KARE

Promoting Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities

1967- 2017

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

About KARE

KARE provides support to people who have an intellectual disability and their families. We were founded in 1967 and work in the mid and south Kildare, east Offaly, west Wicklow and northeast Carlow areas of Ireland. We believe that people with an intellectual disability are important and should be a part of their community like everyone else. We work with each individual who uses the service to support them to develop their skills and abilities so that they can live the life of their choice

Front Cover

Designed by Eyre Street Local Service Art Group.

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CEO's Welcome

Welcome to the 2017 annual report. This year marked a very important milestone for KARE as we celebrated 50 years of service. As you read through the report you will see that KARE began with a group of people, who clearly were visionaries at the time, and who set out to ensure that children with disabilities could be at home with their families and receive their education in their local community. From this small beginning the organisation has grown to become both nationally and internationally regarded as an example of excellent services to people with Intellectual Disability.

I am often asked what is it that makes KARE the success it is and in my view that is because of a number of key factors. Firstly, we have a strong Board, the vast majority of whom have a lived experience of Intellectual Disability, who are committed to excellence, quality and have a strong voluntary ethos. Secondly, the staff across the organisation believe in and have a strong commitment to real person- centeredness. They ensure that the focus, on a day-to-day basis, is kept on the people who matter most, those individuals with an Intellectual Disability who use the service. Thirdly, as you read this report you can see that the organisation has changed, expanded and developed in so many ways over the years. This would not have been possible without a staff group who embrace change, are flexible and always strive to be the best that they can be. Finally, I would also emphasise the importance of the partnership between an organisation like KARE and the State. Our main link here is the HSE and we have worked closely with them over the years to respond to the needs of people with Intellectual Disabilities and their families.

As I approach retirement from KARE after 26 years I would like to thank the HSE and all of the agencies locally and nationally who support and have supported the work of KARE over the last 50 years. I would like to thank the Board , the people who use the service, their families, the staff and all associated with KARE for their unfailing support of the organisation.

I am sure those individuals who came together 50 years ago and established the organisation KARE, would be very proud of what the organisation has become. I am confident that KARE will continue to expand, develop, grow and continue to promote excellence in the provision of services to people with Intellectual Disabilities and their families into the future. I wish the organisation every success as it commences the next leg of the journey to promote Inclusion for people with Intellectual Disabilities.

Christy Lynch
Chief Executive Officer

Chairperson's Report

It has been my great pleasure and indeed honour to be chairman of KARE for this very important year as we celebrated 50 years of the organisation. In my view KARE is one of the great success stories of Kildare, West Wicklow and East Offaly and is the result of so many people's hard work and endeavours over all of those years. I am happy that throughout our time we have maintained a strong commitment to good governance and to the importance of being community based and fundamentally keeping our focus on those who matter most "The people we serve".

From its very beginning KARE relied heavily on voluntary effort and over the 50 years that has continued and is reflected in the fact that all of our board members are volunteers many of whom have been with the organisation for a very long time. It has rightly been a year of celebrating our success and I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to thank Anne Coffey and the committee who co-ordinated all of the 50th anniversary celebrations. I would also like to thank all of the staff who organised local events for children / adults and their families to mark this important milestone in our history.

As you are be aware we had been in discussions with Sunbeam House Services with a view to a possible merger of the two organisations. During 2017 the KARE Board made the decision not to proceed with the merger and to continue as a stand-alone organisation. I would like to thank all of the staff and in particular the management team who played an important role during that period in keeping the organisation growing and developing.

In conclusion I would like to pay particular thanks to all of the staff for their commitment and loyalty and the many volunteers who served on committees, branches and within the service. Also those who participated in fund raising events over the past 50 years all of whom helped to make the organisation the excellent service that it is today.

Sean Bagnall
Chairperson - KARE

Build Supports for a Good Life

As an organisation KARE strives to identify the needs of the person. Through planning with the individual and their families KARE can support the person in implementing change in their lives and achieving their goals and ambitions.

Pictured on the left is Stephen Cash who completed the 5k Runamuck Challenge in September 2017.

"I took part in a Runamuck in September 2017 with my Keyworker PJ. I am very proud of my achievement"

Pictured are the Eyre Street Bocce team who entered the Special Olympics competition in June.
We are all very proud of their success

L- R: John Byrne, Laurence Enright, Stephen Cash, Sinead Devine, Niamh Devine, PJ O'Neill

Tess Mangan took on the challenge to achieve her goal of completing a 5k walk in 2017. Through making healthy choices with her meals and regular training sessions Tess achieved her goal. Tess really enjoyed the gym and going for regular long walks.

"I am very proud to say I achieved a personal goal last September by entering and taking part in my first 5k walk/race."
Tess Mangan

Build Supports for a Good Life

Yarn Bombing was a recurring theme in 2017 with fantastic examples on show in both Newbridge & Edenderry

Yarn Bomb Newbridge

"For a good few months more than 1,000 people aged between 4 - 95 have been knitting, stitching and crocheting to decorate Linear Park in Newbridge for this year's June Fest. We in Newbridge Local Service and Eyre St got involved. We enjoyed the experience, putting this amazing colourful display together and will continue to get involved in future years".

