Unit](#) on our [Over the Fence](#) research and conducting research in disadvantaged communities.
- Presenting our peer research approach to the [Children’s Research Network for Ireland and Northern Ireland](#).
- Contributing to the national budgeting process in 2023 by publishing a pre-budget submission calling for more investment in prevention and early intervention approaches, especially in addressing child poverty and

- homelessness, supporting children with additional needs and mental health. The pre-budget submission was circulated to all relevant politicians and policymakers.
- Participating in the Maynooth Research Week in October 2023.
- Presenting on Doodle STEAM at SciCom, a conference on science communication, an exciting networking and presentation opportunity.
- Presenting on Parental Engagement and Capacity Building in the Early Years at the National ABC Learning Event in June 2023.
- Presenting on our Powerful Parenting programme at the Prevention and Early Intervention Summit 2023 in Limerick.

Social Media

In 2023, across our four social media platforms, Instagram, X, Facebook and LinkedIn, we gained:

971 new fans & followers
144,867 people saw our posts



We put out 403 Tweets (more than one a day). We had

1,154 Likes
480 retweets

4,314 engagements
(4.5% engagement rate (good engagement rate = 1–3%))



(reporting stopped mid-Sept 2023). We put out 180 posts, we had

963 engagements
4,490 video views

Engagement rate 3.83% (good engagement rate = between 1%–5%)



We put out 314 posts, we had

69,614 impressions
647 photo views

2.31% engagements rate
(good engagement rate = between 1%–5%)



We put out 159 posts, we had

1,083 engagements
8.36% engagement rate

34,784 impressions
193 shares

3.2 Challenges and Opportunities

In 2023, website development was a major focus and inevitably took time from other communications activities such as content, social media and digital marketing strategies. With the website being live, a marketing strategy will be developed and implemented closely with the Business Development Manager and Programme Support Coordinator.

CDI has commenced using Eventbrite and Mailchimp platforms to maximise exposure.

The new website will give us many more opportunities to grow and connect with our communities.

3.3 Targets for 2024

Communications activities will support the Business Development Manager to achieve targets regarding increased sales of

- Restorative Practice Training
- Quality Implementation and Impact / QSBO training
- Parental Engagement and Relationships (PEAR)
- Chit Chat Summer Course
- Consultancies.

In addition, we will continue to grow audiences across all our platforms including the website.





4. PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

4.1 Progress on actions

In 2023, CDI's commitment to quality Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (P, M&E) practices grew internally and externally. Internally, CDI implemented innovative impact measurement approaches, including a Social Return on Investment (SROI) on the [Doodle Den Programme](#), which provided insights into the programme's social value. Externally, CDI continued to influence P and M&E processes within the Area Based Childhood (ABC) programme and Tusla. Notably, CDI led the operationalisation of the ABC Outcomes Framework, which is intended to measure and report collectively on the impact of the ABC Programme.

a) Independent evaluation and utilisation of internal data

CDI completed an SROI analysis of the Doodle Den programme, which estimated the social value of the programme. SROI is a participatory, innovative approach to understanding the environmental and social value created by organisations and the financial value generated. Through consultations with various stakeholders, including children, parents, and Doodle Den Facilitators, it was established that for every €1.00 invested in Doodle Den, the programme generates between €1.19 and €2.59 in social value. Some of the recommendations from

the SROI study included upscaling the SROI evaluation and applying it to other CDI programmes.

In 2023, CDI piloted the delivery of [Doodle STEAM](#), a programme designed to improve Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths (STEAM) learning outcomes for young children in disadvantaged communities. An independent outcomes evaluation of Doodle STEAM was undertaken during 2023 and reported that the programme considerably impacted the attitudes, confidence, and perceived competence of parents/carers to support STEAM activities for children. The evaluation also found that parents frequently engaged in STEAM with their children after the programme.

In 2023, CDI commissioned Trinity College Dublin to undertake an outcomes evaluation of the Meitheal aspect of the Nova Youth Mental Health programme¹. The evaluation specifically focuses on the effectiveness of Meitheal aspect of Nova in supporting children with emotionally based school avoidance back into school, reducing inappropriate referrals to other health and social care services; facilitators and barriers to successful implementation of Meitheal and how to scale up the Meitheal model to address youth mental health. CDI anticipates the evaluation report to be launched in 2024.



In 2023, CDI distributed [Talk to Your Baby Cubes](#) to parents, a colourful conversation cube featuring engaging prompts for parents to talk to their baby, targeting topics related to social-emotional learning. In 2023, CDI began an evaluation of the Talk to Your Baby Cube to assess how it improves parents' engagement in conversations with their baby and parents' knowledge of the socio-emotional development of their baby. As part of the evaluation, CDI conducted a literature review on the science of brain development in infants, the parent/caregiver's role in communication development and attachment, immersion and technoference² and its impact on infant-caregiver relationships and early childhood development. Evaluation of the Talk to Your Baby cube will be completed in 2024

with a report and literature review paper to be published.

