



CATHOLIC BLIND INSTITUTE



ANNUAL REVIEW 2017-18



CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Another year has passed and time to reflect on another year of challenges and opportunities. It has been a year when we have said farewell to some long standing colleagues who have left us for pastures new or retirement and our AGM will be a chance to offer our thanks and best wishes.

Our current strategy ends this year and we are working to refresh what we do and how we do it. The safety and wellbeing of people remain central to everything, whether that is the young people in school or our older residents in Grange. We will use our development time as a Board to look for new ways to deliver services, to reach out to new beneficiaries and to challenge ourselves to think beyond the "norm" and continue to innovate. A small but excellent example of our innovation is the development of a VI rugby ball funded by a grant from The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation.

We have strengthened our Board and Governors this year and warmly welcome those who bring new and different skills to strengthen our governance but there is more to do. The Charity Governance Code highlights the need to ensure a diverse board: *"Diversity, in the widest sense, is essential for boards to stay informed and responsive and to navigate the fast-paced and complex changes facing the voluntary sector. Boards whose trustees have different backgrounds and experience are more likely to encourage debate and to make better decisions."*

The term 'diversity' includes the nine protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 as well as different backgrounds, life experiences, career paths and diversity of thought. Boards should try to recruit people who think in different ways, as well as those who have different backgrounds".

We are committed to developing teachers of the future and we have been delighted to welcome the first cohort of students to study the **Mandatory Qualification for Teachers of Visually Impaired (MQTVI)** in our new Professional Development Centre: these are teachers and custodians of our skills and knowledge in years to come. Externally we have been recognised as excellent by OFSTED and received equally positive feedback **from the Care Quality Commission for our services for older people.**

What is next? Nothing stands still, nor should it. We have to meet the challenges of a changing commissioning environment and increasing demands on some of our services. I'm confident it will be an exciting and productive year and with the support of a fantastic team of staff and trustees, we will meet the challenges head on. Our finances are secure thanks to Sue Robertson our Finance Director and her team and this affords us the opportunity to take some risks and try new things.

Anne Reading - Chair of Trustees



GENERAL SECRETARY & TREASURER

This year we are able to report a small increase in the Charity's funds of just over £223 thousand pounds. We hear much in the media these days of the underfunding of social services and the struggle of local authorities to manage their budgets. Some of this is reflected in the significant difference between the income we receive for the services we provide and the cost of provision of those services. There is a shortfall for our charity in that funding of over half a million pounds. As a charity, we have other sources of income, such as legacies and donations and rent from others who use our premises. It is sobering to recognise that we would be reporting only a small surplus if it had not been for the legacies we received last year.

That is a useful lead to a reminder that our charity is about people and not just those who benefit from the services we provide. We have a solid core of faithful and committed people who provide those services day-to-day and who, by so doing, leave their own legacy of happy and content residents, pupils formed for their future life and people losing their sight who are better able to manage the effect that disability has on their lives. Our annual review is about celebrating success and achievement, all of which is built on the legacy of those who have supported our charity, not just in the last year, but in many different ways over 177 years. We have much for which to say 'thank you'.

Charitable giving means giving without expecting anything in return. Yet, it so often happens that charity brings its own rewards, not always discernible in today's materialistically-focussed world. Please consider assisting the work of Catholic Blind Institute in any way that you can. We accept donations in time, money or prayers and, of course, please remember us when writing your will. All or any of these would leave a lasting legacy.

Paul Robbins
General Secretary
and Honorary Treasurer



Our 'common good' curriculum remains at the centre of school as the medium through which to seek and secure better 'outcomes' for our pupils . By outcomes we mean opportunities, flight paths to employment meaningful engagement and friendship groups. We have been building an 'enriched' curriculum to support the National Curriculum enabling us to create innovative individualised opportunities. The story of the enriched curriculum is shared as it develops and happens on Twitter @stvincentsL12 and @sightboxuk We have been building our curriculum to demonstrate INTENT, IMPLEMENTATION and IMPACT.