From top L- R: Sinead Conlon, Patrick Smullen, Hannah Culleton, Tony Thorpe, and Phylis Tierney

Edenderry's first ever yarn bomb project was inspired this year to mark KARE's 50th Anniversary. Yarn bombing is a fun way to bring a bit of life, colour and a feeling of belonging to the community. This project was too big for us to take on alone so we called upon the community to assist us and the community came out in force. Those who helped in this project include: ICA, Library Knitting Group, Nan & Kitty Usher, Mary Tulíe Daly, Teresa Farrelly, Ann Gorman, Mary O'Reilly, Madeline Conlon, Teach Na Nóg & Women's Shed.

Build Supports for a Good Life

"My name is Ben Hogan and I attend Clane Adult Support Service. Last December my support worker Dave and I headed off to Manchester to see my favourite team play. Yes, you guessed right, Man U or as the real supporter would know them the 'Red Devils'.

It was a dark wintery morning when Dave and I got the green bus to Dublin Airport to catch an early Aer Lingus flight to Manchester. Dave and I checked into a hotel in the city, had a lovely meal and headed off to Old Trafford to see my team play Bournemouth. The next day Dave and I had a tour of the stadium, the Manchester Museum and also took in the sights of the city. My idol was George Best who Matt Busby described as a 'pure genius'. Manchester is a lovely place and I really enjoyed my trip to Old Trafford with Dave. Come on MAN U."

Our ***"Music in Motion"*** choir has been going from strength to strength. The choir was honoured to be invited to perform at the Kildare County Council offices as part the County Kildare Social Inclusion Week and also at the 2017 KARE AGM where they received rave reviews from the audience. Rehearsals are ongoing with some exciting projects ahead.

L- R: Margaret Jones, Denise Brady, Ryan Knott, Hannah Brennan, Francis Dalton, Stephen Prendergast, Michael Baldwin, Lisa Conway, Declan O'Connor, Laura Burke, Niamh Devine, Paul Tobin, Anita Mills, Brian O'Neill, Siobhan Doyle, John Byrne, Aisling Coleman, Lorraine Martin, Tina Crawford

Build Supports for a Good Life

Mark O Keeffe, with two staff from Kerry Foods, Shillelagh, Co Wicklow, at a music session in Tinahely Local Service. KARE in Tinahely have a fantastic link with Kerry Foods and amongst other activities some staff drop by every month for a lively music session.

Links with the local community are vitaly important and Tidy Towns is truly embedded in Irish communities. With this in mind the crew from Newbridge Local Service decided to get their hands dirty, get involved and in the process commemorate 50 years of KARE. The Tidy Towns committee helped the group plan, dig and plant a flower bed. A special word of thanks to Ger Delaney who dug the area, Mary Condon who supported us in picking the plants and Deaglán de Paor for his continuous encouragement in supporting the group to promote inclusion and community involvement. Service users and staff in the Newbridge area will take great pride and pleasure in the maintenance and upkeep of this bed. It was a most welcome collaboration between KARE and Newbridge Tidy Towns.

Build Supports for a Good Life

As part of Scifest 2017, Shane McGilton (Outreach), exhibited his project on earthquakes and their effects on building structures. The exhibition took place in the National Science Gallery and Shane was awarded a commendation for his project.

INSPIRATIONAL COLOURS was an exhibition of artworks by studio artists from the Kilkenny Collective for Arts Talent (KCAT) studio Callan, Kilkenny. The works in "Inspirational Colours" were selected and curated by artists from the art group, KARE, Eyre Street, Newbridge. The exhibition represented the first collaboration between these two art groups and was the first KCAT exhibition in Newbridge.

St. Mark's

On Wednesday 13th December St. Mark's School held their annual Christmas dinner. The third-year classes and our cookery teacher Joan had worked hard in preparation for this great event. As part of the celebration of KARE's 50th Anniversary, a donation was made from KARE to help fund the event. All classes in the school helped to make this a very special occasion. Each class produced a Christmas-themed work of art and these were all on display around the hall. Many staff members pitched in to prepare and serve the delicious meal to all students and staff members as well as a few guests.

St. Anne's

The pupils began a very successful transition from the Quality and Qualifications Ireland awards (QQI) curriculum to the new Junior Cycle Level 2 programme in 2017. St. Anne's hope to introduce the Junior Cycle Level 1 Learning Programme from September 2018.

Build Supports for a Good Life

Lizzy Gorry, Martina Meade, Geraldine Sheridan, Katie Kiely, Niamh Devine, Kelly-Ann King, Margaret Nicholls, Donna Dunne, Anita Mills, Lisa Conway

Anita, Lisa and Katie

In January 2017 at the request of Anita Mills a Beauty and Friendships Course was run in Kilcullen. 22 women met in Kilcullen every Friday morning to learn and improve their techniques in Skincare and Make Up while at the same time having a chat and developing Friendships.

News from Eyre St local service.
At the Quality and Qualifications Ireland awards (QQI) night are l-r Niamh Devine, Martina O Sullivan (Tutor), Jennifer Howell and Sinead Devine who all received certs in Quantitative Problem Solving and Interpersonal Skills while Sinead and Jennifer also received a QQI Major Award in General Learning Level 2.

2017 marked 5 years of successful partnership between Gaisce and KARE. From 2012-2017, 47 people have been awarded a bronze award, 18 people have achieved silver awards and 2 people have achieved the gold award. Gáisce have been a very good support to Service Users and staff of KARE alike and everyone who gets an award with Gaisce has to complete the challenges set by Gaisce to achieve their awards. Gaisce is a direct challenge by the President of Ireland, that is open to all young people up to age 25 in Ireland.