CDI gave considerable attention to further developing internal capacity in research, monitoring, and evaluation in 2023. CDI's P, M&E Unit and Programme staff completed Power BI training, equipping the team with skills in using data visualisation to story tell CDI's impact. The training was important in ensuring an understanding of data visualisation and enhancing the dissemination of impact reports. Also to accurately measure the impact of all CDI programmes, data were collected, analysed, and reports compiled for each CDI programme in 2023. Results from the analysis were used to improve CDI's interventions and inform planning and implementation.

¹ See section 5.8 of this report to learn more about NOVA or visit our website here <https://www.cdi.ie/programmes/nova/>

² Technoference is defined as parents' use of technological devices that interferes with or interrupts everyday normal family relations and interactions, including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, mealtimes, and leisurely time together. Mackay, L.J., Komanchuk, J., Hayden, K.A. et al. Impacts of parental technoference on parent-child relationships and child health and developmental outcomes: a scoping review protocol. *Syst Rev* 11, 45 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-022-01918-3>

b). Addressing child poverty in Tallaght and beyond

In 2023, CDI followed up on recommendation in its [“Over the Fence: Child Poverty study”](#)³. With additional Tusla funding, CDI engaged a poet to work with children on some of the recommendations from the study. Through a series of workshops, children and young people articulated child poverty concerns, experiences and solutions for the community. The report and poems will be published in early 2024.

c). Quality child and family services, including training and consultancy

Regarding wider influence, Tusla commissioned CDI to lead the operationalisation of the ABC Outcomes Framework in 12 ABC areas across Ireland. CDI recruited a National Research and Data Specialist to work with ABC to align their internal monitoring and evaluation practices to the ABC Outcomes Framework. The work strengthened the 12 areas’ internal monitoring and evaluation processes and supported collecting outcome data using recommended measures. CDI also trained over 50 ABC staff in outcome-based evaluation, data collection and quality. With support from CDI, all the 12 ABC areas can now collectively measure and report the impact of the ABC programme.

To support the implementation of the ABC Outcomes Framework across 2024, CDI successfully applied for a What Works Building Evidence Grant worth €40,000.00. The grant will be used throughout 2024 to build the foundations of an information management system for the ABC Outcomes Framework and to support the 12 areas that collect, input, and analyse outcome data.

In 2023, CDI contributed to the development of the Tusla Outcomes Framework which provides guidance on measuring the impact of Tusla’s work nationally.

4.2 Challenges and Opportunities

The emerging data from the recent national Census will provide CDI with important information on local and national sociodemographics. From the Census data, CDI will extract insights on the local population, thereby informing changes or additions to service delivery and identifying areas and cohorts with the greatest need.

Finding time to effectively disseminate findings from our ongoing monitoring processes is always challenging, as more pressing operational demands tend to distract from these more strategic activities. Plans to take a Masters Intern in late spring 2024 may provide an opportunity to give this greater attention.

In terms of CDI’s work at the national level, CDI coordinates the ABC Outcomes Framework working group. The working group informs and guides the operationalisation of the BC Outcomes Framework and has helped troubleshoot and promote engagement.

4.3 Targets for 2024:

- In 2024, CDI aims to develop an Information Management System for all its work. This will further improve how CDI measures and reports on the impact of its work
- We will continue to progressively strengthen staff capacity, particularly in using data for reporting and planning, development of data collection tools, and data analysis and visualisation
- We aim to widely disseminate the learning and findings from all CDI interventions across different platforms, including conferences, workshops, programme reports, and journal publications.

³ The “Over the Fence”: Child Poverty Study, is available for download from <https://www.cdi.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CDI-Child-Poverty-Report-min.pdf>



5. SERVICE DELIVERY

5. Service Delivery



5.1 ATTI

5.1.1 Progress on actions:

2023 was a year of change, refocus and reinvigoration for the [Antenatal to Three initiative](#) (ATTI) in CDI. In April 2023, the role of ATTI coordinator was vacated, and this was considered a useful point at which to review the work of ATTI and the needs of families expecting or with a baby in Tallaght. In July of 2023, CDI commissioned Neil Haran to undertake a series of consultations with stakeholders relevant to the Antenatal to Three Initiative (ATTI).

This consultation was completed in December 2023 with the publication of a comprehensive consultation report, which identified 13 key themes of perceived need or gaps in provision for the antenatal to three cohorts

in Tallaght. The consultation process also reviewed ATTI's internal operations and built on internal discussions regarding the benefits of integrating service delivery supports for parents of children from antenatal to three into the Powerful Parenting Programme. The continuation of a redefined interagency group was a key recommendation.

5.1.2 Challenges and Opportunities

From April 2023 to October 2023, when a coordinator was absent, and while the ATTI programme was being reimagined, limited activity related to the programme's outcomes occurred.

The ATTI consultation process and subsequent report give CDI a great opportunity to streamline support for parents antenatally up to age five and to refocus the Powerful Parenting Working Group in 2024 in response to identified themes of greatest need.

5.1.3 Targets for 2024

2024 will see the cessation of the Antenatal to Three Initiative (ATTI) as a stand-alone programme of work, following its incorporation into Powerful Parenting Programme.

Key outcomes of ATTI and identified outputs will be incorporated into the Powerful Parenting Logic Model.

