

**Irish Progressive Association for Autism Company Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and Not Having a Share Capital)**

**Directors report
Year ended 31st December 2015**

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31st December 2015.

Companies Act 2014

The Companies Act 2014 was commenced on the 1st June 2015 and on that date the company was converted to a company limited by guarantee under Parts 1 to 15 of that Act.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company continues to be the provision of support and services to children with autism and their families in Cork, from their operations base in 7 Weston View, Ballinrea Road, Carrigaline, Co. Cork. The organisation was established in 2001 (incorporated in 2005) and in that time the organisation has worked with thousands of families in the greater Cork area and beyond. In 2016 we are still committed to our ethos of "brightening the future for children with autism" and we remain focused on giving every child the opportunity to develop to their full potential. The company currently provides a wide range of services to over eighty children and adolescents through our Early Education Unit, Building Blocks Educational Support Service, PALS (Personal & Life Skills Programme) . The Family Support Service also deals with in excess of two hundred cases per annum to assist parents and families to secure services and entitlements for their children. The organisation's Advice Line Service also handles approximately one thousand five hundred calls per annum. The company has an unpaid Board of Directors who remain committed to putting the child at the centre of every decision and to continue to provide service and programme that reflect international best practise in the area service provision for persons with autism.

The company is a registered charity (Charity Number CHY 17702)

Development and performance

There have been no significant changes in the company's activities during the financial year. Overall 2015 was a successful year for the organisation with the continuing implementation of our development plan and the targeted increase in the number of client service hours. For the first time in the organisation's history we have exceeded twenty thousand client contact hours in a calendar year. The Early Education Unit and PALS Programme have both seen student numbers increase with 30 children graduated from these programmes in June 2015. The Building Blocks Educational Support programme continues to support children with autism in mainstream schools with in excess of 40 children enrolled in the programme during 2015. The Family Support and Advocacy Service have also seen a marked increase in activity with both phone calls to the helpline and client meetings increasing by over 18% during 2015.

The financial position of the organisation remains robust with a strong cash and asset position at the end of 2015. The company has again recorded a modest operating surplus of € 1,140 for the 2015 financial year which reflects our continuing prudent approach to the management of our finances. We have also recording an increase in staff costs for 2015 which directly corresponds to our increase in client hours. Net fundraising revenues have remained more or less static but overall fundraising revenues have shown a substantial decrease due to our decision to dramatically scale back our association with the supply of charity products to other organisations. The company has also financed a staff redundancy in 2015 of € 20,000 and recorded increases of approximately € 4,000 in general running costs and depreciation.

Assets and liabilities and financial position

The total assets of the company have increased by € 18,402, the total liabilities have increased by € 17,262, resulting in an increase in net assets of € 1,140.

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Directors report (continued)
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Principal risks and uncertainties

Even though the company's funding model is robust the organisation remains reliant on two key service agreements with the Department of Education & Skills and the HSE. These agreements are renewed on an annual basis and any suspension or withdrawal of these agreements could impact negatively on the organisation. As an organisation we remain in close contact with both programme funders and are fully compliant with their inspection and audit regimes. The organisation continues to retain a strong surplus and asset position should it be necessary to restructure or realign any particular service or programme. The organisation is also focused on other service provision opportunities to expand the revenue base in the coming years.

Likely future developments

The directors have no plans to change the core activities and operations of the company in the foreseeable future. We will continue with the implementation of the 2015 - 2018 Development Plan for the organisation. As an organisation we are committed to continuing to expand our existing services and programmes and to look at opportunities in the area of Post 18 Services and additional educational provision for children with autism in the Primary sector. We will continue to expand our online presence with the development of a second Social Skills app and the delivery of an online Autism Awareness Training Programme to the Department of Justice and Equality in 2016. As ever the organisation will look for opportunities where we feel we can make a difference with our experience and expertise in the area of service provision and education for children and people with autism and their families.

Results

The retained Surplus for the financial year amounted to € 1,140 and this was transferred to reserves at the year end.

Events after the end of the reporting period

There have been no events affecting the company since the year end.

Research and development

The company does not engage in research and development.

Political donations

The directors on enquiring, have satisfied themselves that no political donations have been made by the company.

Directors

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. Therefore the directors and secretary who served during the year did not have a beneficial interest in the company. All directors serve in a voluntary capacity.

There were no changes in directorships or memberships between the year end and the date of signing the financial statements.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of section 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personal with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are maintained at the registered office.

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Auditors

In accordance with section 383(2) of the Companies Act, 2014, the auditors, Brendan Murphy & Co., Chartered Accountants, will continue in office.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 18th May 2016 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Eamonn O'Donovan
Director

Paul McGuirk
Director