Outreach

The Outreach service has rapidly expanded over the past number of years. There are currently 59 individuals receiving support from Outreach, 19 of whom are supported to live independently in their own home. Individuals are also supported in third level education in places such as Maynooth University and Trinity College, individuals who complete Project SEARCH, individuals who do not attend local service and individuals who want to take control of their life and spend their day differently.

Kenny Delahunt graduated from Maynooth University in 2017 with a Certificate in Individual Learning majoring in Geography and Music. *"I never thought I would get to go to college, so to graduate was an especially proud moment for me. I was the first student from my school, Scoil Mochua, to go to college. Anything is possible when you set your mind to it."*

Tamara Byrne is currently studying Media Production at Maynooth University and as well as her studies she also produces and hosts her own radio show, The T Show on college radio MARS FM alongside her friend Collette. College has changed my life completely in every way.

"I am much more confident as a person. I feel I am the same as all the other students in college, going to my lectures, meeting up with my friends to do assignments, getting a hot chocolate and planning the next night out. However, we can do the same things but being different is a good thing and all students differences should be empowered."

KARE Recreation Department

Claire McCabe, bocce

2017 proved an amazingly successful year for KARE with over 140 service users competing across 10 sports in the Special Olympics Leinster Competition. They travelled from Drogheda to Enniscorthy and everywhere in between to compete in basketball, bocce, swimming, badminton, soccer, athletics, golf, bowling, motor activities training programme and equestrian. The huge success of the athletes led to 47 athletes being selected to represent Leinster in the All Ireland Games in Dublin from June 14th to 17th 2018. We were lucky to have athletes qualify in all 10 of the sports they competed in, and we wish them all the best of luck in the All Irelands taking place in Dublin.

Also, our ladies basketball team won their first Leinster Senior league title after going through the entire season with just 1 defeat. They will defend that trophy this year. Our male basketball team were 3rd in their senior league but were gold medal winners in the Leinster Games.

2017 also saw the official start of the Healthy4Living programme in KARE, supporting people to live an overall healthy and active lifestyle.

KARE also competed in a new sport on the Winter Games Calendar called floorball (pictured above) and we hope to continue to develop this in 2018.

KARE's Health initiatives 2017

KARE's Supporting Healthy Lives website is almost at completion. This website is an internal resource for KARE staff and service users to support them with information, tools and inspiration on health and well-being. It includes videos, photos and stories of people who use KARE services and their journey to living a healthier life. It also includes a wide range of readily available resources, which are informative to both staff and service users.

The Occupational Therapy department and Speech and Language Therapy department in KARE were awarded a grant from the Disability Awareness Initiative fund from the Department of Justice and Equality. This money was used to develop an information pack including ready-made resources entitled "Making Communication Access a reality for everyone accessing Primary care services in Ireland". It includes information such as:

- How to communicate with a person with a communication disability.
- How to create an environment which is accessible for people with a communication disability.
- How to make documents such as appointment cards "easy read" to support peoples understanding.

These packs and posters were distributed to staff in KARE who support people to attend primary care services, and a downloadable version is available on the healthy lives website.

Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH which is an internship programme at Naas General Hospital has been going from strength to strength since its inception in 2013. The project has been instrumental in, not only equipping the interns with the necessary skills to enter the workforce, but also in opening many doors to enable them to gain meaningful employment. In May 2017 the interns had the opportunity to attend the Naas General Hospital inaugural ball at Palmerstown House and it gave the interns and staff of the hospital a chance to change the scrubs for gowns for a night.

The Interns were also delighted to welcome a visit from Minister for State for Disabilities Finian McGrath

Back Row L- R:
Breda Murphy NGH, Catherine Hughes Director of Nursing NGH,
Chrisy Lynch CEO KARE,
Minister Finian McGrath TD - Minister for State for Disabilities,
Alice Kinsella, General Manager, NGH,
Peter Furlong, Patricia Cribbin, Annie Swords.

Front Row:
Teresa Reilly, Peter Nolan, Aisling Coyle, Kim O'Kelly,
Fionán Malone, Ricky O'Neill, Cian Brennan & Brendan Connolly

‘Rights in our hands’ Advocacy for Older People Project

Learning something new has long been seen as being for the young but a group from KARE proved otherwise when they took part in an 8 week course to explore human rights.

The course came about through funding from the Community Foundation of Ireland’s ‘Older Person’s Fund’ and in partnership with Croi Anu Creative Centre, in Moone.

Facilitated by Frieda Bent and Mary Pat Moloney, the group of 6 service users, Phylis Tiernan, Ellen O’ Halloran, Tony Thorpe, Joe Ryan, Brendan Burke & Niall O’ Donnell; explored the Declaration of Human Rights through art and created their own versions of it.

Some of the pieces can be seen on display in the McMahon Centre, Kilcullen.

Early Years

2017 was yet again another enjoyable year had by all our children in the Early Years' service.

Here are some highlights during 2017, from our Christmas blessing to summer camp, which was filled with exciting outdoor activities for the children to enjoy. Also, our Family day graduation with parents, extended family, friends and staff of KARE, also celebrating KARE'S 50th Anniversary.

