



# Directors Report 2021

**Irish Progressive Association for Autism CLG/Shine Ireland**

Weston View  
Ballinrea Road  
Carrigaline,  
Co Cork

**Registered No: 411442**  
**Registered Charity No: CHY17702**  
**Charities Regulator No: 20066444**

## **Irish Progressive Association For Autism Company CLG DIRECTORS' REPORT**

### **Financial Position:**

The financial position of the organisation continues to be very stable with a strong cash and asset position at 31 December 2021. The Early Intervention Group Tuition Scheme was renewed with the Department of Special Education for 2021/22 and a Grant Aid Funding Agreement was also agreed for 2022 with HSE Disability Services. The financial position of the organisation remains robust with a strong cash and asset position maintained throughout the year with a small operating surplus of €6,521.00 recorded for 2021.

### **Covid-19:**

The Board recognizes that 2021 was a particularly challenging year for the organisation, our staff, children and our parents. Operationally, the continuation of daily services in the Early Learning Unit (ELU) offered particular challenges in the areas of infection prevention and control and staffing. Although staff absences were an ongoing issue, with the full cooperation and diligence of the staff and parents we managed to maintain our full early intervention services throughout the year. The only closures we experienced were as a direct result of advice from the DEAS in line with a general closure of educational services nationwide. Infection prevention mitigation measures were maintained throughout the year in accordance with guidance from DEAS, NPHET and the HSPC.

The Parent Support Service, Behavioural Support Service, Building Blocks Service and Occupational Therapy service continued to operate successfully online during 2021 using online consultations via zoom and other platforms. During this period the client contact hours in these services were similar to pre-pandemic levels in 2019 and showed a 14% increase on 2020. During 2021 training and parent support events were migrated to the new Shine Educate online platform. This transition was successful with over nine hundred attendees participating in these online webinars and forums. The PALS (Personal & Life Skills) programme also transitioned to the Shine Educate platform with over two hundred children participating in the programme's new modular format.

### **Fundraising and Donations:**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the organisation was unable to hold the Annual Fundraising Ball and the Shine Ladies Lunch in 2021 due to ongoing restrictions. The loss of these two major fundraising events impacted heavily on our fundraising revenues for the year. During the same period both corporate and individual donations increased by 48% resulting in an overall decrease in fundraising and donations revenues of 23% during 2021.

### **Facilities Upgrades:**

A total of €39,000 was spent on upgrade works to both the ELU Sensory Room and the Sensory Garden/Outdoor Play Areas in 2021. Civil works to replace boundary walls and the fitting of a new safety surfaces were completed in the outdoor play area. Existing sensory equipment was replaced and new equipment was also added to the ELU sensory room at a cost of €9,000.00.

**Acknowledgements:**

The Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding efforts and ongoing commitment of all of our staff in supporting our children and families in very challenging conditions during 2021. Their singular focus on the advancement of the children in their care and their adherence to all infection mitigation measures was unwavering. We also want to thank the parents of the children attending our services for their adherence to our infection control guidelines and for working with us to keep our services open and running. The board also wishes to acknowledge the ongoing support of our colleagues in both the Department of Education, TUSLA and the HSE for their support and guidance during 2021.

**Future Projects:**

The board looks forward to the organisation launching two new initiatives in 2022. These programmes are in the area of Parent Wellbeing and Resilience and the Gateway Project that will support young autistic adults to secure employment in 2022. These projects when operational will allow us to positively impact the lives of more of our clients and families in the coming years.

**Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the company revolve around the continuing provision of funding by State bodies to enable the organisation to fulfil its mission to provide support and services to children and client families. The primary funders are the Department of Education and Skills and HSE Disability Services. The effects of the current pandemic also present additional risks and uncertainties. The company has remained in close contact with these bodies to ensure continuity of funding. The management and the directors of the organisation are confident that funding will continue to be provided as long as services are being provided. Increased investment and training in online services allied to prudent and close budgetary control of the finances assists in mitigating any risks and uncertainties.

**Financial Results**

The surplus for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €6,521.

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €739,044 (2020 - €720,223) and liabilities of €276,336 (2020 - €264,036). The net assets of the company have increased by €6,521.

**Directors and Secretary**

The directors who served throughout the financial year were as follows:

Eamonn O'Donovan  
Paul McGuirk  
Eoin Motherway  
Colette Quinn

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Paul McGuirk.

In accordance with the Constitution, the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

### **Future Developments**

The directors remain fully committed to taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety of our clients, staff and the general public as our services in 2022. In what has been a particularly challenging period over the last two years, the Board stands ready to respond to any further guidance from our service partners and the HPSC in the safe operation of our services. The strong financial position of the organisation affords Shine the opportunity to maintain current service and staff levels in the short and medium term should the covid-19 pandemic re-emerge during 2022. The board also remains committed to ensuring that Shine will continue to focus on innovative and imaginative ways to deliver our services and programmes safely in the months and years ahead to support the clients and families we serve.

### **Post Balance Sheet Events**

Between the year end and the signing of the financial statements, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has continued to cause significant financial market, economic and social disturbance globally including significant disruption to economic activity. However, the directors believe that this is a non-adjusting post balance sheet event for the company. The directors note that while the company's scale of operations have been affected, income remains stable and adequate to allow the company to meet its expenses as they fall due. Government funding of tuition is assured for the following twelve months and the company's staff continue to provide an efficient service for our children and client families. The directors will continue to monitor any significant adverse changes to cash flows, any adverse indicators in respect of the carrying value of assets and additional liabilities as a result of this pandemic, and take appropriate measures to address these matters, as required.

### **Political Contributions**

The company did not make any political donations in the current financial year.

### **Auditors**

The auditors, T A Sheehan & Co have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

### **Research and Development**

The company did not undertake any research and development activities during the year.

### **Statement on Relevant Audit Information**

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

## **Compliance Statement**

The directors are responsible for securing the company's compliance with its relevant obligations (compliance with both company and tax law) and with respect to each of the following three items, we confirm that it has/has not been done. We confirm:"

- the existence of a compliance policy statement;
- appropriate arrangements or structures put in place to secure material compliance with the company's relevant

obligations;

- a review of such arrangements and structures has taken place during the year

## **Accounting Records**

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at No.7, Weston View, Ballinrea Road, Carrigaline, Co. Cork.

## **Signed on behalf of the board**



**Eoin Motherway**  
**Chairperson/Director**