A referral process will be developed and circulated, whereby services can refer individual parents (expecting or with children under five years) to CDI's Parent/Carer Facilitators (PCFs) for one-to-one or small group support.

A workshop with specialist services will be held, at which referral processes will be shared and connections established so that PCFs are engaged early in supporting vulnerable families.

A comprehensive implementation plan will be developed to deliver the recommendations from the ATTI Consultation. This will be supported by the newly established Powerful Parenting Working Group.

5.2 Powerful Parenting

5.2.1 Progress on actions:

2023 saw changes to the internal personnel and structure of our [Powerful Parenting Programme](#), with the addition of a Support Officer role and a change in the focus of the Co-ordinator role. Additionally, responsibility for integrating and coordinating the ATTI programme came under the remit of Powerful Parenting.

The year saw the continued application of the Powerful Parenting Programme Model across seven Early Learning and Care (ELC) settings in Dublin 24 through a team of Parent Carer Facilitators.



PCFs were available to the parents of over 200 children under the age of six years attending the seven ELC services. They provided community-based support through parent/toddler groups and infant massage courses for parents of younger children not yet engaged with the ELC.

In 2023, the Powerful Parenting team:

- Held 302 one-to-one meetings with parents
- Hosted 30 coffee mornings for parents
- Hosted 38 family events within the ELCs
- Established weekly parent-toddler group sessions during term-time
- Facilitated nine Infant Massage courses, reaching 56 parents and infants
- Facilitated four Parents Plus Early Years courses, reaching 14 parents
- Conducted 60 home visits

- Incorporated the [PEEP Learning Together Programme](#) into the parent-toddler groups and as a follow-on from Infant Massage courses.

The parental engagement activity with the highest attendance in 2023 was our family events, with 847 parents/ carers participating in activities with their children.

In 2023, the Powerful Parenting Programme held its first community-wide information event for new and expectant parents. Relevant professionals and services came together to showcase their support and engage with new parents and their babies living in Dublin 24.

The Powerful Parenting Programme also supported all seven parent-toddler groups to host Paediatric First Aid training for parents in December 2023.

While the Powerful Parenting Programme has always advocated for the involvement and inclusion of fathers in children's learning and development, we saw increased attendance of fathers in our programme over 2023. For example, the period of September to December 2023 saw a 106% increase in fathers' attendance at our parental engagement activities compared to the same period in 2022. In recent years, enhanced participation of fathers in parenting activities has been a key focus, and so it is very positive to see this gain.

In 2023, funding was received to recruit and place a PCF within [International Protection Accommodation Services \(IPAS\)](#) to begin to support parents and families through our programme model. From July 2023 to December 2023, the programme within IPAS resulted in the following:

- A PCF supporting families living in six IPAS settings in the geographical area.
- Parent-toddler groups established within the IPAS settings, incorporating elements of the *4 The Family programme*, Stay and Play, and education on developmental milestones for children.
- Infant massage courses delivered to 14 parents and babies under one year across IPAS.
- Contributing to interagency structures advocating for the rights and needs of children and families living in IPAS, and attending interagency committees focused on coordinating supports.

5.2.2 Opportunities and Challenges

In October 2023, the decision was made to combine the Antenatal to Three Initiative (ATTI) programme with the Powerful Parenting Programme in CDI. Front-line engagement with parents of young children was already in place through infant massage and parent-toddler groups. It was seen as timely to better integrate our antenatal to



three supports into the Powerful Parenting Model, bringing opportunities to refocus interventions and activities to better support parents and families at an earlier stage of their parenting journey.

The Powerful Parenting Programme experienced periodic gaps in service delivery during 2023 due to staff vacancies. Recruitment and retention of PCFs is a priority for 2024, with enhanced recruitment strategies to increase our workforce in 2024.

5.2.3. Targets for 2024

- Complete a comprehensive logic model review and aligned monitoring and evaluation plan to incorporate perinatal supports into the existing Powerful Parenting Model and drive the operational plans going forward.
- Recruit and retain PCFs to deliver our programme model and put systems in

place to manage any gaps in the PCF team when vacancies arise.

- Continue to engage and support parents to a high level through our parental engagement activities (home visits, parental education courses, coffee mornings, family events, one-to-ones and referral support).
- Establish and embed the Powerful Parenting Working Group in 2024. This group will support CDI's work to ensure that all families with babies and preschool children living in Tallaght, particularly those in greatest need of support, are informed about and able to access a continuum of coordinated, quality services and supports.
- We aim to grow our targeted referral pathways and interagency work so that expectant and new parents in Tallaght have access to support in the first year of their child's life.

- At least one dedicated event/activity for fathers will be held in each service, and all materials should appropriately reflect fathers and other carers.
- We need to continue to evolve and adapt our interventions and resources based on the emerging needs of children and parents in Dublin 24.
- To relaunch and promote our learning through Parental Engagement and Relationships (PEAR) training within Ireland's Early Learning and Care sector.