Blue Skies Event Athy

Merck Sharp and Dohme gifted Athy Local Service with a massive make over in August 2017. Pat Dalton one of our parents was instrumental in putting Athy LS forward for this makeover.

Hours of preparation went into this event, liaison between Pat Dalton, Alan McCartney from KARE's Facilities Department and Richie McGrath, CBRE Services Co Ordinator.

Over 40 volunteers turned up on the day and the centre was a hive of activity. All rooms were painted in the building, ceilings and walls.

The work outside was immense. The building was painted, and the gates, back and front, were all painted. The garden was transformed and new furniture put in. Plants and shrubs were tidied up and skips used to clear out our shed and all cuttings. We also received new storage presses in the hall and new desks for our new room. Lighting fixtures were also supplied along with new white boards.

The centre looked amazing at the end of the day and both staff and service users were so grateful and appreciated the work carried out. Christy Lynch CEO thanked Merck Sharpe & Domhe on the day for their wonderful contribution and Pat who was the person who made it happen.

Athy Concentrates and Cuan Mhuire donated drinks and plants respectively for the occasion.

Where it all began

These are the minutes of the first meeting of KARE, held in Dan & Mary O'Donovan's house in Newbridge. KARE started in 1967, when Dan & Mary realised there were no services available locally for their 3-year-old daughter Anne, (picture below), who had an intellectual disability. In May 1967 the first meeting of interested people was held to set up an association to provide the necessary education facilities required for children with Intellectual Disabilities in County Kildare. One of the attendees on that day was Mrs Mary Quinlan, (pictured below), who KARE was delighted to welcome back on a recent visit to Naas Local Services' 50th celebrations.

KARE 50 YEARS

Founded in 1967

Co. Kildare Association of Parents & Friends of Handicapped Children.
Minutes of Meeting 20th, May, 1967.

A meeting was held at 13, Ballymany Park, on the 20th of May, 1967 and it was decided to form the Co. Kildare Association of Parents & Friends, of Handicapped Children.

Lt. Col. Quinlan was elected provisional Chairman and Mrs. D. O'Donovan, provisional Hon. Secretary.

A general discussion took place, as to the ultimate aims of the Association and it was agreed that these would be the provision of the necessary educational facilities required for handicapped children in Co. Kildare.

In the meantime an information centre is to be set up for advising, helping and the education of handicapped children. In order to do this it will be necessary to gather all available information from as many sources as possible such as local authorities etc.

Capt. B. Brewer, promised the help of the Rehabilitation Institute in every possible way, both with the provision of information and the making available of their premises for use if required.

It was agreed to have another meeting on the 3rd of June, and in the interim period, contact would be made with Dr. & Mrs. Hill, Portlaoise, Br. Bernard, Celbridge, and others who could give information based on personal experience in the setting up of an association of this kind.

Dr. O'Donnell as M.O.H. is to be advised formally of the setting up of this association.

The following attended this first meeting :-

Lt. Col. Quinlan. Mrs. M. Quinlan Capt. B. Brewer.
Capt. T. Teehan. Capt. O'Donovan. Mrs. M. O'Donovan.
Fr. Harrington. Capt. R. McCarthy.

With apologies from.
Lt. G. Gosling and Dr. T. Healy.

Hon. Secretary. D. O'Donovan

An Extraordinary Voluntary Committment

It was in 1967 that the organisation which came to be known as KARE was founded. The first facility was a play group for young children located at St Conleth's Primary school Newbridge. This lead to the building of a school to cater for the needs of children with disability. In 1968 a three-day week school was set up in Newbridge GAA hall. This later moved to what is now the parish centre in Newbridge until St. Anne's school on the Curragh was built. KARE continued to grow and develop over the years and has become a leader in the field of services to children and adults with disabilities.

As a voluntary organisation KARE has always relied heavily on the goodwill of the public and in 1969 the first sponsored walk to raise funds for KARE was organised by the Rathangan branch and the Choir of St. Patrick and St. Bridget in Clane commenced the tradition of singing carols at Christmas to raise funds. This was the beginnings of a legacy of fundraising by hard working members of the KARE Branches for years to come

Today KARE supports approximately 240 children and 374 adults. KARE aims to provide services and supports to individuals within their local community using a person-centered approach which values dignity and respect for all.

Map of KARE Services

The 1970's

"institutionalisation will have to be examined. The more people can be kept in the community, the better will be the future for them"

President Erskine Childers – KARE AGM 1972

Exciting times were ahead as the site for St. Anne's school got marked in 1972. St. Anne's School on the Curragh would go on to at present support over 87 children with moderate or severe/profound general learning disabilities. The school aim to give the children a caring and inspiring academic atmosphere to enable them to achieve their full potential.

Marking the site for St. Anne's School 1972

Within two years the doors are opened with great enthusiasm

St Anne's Special School Opening

St Anne's Special School Opening 1974 Elizabeth Bermingham (Principal), Richard Burke (Minister for Education), Paddy Nugent (Chairperson, KARE) and Gerry O'Neill (Architect)

The 1970's

Valetta House – Excerpt from KARE 1978 Newsletter

LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL - THE VALETTA HOUSE WAY

WHEN Valetta House opened before Christmas, it represented a major advance for KARE by providing the facilities for a day care centre for adult mentally handicapped.