- ◆ We remain an 'OUTSTANDING' school with another Ofsted outstanding rating for our residential provision and in the Archdiocese RE inspection
- ◆ We have connected our school curriculum with the 'United Nations Sustainable Development Goals' in seeking equality of education and equality of provision
- ◆ We have maintained peer review publications and conference keynotes to ensure our work and our services are brought to the attention of funders and policy makers locally, nationally and internationally. This is best evidenced by Dr Patterson being invited onto Mayor Andersons 'Task Force for Indonesia' which facilitated a visit from Surabaya by Mayor Risma who wishes to send 10 pupils a year to St. Vincent's for targeted educational input. This is under negotiation. (INTENT)
- ◆ Sightbox continues to develop as part of our curriculum and as a marketing tool for school (IMPLEMENTATION). We are attracting pupils to school using this as the medium . Discussions have taken place and we are moving forwards surrounding the generation of St. Vincent's as an educational 'hub' for Visually Impaired.
- ◆ We have pupils securing qualifications and alternative qualifications which includes the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Pupils enrichment work has secured awards and been published through the National Commemorations of the Great War from Never Such Innocence the Lions and Rotary (IMPACT)



Moving forwards our enrichment ceramic work as a means to celebrate our pupil creativity and also market school has won the Never Such Innocence competition meaning our pupils have been invited to celebrate their work in Berlin and Buckingham Palace. Simultaneously, their work will be hung in St. Georges Hall and will be presented to the Houses of Parliament on 29th October where Dr Patterson has been asked to address the House. We are working hard to bring 10 Indonesian pupils to school in June and to create a musical performance booked for The Philharmonic Hall 20th July 2019.

St Vincent's School remains a Directly Licensed Centre for the largest youth award in the World – The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Starting our fifth year of delivering the award, the DofE encourages young people to take on a challenge



and find their true potential. As part of the enrichment afternoon pupils' have been working on a ceramic panel for parliament - raising awareness of sight loss





ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL

In July, 2018, our Deputy Head, Mrs Angela Simpson retired after giving thirty- nine years of dedicated service to our School community. We thank her and wish her well as she enjoys her richly deserved leisure.

We have had a very busy year in school. The pupils worked hard and KS4/Post 16 exam results were good. To support and extend our curriculum, pupils took part in activities and events including

Developing a game making system

Working with O₂ on potential development in IT for the visually impaired

Running Project Torino – a pilot scheme for Microsoft

Taking part in the national Little Riddlers competition

Participating in the two day Global Citizenship conference

Holding a successful Enterprise Day raising money for new primary playhouse and a Fund Day for all.

Stocking and maintaining the 'Aqua Ponics' project

Visiting the Walker Art Gallery to take part in 'Portrait Detectives'

Delivering harvest festival food to the Tesco food bank

Visiting Rudston Primary to take part in Forestry School

Sailing on the Mersey Ferry

Performing 'North-gate Heroes' a play written by the pupils

Participating in the Peace Proms

Pupils auditioned for BBC drama and TV's 'The Worst Witch' and interviewed East of Eli

Visiting the Law Courts

Running our own internet radio

WE have had a wonderful year within the Residential setting of school, starting with another Outstanding grading from OFSTED.

Thank you must go out to all our inspirational and hard working Care staff, Governors and Mr. John Channel our very important Independent Visitor. Numbers of pupils accessing the residential setting has continued to grow throughout the year.

We have offered a wide range of activities on and off campus from Scouts, bike club, social nights out, fitness club and many more, staff continually look for new ventures to extend the life experiences and opportunities for our pupils.

Our new Waking Day Curriculum provides a bespoke care package that ensures that all pupils make excellent progress across all areas of their development, encouraging and prepared them to being as independent as possible in preparation for life. Our pupils enjoy their time within our setting and see it as a home from home environment.



The Mandatory Qualification for Teachers of Visually Impaired Children: MQTVI

The MQTVI is now in its second year of delivery with teachers from across the UK attending. St. Vincent's, in collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University, are now taking the lead role in the training of teachers of visually impaired children thus securing a future of 'educational excellence' within practitioners who will, upon qualification, deliver a high standard and quality of education in the field of visual impairment. It is envisaged that through this innovative course, St. Vincent's will ensure that all those training to teach blind and partially sighted children will aim high and push boundaries to allow all those in their care to become independent young adults who will be prepared for the transition into the world of work and beyond.

CHRISTOPHER GRANGE

Driven by the needs, abilities and aspirations of our Service Users.

