



Chief Executives Address



The Association continued to provide services and supports to people with an Intellectual Disability and their families throughout 2010 in what was another very challenging year. A 5% cut in funding across the Health Sector resulted in a similar cut in the funding that the Association received from the Health Service Executive in 2010. However the Association has continued to work in partnership with the HSE-South to respond to planned and emergency needs of people with an Intellectual Disability throughout Kerry. As in 2009 the Association faced many challenges in meeting the needs of our service users and in providing new services for those who left school in June 2010. We were, however, able to maintain services at 2009 levels mainly due to our commitment to pay and non-pay cost savings initiatives that commenced in 2009 and continued through 2010,

The Association incurred a **deficit of €141,791 in 2010 compared to €72,008 in 2009**. The very cold weather at the beginning and end of 2010 resulted in significant increases in the heating costs in all our Centres. We also had a number of exceptional service costs due to changing care needs of a number of people we support.

Management and staff are fully committed to achieving maximum efficiency from all our resources while at the same time ensuring that our services and supports are focussed on best practice and respect for the personal outcome choices of those we support in our services. The insulation in a number of our facilities was upgraded with grant aid from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. Hopefully this will result in lower energy costs going forward. More detailed accounts for 2009 are available in the annual report.

The Association signed a Service Level Agreement with the HSE in 2010. Service Level Agreements will be reviewed annually to reflect service quality and quantum in relation to current HSE funding.

Services:

All of the Association's services operated satisfactorily in 2010.

All our residential and day facilities were fully utilised during 2010. We continued to develop our services and supports for people with Autism. Full residential and short breaks are provided in **'Brook Lodge'** near Listowel for a number of people with Autism. This service is very beneficial to those availing of it and their families. We will be developing and extending our Autism services and supports in partnership with the Health Services Executive over the coming years. The Association is continuing to work towards fully accessible community residences with single room occupancy and on-suite facilities.

Respite remains a very important support which the Association offers to families. There is an ever increasing demand for respite and in 2010 the Association endeavoured to satisfy as much demand as was possible. Respite will remain a priority for the Association over the next few years.

Person Centred Plans & Personal Outcomes are the underpinning principles of all the Association's services. All staff have now received training in Personal outcome Measures by our own qualified trainers and is implementing POMs for all those who are supported through our services. This is both challenging and exciting and complies with the recommendations in 'New Directions' – The Report of the National Working Group for the Review of HSE funded Adult Day Services.

The changing needs of our service users and the demands on our staff and facilities to cope with these changes continue to challenge the Association. Challenging behaviours which impact on everyone within a centre or community residence are also causing concern. We are addressing these challenges through staff training, individualised behaviour modification programmes supported by our Senior Clinical Psychologist.

Staff from the Association continues to be involved in **external committees** and task groups. By supporting and contributing to the work of these committees and task groups our staff make a contribution in many areas of interest and relevance to our work. Readily available support from colleagues throughout the country is an important resource for the Association and our involvement in external committees facilitates this.

I would like to thank our Chairperson, Eilish Perryman and the Board of directors for their support throughout the past year. Jim Sheehy was co-opted onto the Board in 2010 and brings with him a wealth of experience of Disability issues.

I would like to thank the **Ring of Kerry Cycle Committee** for nominating the Association as one of the beneficiaries of the 2010 Ring of Kerry Cycle. Thanks also to the **hundreds of cyclists** who raised sponsorship for the Association by cycling the Ring of Kerry. Very special thanks to **TLI Ltd** arranging a major upgrade of the insulation at Mount Eagle Lodge for their Christmas Charity Project in 2010. Working with a number of other specialist contractors TLI organised an external wall and attic insulation at Mount Eagle Lodge. Thanks also to **Liebherr Container Cranes Ltd** for organising the Annual Golf Classic again in 2010.

Thanks also to the parents and families of our service users, our Branch officers and members, all those who raise funds for the Association and the many hundreds of people who support the Association in so many different ways. To the staff of the HSE-South, Departments of Health and Education, Kerry VEC, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and Inclusion Ireland and to colleagues in other services in Cork and Kerry I extend my thanks and appreciation for their support. Finally my thanks to our senior management team and all other staff throughout the Association for their continued commitment to the people we support and their families in very challenging times.

Tony Darmody

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Chief Executive.