What's Inside

Mental Handicap Can be Prevented 2
Living Life To The Full (Contd.) 2
Special Classes Comes To Athy 3
The Cash Flow 3
Teamwork At St. Marks 4
St. Anne's Improves Communication 4

It also provided the potential for the development of KARE's own sheltered workshop – which may one day be incorporated in the spacious grounds of this ex-dispensary residence which the association leased from the Eastern Health Board.

With a £13,000 facelift, the house is now homely, bright and attractive and for one Newbridge handicapped boy it has "opened up a whole new life," according to his mother.

At present, the house caters for up to 12 handicapped – ranging from severe to moderate. Eventually it will cater for twice that number and provide an invaluable follow-up service for graduates of St. Anne's.

The work at Valetta House is exciting and nurse Nellie Falvey finds it very fulfilling. With local woman, Mrs M. Hickey, she takes the boys and girls on shopping trips to the local supermarket, has the boys cooking dinner, washing up, and wait for it, doing the girls hair.

Getting down to earth. Valetta House trainees with Mrs Hickey, (instructor).
Courtesy of C. Cox, Ballyshannon.

"Fairytales never come true, but dreams occasionally become a reality. This is the good fortune of KARE"

Fr Peter Cribbin – 1979

1978 was another milestone overcome for students with special educational needs in County Kildare. St Marks school on the station road in Newbridge which was a new purpose built building opened in 1978. St. Marks school, for children with mild Intellectual Disabilities, had been open in temporary accommodation in the John F Kennedy hall in Kilcullen since 1974 and had moved from there to a house belonging to Paddy Nugent in Kilcullen prior to the new school being opened.

Pictured below: Bishop Lennon, leading the applause and Rev. Peter Cribbin, Chairperson KARE, speaking at the official opening.

The 1980's

"A sign of vision, initiative and concern for the needs of others in the community"
Dr Patrick Hillery

Significant changes we're underway in KARE and for persons with Intellectual Disabilities in County Kildare with the opening of KARE Industries in 1986

President Opens KARE Industries

"A SIGN of vision, initiative and concern for the needs of others in the community," was the assessment of the work of KARE given by the President, Dr. Patrick Hillery, at the opening of KARE Industries in Newbridge.

Dr. Hillery told those at the official opening that the kind of work being done by KARE provided an example to other communities and he stressed that all communities were rich in human resources. No talent or skill which could help to contribute to the welfare of all should ever be ignored, he added.

Saying that he could not praise the KARE enterprise too highly, the President stated that the workshop was providing the opportunity for people to work together, practise their skills and enrich their own lives and the life of the community generally.

By reducing dependence on others and enhancing the selfconfidence to those who work there, the workshop was, he said enabling a valuable contribution to be made to the community at large. Saying finally that enthusiasm and contentment were very much to the fore in the atmosphere of the workshop. Dr. Hillery concluded with a word of thanks to all who had worked to provide it. "You have my thanks and my support" said the President.

The President had been welcomed to the workshop by Mr. Maurice Shortt, KARE's secretary and the chairman, Mr. Sean Bagnall. A welcome was also extended to Bishop Ryan and Dean Patterson who, together, performed an ecumenical blessing of the new workshop premises.

Mr. Bagnall went on to describe briefly the development of KARE Industries, from the original workshop founded in Kildare Town in 1979.

He said there were many people deserving of thanks for their assistance to KARE, including the CYMS, which allowed the organisation to use its Kildare premises as a workshop in the early stages. The new factory building at the Newbridge Industrial Estate was, said the chairman, purchased with monies provided by the Eastern Health Board and the European Social Fund, along with aid from parents and friends of the organization. The latter group was, he said "the lifeblood of the organization."

In preparing for the opening of the new workshop, said Mr. Bagnall, all concerned had put in a huge amount of work for which the committee was extremely grateful. In particular, he thanked the staff of the workshop itself, Paul McCullagh, Catherine Berkley, Mary Mooney, Ann Sexton, Des Ryan, Caroline Murray and Jack Dempsey. Thanks also went to many voluntary helpers who had shown "great dedication" and Mr. Bagnall made special reference to Eastern Health Board employees Ted Keys and Liam Sweeney, who had always given positive help and advice to KARE.

Over the years, said the Chairman, KARE had always received co-operation from the gardai and the army and for this the organization was very grateful. In particular, he expressed gratitude to the Band of the Curragh Command, which provided music on this special occasion for KARE.

Mr. Bagnall reminded those present of the contribution to KARE made during the summer by the combined Lions clubs, of the county, when a large proportion of the cost of a new mini-bus for the workshop was raised. In conclusion, the chairman expressed thanks to others within the community who give regular assistance to KARE, including bodies such as Kildare Co. Council, Newbridge Town Commission and various other groups.

Following the official opening and blessing ceremony, those in attendance viewed some of the work being carried out by the employees of KARE Industries.

Maurice Shortt, Josephine White, Leslie Prendergast, Mr. J. Kearns (Chairman Newridge Town Commissioners), Dr. L. Ryan, Dr. Hillery, Dean J. Patterson and Sean Bagnall (Present Chairperson KARE).