5.3 Chit Chat

5.3.1 Progress on actions

The [Chit Chat service](#) continued to deliver early intervention speech and language interventions to children in Early Learning Centres (ELCs) and primary school settings

in Dublin 24. In the 2022/23 academic year, the Chit Chat service incorporated *Talk Boost*, a structured and evidence-based nine 10 – week intervention developed by *Speech and Language UK* to improve children's core language skills. The Talk Boost intervention is broken down into two components: Early Talk Boost (3–4 year olds, nine weeks) and Talk Boost Key Stage 1 (4–7 year olds, ten weeks).

- Talk Boost was delivered to 128 children in seven sites
- 40 children received additional 1-1 speech and language therapy support
- 31 Primary School Teachers participated in the Chit Chat Summer Course
- 160 parents participated in *Becoming a Sensory Detective* – an online course delivered over three sessions by *Everyday OT Ireland* on behalf of CDI
- 54 Parents participated in the *Skills of Daily Living* training– an online course delivered over three sessions by *Everyday OT Ireland* on behalf of CDI
- Chit Chat delivered *Toddler Talk*, an online parent training to 83 parents/ carers in Dublin 24
- 12 service provider meetings were completed in partnership with the Powerful Parenting Programme
- We welcomed two new term-time Senior SLTs to the team in April 2023.

- We launched our Pathways for Children with Additional Needs Resource in November 2023. This guide was developed to support parents and caregivers concerned about their child's development. It arose from a need within the community for both parents and practitioners alike who were unsure of how to access support, what supports were available in Dublin 24 and where to begin their journey.
- We held 7 Talk to Your Baby Cube Events in Tallaght Library, with 58 Parents receiving Talk to Your Baby cubes. We began evaluating this project via parental pre- and post-surveys. We

connected with various groups, such as Barnardo's Teen Parents, The Coombe, and HSE Primary Care SLT service, to disseminate the cube to parents.

5.3.2 Opportunities and Challenges

In the 2022/23 academic year, the Chit Chat service underwent a comprehensive logic model review, which resulted in a new model of service delivery. The programme experienced a transitional period with the creation of a new logic model as the service's desired outcomes changed to align with the ABC Outcomes Framework. The changes in reporting were implemented halfway through the academic year, in December 2022/ January 2023.



The Chit Chat service experienced gaps in service delivery from October 2022 to April 2023 due to two staff grade Speech and Language Therapists vacancies. This led to a review of resourcing allocation to the service and resulted in the creation of two term-time Senior SLT posts, which were filled in April 2023. It is hoped that this model will minimise staff retention issues that previously impacted this service.

5.3.3 Targets for 2024

- Operationalise the new Chit Chat model of service delivery in full
- Train Primary School Teachers and Early Learning and Care practitioners in *Talk Boost Key Stage 1 & Early Talk Boost*
- Roll out *Loving Listening Groups* to support children in ELCs
- Deliver *Speech, Language and Communication in the Primary Classroom and Beyond*– our online summer course in July 2024 to 70 Primary School Teachers.
- Continued dissemination of ‘*Support Pathways for Children with Additional Needs*’ resource
- Continue to roll out our Talk to Your Baby Cube Project and complete the evaluation.



5.4 Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

5.4.1 Progress on actions

[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library \(DPIL\)](#) saw 57,844 books delivered to children living in Dublin 24 during 2023. An average of 4,820 books were delivered monthly and 1,441 new children from Tallaght were registered for the programme. DPIL was supported by various funding streams in 2023, including ABC, [Amazon Web Services](#), [the Stocker Foundation](#), [HSE National Lottery](#) and [ESB Energy for Generations](#).

In September 2023, the Imagination Library celebrated the milestone of having delivered 200 million books internationally! To celebrate this amazing gift to children globally since

the establishment of the library in 1995, seven 'golden ticket' Dolly bookmarks were hidden in books posted to children in five countries. One of these bookmarks was delivered to one of our Dublin 24 registered children, who decided to remain anonymous. This lucky recipient was gifted a personal video chat with Dolly, an autographed photo from Dolly and a personalised signed letter. Further to this, CDI received a £2,000 donation from the Dollywood Foundation, which supported book provision in December 2023.

We hosted an end-of-year family event in the County Library in Tallaght in November 2023 to celebrate books delivered throughout the year. The day included music, song, dance, STEAM activities, and much more, with dozens of local families attending.

5.4.2 Challenges and Opportunities

Key challenges to the Imagination Library in 2023 included:

- Understaffing of Public Health Nurses (PHNs) in Tallaght. PHNs are key supports in engaging families to register for the Imagination Library
- Although we reach well over 70% of children under the age of five in Tallaght, we are conscious that we don't have 100% coverage. Identifying children who are not receiving books is a challenge.

Opportunities in 2023 included:

- Opportunities for CDI to consistently engage with our funding partners and An Post and to utilise the database of registered families to promote participation in local events and programmes.