Dr. Hillery with Anthony Byrne

Dr. Hillery with Paul Halford, John Sheridan and Joe Ryan

The 1980's

Special Olympics & KARE

During the 1980's KARE also became heavily involved in Special Olympics. It was perfect timing as in July 1985 Dublin hosted the Special Olympics European Games. 2,000 athletes from 17 countries travelled to Ireland for the European Games.

European Special Olympics UCD Belfield 1985

All Ireland Special Olympics July 1986

KARE Athletes Special Olympics 1989

The 1990's

"think back, think about how things would not have been if KARE had not been established twenty-five years ago. How much would have been lost? I salute KARE on this wonderful occasion."

President Mary Robinson AGM 1992

President Robinson addresses the KARE A.G.M.

The 1990's saw increased growth and expansion in KARE and the services it provided to various communities. KARE continued to support individuals in County Kildare with the opening of new services in Athy, Kilcullen, Kildare, Naas & Newbridge. Exciting times were also ahead with the introduction of Local Services in Counties Wicklow and Offaly with the opening of centers in Edenderry, Blessington and Baltinglass.

The 90's were also the decade in which KARE celebrated its 25th Anniversary. To coincide with this achievement, it was with great excitement that service users, families and staff alike welcomed Uachtarán na hÉireann Mary Robinson to KARE. As well as being the guest speaker at the 1992 AGM she also visited both St. Anne's and St. Mark's schools. She went on to describe KARE as an organisation which was testament to "an extraordinary voluntary commitment" by local people to bring KARE to the high standard it is today.

The 90's was also marked by the introduction of vocational training taking place in four locations, Naas, Newbridge, Baltinglass and Athy. Young adults were taught skills in a variety of different activities, in preparation for work & to achieve independence in their own community.

The Lalor Centre, Baltinglass

The 1990's

Sean Bagnall (Present Chairperson KARE) and Brendan Sutton (CEO retired KARE) with Department officials at The Deanery, Kildare town

The 1990's saw the development of residential services in KARE. Houses in Lakelands in Naas and the Deanery in Kildare town were opened, recognising that it was not always possible for adults to live at home and these houses provided both residential and respite services to a number of adults. They were set up to be home away from home where adults could relax and be active in the community if they wished. From the humble beginnings in 1967 KARE continued to grow and develop. During the 1990's the children's services were not standing still. The CARE unit moved from St. Anne's to El-Kantara (pictured left) on the Green Road in Newbridge. With individual programmes set up for each child to promote maximum independence.

The child education and development centre was set up in the premises which had been vacated by the head office (pictured below).

A very comprehensive functional programme was put in place based on the individual needs of each child and included many practical activities in the local community.

Robert, making lunch

Ronnie, out shopping

Supported Employment

A major development in the organisation was the introduction of supported employment to replace sheltered employment which ultimately led to the opening of the employment assist bureau in Newbridge which was put in place to support adults in ordinary employment in the community. Supported employment went from strength to strength in the organisation, with many adults gaining jobs with local companies throughout their own towns and villages, supported by job coaches to do a variety of paid jobs in many different settings.

Many programmes stemmed from the supported employment model including Project Challenge which was a project to enable persons with multiple disabilities to access the world of work and "On Job Training"

Carol McClintock

Project Challenge

Project Challenge, a transnational project being promoted by KARE and using a model of Supported Employment, to enable people who have multiple handicaps access the world of work, is now in its second year of activity.

The first year involved gathering relevant information on the people participating in the project, setting up the operational structures and making initial contact with the prospective employers.

At this point in time, six of the individuals participating have got jobs, while a number of others are in the final stages of negotiation. The nature of the jobs is varied with most people going to work for two mornings each week.

At Work: Ciarán Berns with "Jobcoach" Joan Glennon.

Two people from Valetta House have jobs in the local community. One person is now in his second job, the first was with a local hotel and he is now working two mornings a week in a local restaurant where he does preparation work such as filling sugar bowls and polishing cutlery. The other person is working in the library, his job is to remove old labels from books. As with the other individuals who have a job they are both rising to the challenge of new skills and seem to be enjoying the experience.

The Project continues to be a learning experience for all involved but its success to date must emphasise the importance of developing a range of service options to cater for the different needs of individuals.

The 1990's

The late 90's also saw the development of the local service model where adults receive the supports they need to achieve the goals they set in their own person centred plan.

Gerry Mitchell, Charlie McCreevy (T.D.),PJ Sheridan, Antoinette Buggle Christy Lynch at Clane Local Service Official Opening 1999

During the 90's the residential and respite services grew and developed with the opening of a number of new residential houses and the first dedicated respite houses, where an increased number of children and adults could have planned breaks. By the end of the 90's a number of adults were also living semi-independently with support as required.

Cluain Alainn

The 00's

1. The dawn of the millennium showed no signs of slowing the progression of KARE. The organisation continued to grow from strength to strength.

   Pictured is Minister Sean Power turning the sod on the site of what was to become Central Services in Newbridge.

2. KARE was delighted & honoured to welcome President Mary McAleese to officially open the building in 2003.

3. In line with the local service development the KARE Foundation for Training and Development was started to promote the concept of lifelong learning.

   This programme was moved to a dedicated building in Naas in 2000 opened by An Taoiseach, Bertie Aherne.

Bernadette Fogarty, Pat Black (Mayor), Preident Mary McAleese, Pauline Wallace (Vice-Chair) and Christy Lynch (CEO)

Antoinette Buggle (Chairperson), Bertie Aherne (Taoiseach) and Christy Lynch (CEO)

KFTD & Swedish Student Exchange

KFTD was KARE's Foundation for Training and Development, working with school leavers from age 18, delivering training in life skills, work experience and computers but in 1999 a group of students started a very different subject: Swedish language and culture.

As part of the Socrates Programme which was about promoting European cooperation in education, the group was also preparing for a play to be staged with a group of Swedish students from Lund in Sweden. Both groups met for the first time in August '99 after exchanging letters and photos for many months. The group from KFTD flew to Sweden for a 2 week stay, culminating in a performance of their play, 'Them and Us'.

A new Strategic Plan for KARE known as "Moving Forward" was developed following wide consultation with families, those who use the service, staff, board and all involved in KARE. One of the main areas of focus was that the service was to concentrate on "being more person centered". This priority meant helping people to achieve their goals, giving people choice and control over their own lives.

Imelda Faney practicing her putting

Paul Galvin outside his new home where he lives independently

Mary Stafford, Tom Corcoran and Des Hearns at the KARE Fete

As the Millennium progressed, KARE moved with the times and sought external accreditation receiving its first Index of Excellence Award in 2006 going on to receive the National Award in 2008 and progressing to Level 4 Accreditation in 2010 and all the way to level six in 2015. This was all due to the trojan teamwork that took place across the organisation. From raising funds through voluntary contributions and fundraising events such as the Fete and sponsored cycles KARE has now grown to an organisation with a budget of €22 million.

From small beginnings in St. Anne's to what has become a vibrant and bustling environment for children to grow and be educated and from small offices in Moorefield to bright and modern buildings, KARE has come a long way, and continues to grow from strength to strength with a full range of supports for everyone who uses KARE's services.

How we celebrated …

We were honoured to have Ray D'Arcy to launch KARE's 50th Year Celebrations, at our 2017 AGM. Ray spoke to a range of people about their experiences of 50 years of KARE.

How we celebrated …

How we celebrated …

Childrens Services

- 28 Families availed of overnight short Breaks
- 23 familes availed of alternative short breaks (Saturday Club & Summer Camp)
- Supported 34 children to attend their local pre-school
- Employed 338 whole time equivalent staff

Complaints

KARE received 6 formal complaints in 2017, these were managed using the complaints process.

Family Feedback

Through the family survey families reported:

- An overall satisfaction level of 87% with KARE
- Satisfaction level of 90% with their family member being treated with dignity and respect at all times
- Satisfaction level of 92% that any concerns they raise or complaints they make are properly dealt with
- A satisfaction level of 94% that staff listen to them and respect their views
- A satisfaction level of 89% with the communication between them and KARE services.

Some comments from Families:

"Attending KARE has changed my brother's life. He has made friends and is very happy in himself. KARE meets his needs, and can bring out the best in him"

"Our daughter has a busy schedule which she enjoys"

"Short Breaks are great, the only problem is there are not more weekends"

"I'm very happy with how my son is treated on Short breaks. I trust KARE very much"

Comments from Families with a child using Early years services

"As it stands, in my opinion, the service has changed our lives and the life of my child.
"The flexibility and kindness shown to us has been phenomenal"
"My child receives excellent support and strategies to allow her to meaningfully participate in preschool"

Families using Early Years services reported an overall satisfaction level of 98%

Feedback from People using the Service

Through the 'Tell us what you think' survey adults using KARE services reported

- an overall satisfaction level of **94%**
- a satisfaction level of **87%** that they get the support to do the things they want to do
- a satisfaction level of **92%** that they get the support to learn new things
- a satisfaction level of **93%** that they get the support they want to get and keep a job
- a satisfaction level of **95%** that they get the support they need to be involved in their community
- A satisfaction level of **99%** that they are treated with respect by staff in KARE

Some comments from people who use KARE services:
"KARE supported me really well to get a job" … "I'd like more shopping trips" … "staff always knock on my door before entering and explain things to me"

Feedback from Staff

Through the Employee Survey staff reported:

- An overall satisfaction level of **82%**
- A satisfaction level **82%** of with Leadership in KARE
- A satisfaction level of **91%** that they are proud to work and be a part of KARE
- A satisfaction level of **90%** that KARE is a good place to work
- A satisfaction level of **87%** that they are treated with dignity and respect in their work environment
- A satisfaction level of **83%** with the support they get to do their job
- A satisfaction level of **83%** with learning and development opportunities

Governance of KARE

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the strategic direction and financial governance of KARE. The Board is comprised of four Branch members who are also the outgoing officers, six family members and two co-options. The CEO attends Board meetings and acts as a link to the strategic and operational management of the organisation.

Board of Directors 2017 - 2018

Chairperson:	Sean Bagnall	
Vice Chairperson:	Antoinette Buggle	
Hon. Secretary:	Pauline Wallace	
Hon. Treasurer:	Marjorie Moore	
Members:	Mary Clonliffe	Theresa Donohoe
	Ann Healy	Frida Lowry
	Edward Kehoe	Mary Shortt
	Pat Dalton	Emily Blennerhassett

Attendance at Meeting of the Board of Directors: 2017

Surname	Forename	Jan	March	April	June	July	Sept	Oct	Nov
Bagnall	Sean	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blennerhasset	Emily		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Buggle	Antoinette	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Conliffe	Mary	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Dalton	Pat		✓			✓		✓	✓
Donohoe	Teresa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Healy	Ann	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kehoe	Edward	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lowry	Frida	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Moore	Marjorie	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Shortt	Mary		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wallace	Pauline	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

KARE's Board of Directors have signed up to the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations of Ireland

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee is a subcommittee of the Board of Directors. The committee comprises of the Chairperson and Treasurer of the Board and other co-opted members. The CEO, Finance Manager and Facilities Manager of KARE attend the meetings in an ex-officio capacity. They meet on a quarterly basis.