5.4.3 Targets for 2024

- To maintain and continue to establish relationships with local businesses and agencies in Tallaght, to ensure all children avail of the programme and to support The Imagination Library through fundraising
- Register 1,212 additional children with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Monthly delivery of approximately 4,918 high-quality books, to children in Dublin 24, reaching 75% of the population of 0–5 year olds
- Undertake a mapping exercise to establish which areas in Tallaght are seeing lower levels of book delivery and develop effective strategies to engage hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups
- Maintain regular contact with families registered with DPIL, providing them with added value activities in the form of emails, social media posts, information on local activities and prompts to support a positive home learning environment



- Disseminate programme data and parent survey responses to promote the programme with parents, service providers and potential funders
- Celebrate the delivery of 300,000 books to children in Tallaght with a fun-filled day for families with children aged 0 – 8 years.



5.5 Doodle Den

5.5.1 Progress on actions

[Doodle Den](#) was implemented across the 2022/23 academic year and continues to be rolled out in schools across the 2023/24 academic year. We hosted two Community of Practice meetings in CDI and two in Dublin City Centre. Each Doodle Den group received two site visits from CDI's Associate Quality Specialists. The Doodle Den portal was extensively reviewed and brought up to date, and going forward, the portal will be available to all facilitators via CDI's SharePoint.

During the 2022/23 school year:

- 11 groups of children in Dublin 24 participated in Doodle Den
- 11 groups of children in Dublin 1 and Dublin 7 participated in Doodle Den

- One group of children in Limerick participated in Doodle Den.

During the 2023/24 school year:

- Eight groups of children in Dublin 24 are engaging with Doodle Den
- 11 groups of children in Dublin 1 and Dublin 7 are engaging with Doodle Den
- One group of children in Limerick are engaging with Doodle Den.

5.5.2 Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges experienced during 2023 included:

- Integrating the ABC outcomes framework, including the new intake forms, into the programme
- Training Doodle Den Facilitators to administer the new intake forms

and gain buy-in. However, this was successfully navigated as CDI ultimately saw a form return rate of >80%.

5.5.3 Targets for 2024

- In 2024, we aim to continue working with the current sites (D24, D1, D7 and Limerick) with a total of seventeen groups delivering Doodle Den, reaching up to 255 children and families
- We will undertake preparatory work on gathering intake forms in June 2024, which will take less time in September 2024.
- The Social Return on Investment (SROI) research for the Doodle Den sites, families and children will be completed. Learning will be extracted, and an Implementation Plan will be developed to ensure any recommendations from the SROI research are progressed
- We will sustain high-quality delivery through ongoing training, reflective practice and quality assurance processes
- Two Community of Practices will be held, supporting the schools delivering the Doodle Den programme
- Two facilitator training sessions will be hosted for the Doodle Den programme.



5.6 Doodle Families

5.6.1 Progress on actions

[Doodle Families](#) was implemented across the 2022/23 academic year, and continues to be rolled out in schools during the 2023/24 academic year. Two Community of Practice meetings were hosted in CDI, and the Doodle Families portal was fully reviewed.

During January – June term of 2022/23 school year:

- Three schools in Dublin 24 implemented Doodle Families
- Three schools in Cork implemented Doodle Families
- Two schools in Limerick implemented Doodle Families.

During September – December term of 2023/24 school year:

- Four schools in Dublin 24 implemented

Doodle Families

- With the support of Amazon Web Services (AWS) funding, two Drogheda schools and one Kilmore (Dublin 17) implemented Doodle Families.

5.6.2 Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges experienced during 2023 included:

- Similarly to Doodle Den, there were challenges with integrating the new ABC outcomes framework and encouraging facilitators' buy-in to move all Doodle Families data collection online. This process required input from several CDI staff members, adapting the data collection processes and training for all Doodle Families facilitators in the online methods. Any facilitators who did not attend training (i.e., they had previously completed the Doodle Families training) were offered a one-on-one or small group meeting with the

Literacy Coordinator to understand the new processes. Further, the Literacy Coordinator was available for ad-hoc check-ins via phone or email.

Opportunities in 2023 included:

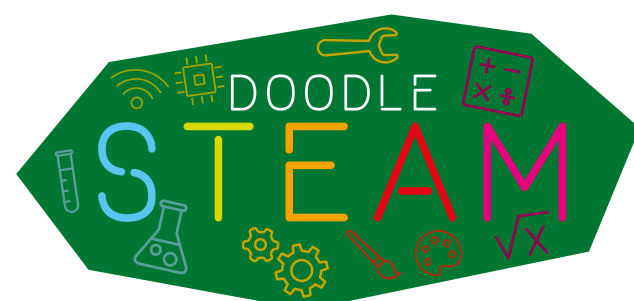
- Partnering with Amazon Web Services allowed us to expand the delivery of Doodle Families in areas such as Drogheda and Kilmore (Dublin 17). These schools have remained important partners, and we have now formed positive and consistent relationships in these new areas.

5.6.3 Targets for 2024

- We will implement Doodle Families to a total of 16 sites. Eight sites in Dublin 24 and eight sites in greater Dublin and nationwide (i.e., Limerick, Cork, Blanchardstown, Drogheda and Clonsaugh).
- We are committed to continuing to support those delivering the programme in Dublin 24, Co. Dublin, and nationwide (16 sites, reaching 240 children and their families).
- If funding allows, we will extend the programme to a wider range of schools.



- We will engage with relevant agencies and institutions to promote the programme, utilising programme data and qualitative feedback.
- We will host two COPs and two programme training sessions to support and educate current and new sites in Ireland.
- We will collect and analyse data and disseminate findings.
- We will use the findings to inform programme and material updates.



5.7 Doodle STEAM

5.7.1 Progress on actions

After a successful pilot in 2022, [Doodle STEAM](#) was implemented on a larger scale in 2023. We hosted two Doodle STEAM trainings in March and September 2023. We also hosted two Doodle STEAM Community of Practice meetings, where facilitators could share what they had learned and the challenges they experienced in delivering the programme.

During January – June term of 2022/23 school year:

- Seven schools implemented Doodle STEAM
- All seven schools also participated in an independent evaluation of Doodle STEAM with social research consultant Neil Haran. The evaluation report, which will be published in early 2024, points towards the programme's positive impacts.

During the September–December term of 2023/24 school year:

- Ten schools implemented Doodle STEAM.
- One of the Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) teachers who implemented the programme in 2023 had the following feedback to share:



Doodle STEAM is one of the most enjoyable parent courses I ran as an HSCL. The training was thoroughly enjoyable as it was hands-on and practical. We had great fun during the day trying out all the activities! The number of parents involved grew over the course of the programme as word spread about how much fun we were having. I would highly recommend Doodle STEAM to all schools.



5.7.2 Challenges and opportunities

Challenges experienced during 2023 included:

- A logistical issue that has arisen relates to the fact that Doodle STEAM targets a similar demographic of parents to Doodle Families. Schools may sign up for both programmes and later have to drop out of one programme due to overlap and resultant non-attendance.

Opportunities which arose during 2023 are:

- Doodle STEAM featured at the Sci:Com conference in December, with a presentation on the programme.
- We were successful in securing a Science Foundation Ireland Discover grant to the value of €40,000 to expand Doodle STEAM and conduct a children's evaluation (2024).
- There is potential to explore the adaptation of Doodle STEAM for parents of children at a younger age.

5.7.3 Targets for 2024

- Implement Doodle STEAM in nine groups (across up to six schools/sites)
- Continue to support the groups currently delivering the Doodle STEAM programme.

- Support an additional ten groups with funding from the Dublin West Education Centre and Science Foundation Ireland.
- Develop new partnerships with individuals and organisations that will support the delivery of the programme in sites nationwide.
- Train Associate Quality Specialists to support the programme delivery nationally.
- We will develop a programme hub in Dublin 1/7, Galway, Louth, and Cork. In this hub, trained Associate Quality Specialists in these areas will promote the Doodle STEAM programme and co-facilitate training for recruited schools. This activity will contr the target of delivering Doodle STEAM to an additional ten groups nationwide.
- We will collect and analyse data, disseminate findings and update the programme and materials accordingly.
- Two Community of Practice meetings will be hosted, during which facilitators will share the learning and challenges of programme delivery and receive support from the Quality Specialist and other facilitators.



5.8 Nova Youth Mental Health

5.8.1 Progress on actions

2023 was a busy year for [Nova](#), with the programme entering the implementation phase of the pilot. 2023, the appointment of a new coordinator, Michelle Collins, was also made. Overall, it was a significant year for the project, seeing Nova increase its reach and visibility in Dublin 24. Nova works with five primary schools and four secondary schools at present.

Nova is supported through several structures, each of which has clear terms of reference and drives one of the five work packages. The Working Groups and Advisory Group continued to meet throughout the year, and the stakeholders provided excellent involvement and expertise.

School Avoidance Toolkit

- This year saw the initial vision for the School Avoidance Toolkit start to materialise. The Working Group met multiple times and agreed on the core concepts, and CDI will continue to work on the Toolkit over the summer of 2024, with a view to it being launched for the academic year 2024–2025. The working group has a vision for this toolkit to be digital in nature, allowing for the content to be updated regularly
- September 2023 saw the rollout of the FRIENDS intervention commence in all nine pilot schools. All Nova schools had the opportunity to train teachers in facilitating this evidence-based programme with the National Educational Psychology Service (NEPS)
- Following rigorous discussions amongst CDI staff and other stakeholders, a key set of tools was decided upon for the evaluation of the FRIENDS intervention, with results informing future delivery
- All nine schools received quarterly site visits, with some schools having additional visits to help establish the programme.

In 2023, CDI built a close relationship with *FRIENDS Resilience Organisation* through constant liaising. There is a keen interest from FRIENDS to support the Nova programme and its continued rollout.



2023 saw Nova launch FRIENDS, iron out many of the data collection processes and continue offering ongoing support to schools.

Meitheal+

Late 2023 also laid the foundations for the Meitheal+ work package to start. Nova worked with Tusla Education Support Services (TESS) to develop referral criteria and consent forms for the Nova programme. Nova began working with three families in late 2023, with a timeline in place to accept more referrals from TESS. It is intended that Nova will work with twenty young people and their families during the pilot. Meitheal meetings have been established for these young people and families, with the initial Meitheal for each family taking place at the end of 2023.