Audit and Risk Committee Members 2017

Chairperson:	Marjorie Moore
Members:	Antoinette Buggle
	Sean Bagnall
	Edward Kehoe

School Boards of Management

KARE, in its role as patron of St Mark's School and St. Anne's school nominates two delegates to the board of management of each school, one of these nominees' acts as chairperson of the board. New Boards of Management were established in December 2015, these run for a four-year period.

St. Anne's School Board of Management

Chairperson (Patron's Nominee)	John Hannigan until 8/17 Antoinette Buggle
Secretary (Principal)	Pauline Dempsey
Patron's Nominee	Antoinette Buggle until 8/17 Vacant
Parent's Nominees	John Hogan & Lorraine Higgins
Teacher's Nominee	Louise Reynolds
Community Nominees	Edmond Fogarty & John Courtney

St. Mark's School Board Members

Chairperson (Patron's Nominee)	Noeleen Burke
Secretary (Principal)	Alma Carley
Patron's Nominee	Sarah Kelly
Parent's Nominees	Sheila Bradley Gavin Kennedy
Teacher's Nominee	Ross Dignam
Community Nominees	Evelyn McKenzie-Smith Martin Jordan

Independent Auditors' Report 2017

We have audited the financial statements of KARE, Promoting Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities for the year ended 31st December 2017, which comprises of Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Cashflows, Statement of Changes in Equity and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

This report is made solely to the company'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 company's members those matters that we are required to state to them in the audit 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 company or the company's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors
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 otherwise comply with Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's [APBs] Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements
An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements
In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2017 and of its surplus for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant reporting framework and, in particular, with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. We have not audited the books and records maintained by the Friends of KARE.

- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records. In our opinion the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014, which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

Signed by:

SMYTH & CO.
Village Square,

Raymond Smyth.
For and on behalf of
Smyth & Co,
Chattered Accountants & Registered Auditors,
The Village Square,
Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Date: 29th May, 2018

2017 Summary Audited Accounts

The Audit and Risk Committee together with the Finance Department have worked hard to efficiently and effectively manage the organisation's finances for 2017.

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2017

	2017 €	2016 €
Income	22,080,667	21,447,025
Expenditure	(22,023,789)	(21,497,138)
Surplus/(deficit) of Income over Expenditure	**56,878**	**(50,113)**

Accumulated Fund Account for the year 31st December 2017

	2017 €	2016 €
Balance at 1 January	(309,683)	(259,570)
Surplus/(deficit) of Income over Expenditure	56,878	(50,113)
Balance carried forward	**(252,805)**	**(309,683)**

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2017

	2017 €		2016 €	
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets		11,549,583		11,780,218
Current Assets				
Debtors	1,392,437		1,040,402	
Friends of KARE Funds at Bank	629,877		773,352	
Cash at bank and in hand	649,090		961,574	
	2,671,404		2,775,328	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(2,039,201)		(2,064,394)	
Net current (liabilities)/assets		632,203		710,934
Total assets less current liabilities		12,181,786		12,491,152
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		(7,974,566)		(8,214,232)
Net assets		**4,207,220**		**4,276,920**
Reserves				
Friends of KARE Accumulated Fund		629,877		773,352
Capital Grants		3,830,148		3,813,251
Revenue reserves account		(252,805)		(309,683)
		4,207,220		**4,276,920**

In Memory

Andrew Whelan

Andrew is greatly missed by all his friends in Athy LS. His laughter lifted all our spirits. Andrew knew his own mind and had his own way of letting us know what he wanted. He very much enjoyed his trips out with his friends. Our thoughts are with his family where he was deeply loved.

Sean Walsh

The staff and pupils of St. Anne's would like to remember a wonderful pupil Sean Walsh who sadly passed away. Fond thoughts and memories of Sean and his family will remain with us

Josie Dunne

Josie spent many happy years in The Deanery and in Tully Road Local Service. She is loved and remembered by us all. Josie had a fun and loving personality with a mischievous sense of humour. She enjoyed many a good sing song with her pals and enjoyed it even more, along with a glass of Guinness.

Sheena Walsh

Everyone in Naas Local Service was very saddened at the sudden passing of Sheena. She was a kind, caring, fun loving lady. Her smile could lighten up a room. She was an independent lady, active in her community and an avid member of Down Syndrome Ireland and the Naas Arch Club. She worked and volunteered in Naas Town and is sadly missed by all who knew her. Our memories of the joy she brought, her laughter and kindness are still with us today and Sheena is spoken of and remembered very fondly by everyone who is associated with Naas Local Service.

We have moral duty to remove the barriers to participation, and to invest sufficient funding and expertise to unlock the vast potential of people with disabilities

Prof. Stephen Hawking
World Report on disability 2011

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