The second significant piece of work undertaken regarding Meitheal+ in 2023 saw the addition of research expertise from Trinity

College Dublin through CDI, commissioning an action research project with CDI. Through an external evaluation, the viability of Meitheal+ will be evaluated as a scalable model for intervention for school avoidance.

Reflective Practice

2023 saw the beginning of the planning process for the reflective practice spaces to begin, facilitated by the development of positive working relationships with the new Coordinator and schools. This will provide an important space for frontline staff to consider case studies and challenging work in a confidential and professionally facilitated forum.

5.8.2 Challenges and Opportunities

There have been many challenges and opportunities for Nova in 2023. Alongside staff changes, it was also a period of growth, with many challenges successfully overcome

through careful planning and new line management structures. Challenges included:

- Maintain continuity of knowledge of Nova while there were significant staff changes. Handovers, management knowledge of the programme and staff induction managed this
- Maintaining established relationships with schools and stakeholders. This was managed by regular Working Group and Advisory Group meetings, and the project structure
- Planning time needed for implementation of FRIENDS. This has been managed by line management guidance and through prioritisation of work packages
- As planned, the referral criteria and scope of the Meitheal intervention were agreed upon, and this model will be scalable in the future. This was managed

through stakeholder meetings, and the referral criteria are expected to be refined as the project becomes more established.

Just as there have been many challenges for Nova, there have equally been many opportunities to expand the programme, including:

- Nova was successfully awarded funding from Google in 2023 for developing the Safe Technology Use component in the Toolkit. This piece of work is ongoing
- This is an opportunity to strengthen the structure of the youth advisory group (YAG) in 2023, ensuring that the Nova programme is youth-led as much as possible. The YAG designed our programme logo, and Gaisce has recognised their efforts.

Nova collaborated with experts in school avoidance, passionate schools and teachers, international organisations, national statutory services, and young people during 2023. It is hoped that these successful partnerships can continue to contribute to the programme's success in 2024.

5.8.3 Targets for 2024

Some of the targets identified for 2024 include:

- Launch of the School Avoidance Toolkit in CDI. This aligns with the launch of



CDI's new website, which ensures that the Toolkit will have a modern and easily accessible home

- Year 2 of implementing FRIENDS in nine schools. The focus this year will be on improving the implementation quality of the programme. There will be an added focus on improving data collection, with relevant training being offered to schools. It is hoped that through careful planning at the end of the Academic Year 2023–2024, Nova can target whole class/year groups, with approximately 1000 students receiving FRIENDS interventions.

- It is hoped to pilot FRIENDS in one out-of-school setting, with work beginning on obtaining a licence for CDI to run FRIENDS within a youth setting. By using this setting to work with young people, richer comparative data will be obtained.
- The Business Development Team has begun to apply for grants for Nova to support schools with resources for the programme.
- Meitheal will continue to run in 2024, and now that the rota system has been established, the speed of referrals will pick up. TCD will continue to evaluate Meitheal+ in 2024.
- It is hoped that there will be greater representation from Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) and Assessment of Need (AON) units in Nova in 2024, with the presence of these agencies assisting in the assessment process for young people involved with Nova.
- 2024 will see the start-up of reflective practice spaces for schools and teachers involved with Nova. Nova will establish appropriately qualified support. These meetings will take place every six weeks during the academic year, and as outlined in the M&E plan, there will be tangible outputs from them.



5.9 Restorative Practices

5.9.1 Progress on Actions

2023 was another bumper year for our [Restorative Practices Programme](#) during which highlights included:

- CDI's Restorative Practices (RP) Training was delivered countrywide to at least 1,115 participants in 2023. This is the first year since we started delivering RP Training in 2013, and we have trained more than 1,000 people in one year.
- Nine in-person and one online RP Summer Course for Teachers were delivered in 2023.
- We graduated 31 new RP Trainers in 2023, and two Training of RP Training courses began in July and August with 22 participants.

- We launched Season Two of our RP Podcast ([Circles of Connection](#)) between April and June 2023, and by the end of the year, it had accumulated 3,863 listens.
- We delivered RP Training with the Senior Management Team of the Irish Prison Service between January and July 2023.
- In October 2023, we won the Best Not for Profit Award from the South Dublin Chamber of Commerce for our achievements with our Restorative Practices Programme, and we were very excited to be presented with the Award by Marty Whelan!
- We completed the Tomar Education Trust project, which supported us in delivering RP Training to 35 schools in Cork, Waterford, and Clare and in training 24 people as RP Trainers in the Munster area.
- We continued our work in Northern Ireland, delivering RP Training to people working with Community Restorative Justice Ireland and the [Education Authority of Northern Ireland](#).
- In November, we published two short courses for teachers to deliver to RP Training to 1st and 2nd Year students as part of the Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme.



5.9.2 Challenges and Opportunities

- We experienced a sharp increase in requests from schools, communities, and statutory organisations for RP training during 2023, which presented the challenge of meeting this rising demand. The increased demand from schools has arisen from the rapidly spreading word about the benefits of RP in schools since the Department of Education included RP training for all teachers in their 2017 Action Plan.
- Reorganising our shared filing system within CDI presented challenges across the Team.
- The development of a lovely new CDI logo, brand and website challenged us to redesign our RP Training Materials as quickly as possible.

Regarding opportunities, we secured funding from Microsoft for the [Tallaght Talks Project](#), which will facilitate restorative dialogue circles for Tallaght residents to discuss current issues in their communities. Other exciting initiatives include:

- The [Coca-Cola Thank You, Fund](#), began supporting us in recruiting and train 12 young people from Tallaght as RP Trainers.
- [Oberstown Children's Detention Campus](#) engaged with us on the development of restorative approaches

as part of their Strategic plans, which provides an opportunity for us to support them in fully embedding RP on the campus.

- We worked with [Waterford Wexford Education and Training Board \(WWETB\)](#) to submit a new Level Five RP Micro-Credential to QQI. This was accepted for validation and presents an opportunity for WWETB to deliver a new QQI-accredited course in restorative practices.

5.9.3 Targets for 2024:

In the year ahead, we will:

- Deliver 75 *Getting Started With RP* and 12 *RP Facilitation Skills* courses.
- Deliver four *Training of RP Trainers* courses.
- Develop supervision and reflective practice systems with the National Violence Reduction Unit staff at Midlands Prison during 2024 and 2025.
- Run the first Level 5 *Specific Purpose Certificate* in Restorative Practice at Waterford Wexford ETB.
- Facilitate four Communities of Practice and two CPD events for licensed RP trainers.
- Train 12 young people from Tallaght as RP Trainers during 2024

- Facilitate two sets of four restorative dialogue circles with Tallaght Residents in 2024.
- Develop and implement effective dissemination plans for two new Junior Certificate Learning Units and for a series of RP case studies.





6. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Auditor’s report

<div>CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (A company limited by guarantee)</div>
<div>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (CONTINUED)</div>

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinion 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 Directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the Directors' 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 the audit.

In our opinion, the accounting records of the Charity were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by Sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as 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 charitable 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

<div>CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (A company limited by guarantee)</div>
<div>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (CONTINUED)</div>

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.

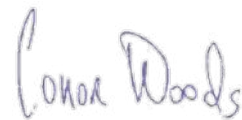
Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on IAASA's website at [https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-\(Ireland\)](https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-(Ireland)). This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

Use of our report

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



Conor Woods
for and on behalf of
Woods and Partners Limited
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
The Taney Buildings
3 Eglinton Terrace
Dundrum
Dublin 14

17 May 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (A company limited by guarantee)					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023					
	Note	Restricted funds 2023 €	Unrestricted funds 2023 €	Total funds 2023 €	Total funds 2022 €
Income from:					
Grants	2	1,694,549	132,988	1,827,537	1,788,646
Other income	3	-	103,690	103,690	72,966
Total income		1,694,549	236,678	1,931,227	1,861,612
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	1,675,559	105,538	1,781,097	1,762,985
Other expenditure	5	-	84,968	84,968	45,489
Total expenditure		1,675,559	190,506	1,866,065	1,808,474
Net movement in funds		18,990	46,172	65,162	53,138
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		(31,024)	119,408	88,384	35,246
Net movement in funds		18,990	46,172	65,162	53,138
Total funds carried forward		(12,034)	165,580	153,546	88,384

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 30 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

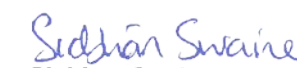
Balance Sheet

CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE				
(A company limited by guarantee)				
REGISTERED NUMBER: 433654				
BALANCE SHEET				
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023				
	Note	2023		2022
		€		€
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	10	34,267		20,268
		34,267		20,268
Current assets				
Debtors	11	27,441	17,518	
Cash at bank and in hand		697,415	536,565	
		724,856	554,083	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(605,577)	(485,967)	
Net current assets		119,279		68,116
Total assets less current liabilities		153,546		88,384
Total net assets		153,546		88,384
Charity funds				
Restricted funds	14	(12,034)	(31,024)	
Unrestricted funds	14	165,580	119,408	
Total funds		153,546		88,384

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP Financial Reporting Standard 102; the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102").

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Directors and signed on their behalf by:


Catriona Rodgers
Director
Date: 17 May 2024


Siobhan Swaine
Director

The notes on pages 30 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE		
(A company limited by guarantee)		
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023		
	2023	2022
	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	185,675	284,623
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(24,825)	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(24,825)	-
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	160,850	284,623
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	536,565	251,942
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	697,415	536,565

The notes on pages 30 to 47 form part of these financial statements





7. CONCLUSION

7. Conclusion

This Annual Report has attempted to capture the breadth and depth of CDI's work, the range of services provided by our amazing staff, and the extent of our collaboration and engagement across the multiple organisations, communities and volunteers with whom we work.

In addition to outlining the outcomes achieved during 2023 and targets set for the coming year, we have described the approaches taken and the processes that underpin our interventions. It is not possible to fully document all the partners we work with, the expertise we draw on, and the support that enables us to deliver high-quality services, but we appreciate every meeting attended, insight shared, and guidance offered.



**Childhood
Development
Initiative**

TÚSLA An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

 **Area Based Childhood
Programme**



RCN: 20065577 CDI is fully compliant with the Charities regulator.