It's been a very busy year so far for all the Residents and Staff at Christopher Grange. At the end of 2017, Lesley Colby, Director of Services retired after ten years' service. We wish her well in her retirement. We also lost Rebecca Lyons who in her eight years on Reception and later Office Manager, gave us so much of her time and support, again we wish Rebecca well in her new role.

The residents have also been busy, they have enjoyed trips out and many a trip to the local pubs for lunch. Residents have also enjoyed going shopping and using the local amenities, still feeling part of the community. This year we have looked more to inclusion and collaboration, being part of the Wider Community. I am happy to see a link with St Edwards College, who bring their Students in to spend time with some of our Residents. This has been beneficial to all, seeing the younger generation learning from the older generation and having some fun along the way.



The Residents also joined in with the country to Celebrate the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry to Megan earlier this year. Residents enjoyed watching in on the Big TV in Rehab followed by a lovely afternoon tea. As well as the normal daily activities on offer to all residents, we have had a variety of Entertainers coming into Christopher Grange, these afternoons have been enjoyed by Residents and Visitors alike. A big Thank You to Sue and Ann for all their hard work. Residents have enjoyed their craft and art sessions making a variety of items to show off to their families.



This year Jean Fay and Pauline Ward celebrated their 80th Birthday, Margaret Owens, Eileen McCarten, Sheila Hollingsworth and Anthony Brennan Celebrated their 90th Birthday and Violet Rimmer celebrated her 100th Birthday. With Kenneth Coltart reaching 102 and Hannah Coleman celebrating her 104th Birthday. Lots of reasons to celebrate and congratulate.

We must also thank Margaret and All the Staff at the RVS for their continued support this year, offering a relaxing environment for all our Residents, their families and visitors to enjoy a “cuppa” and a chat. This year we received a fantastic donation of £20,000 from the RVS which will go towards new soft furnishings for the Residential Units. Thank You all again, Christopher Grange is very fortunate to have such valued and loyal friends.

Like all other regulated Care Environments Rhona House was inspected by The Care Quality Commission (CQC) this year. They achieved Good in all areas, Well Done to Maria Deegan and all her team for achieving this. The staff on all Units work hard for the benefit of all our Residents, whatever their role may be within the Home, we couldn't do as well as we do and have the Good reputation we have without each and every one of them working as hard as they do. Thank you for your continued commitment and hard work.

As always, we have the invaluable support of the Daughters of Charity. Sister Patricia left us this year to take up a new role within her Community, we miss her and wish her well. In turn Sister Evelyn joined us to take over the role as Head of Pastoral Care, she was also joined by Sister Shelia and Sister Carol. Thank You to all the Sisters for their support to all at Christopher Grange.

Finally, as the nights draw in we start our preparations for the annual Light Up a Life Service on Sunday 2nd December 2018, it would be lovely to see you all there.



Extracts from CQC Inspection, comments from Residents, Visitors and Families.

One resident said ‘staff are Good fun.’

Another person said ‘staff are approachable, caring and friendly and staff go out there way, nothing is too much trouble.’



A relative said, ‘I know my mum is happy here so we are happy.’

Julie Magee - Director of Services.



SIGHT LOSS LEARNING HUB

Sight Loss Learning Hub

This is the name we chose in the rebranding of our Centre after consultation with our service users.

“It says what it does on the tin” was a comment we heard repeatedly.

Listening to our service users is an important part of what we do at our Hub, we realise that everyone has a part to play in the development of the service we

provide, from service users, volunteers and staff. Our Entry / Exit Questionnaire which we started in 2010 - forms the basis to our Service User Outcome Report which highlights the outcomes achieved and the distance travelled by people living with sight loss during their time at our Sight Loss Learning Hub.



New signage donated by Dennis Callaghan (seated)



Partnership working has enabled us to reach out as far as Japan with teachers from the Blind School of Saitama visiting us earlier this year.



A massive success for 2018 is Michael, currently a service user who we helped get statemented with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and re-housed in nearby sheltered accommodation. Michael also continues to receive help from Liverpool City Council Aspergers Team. Everyone at the Hub including his peers have been instrumental in turning his life around beyond recognition, in his own words...***“I am now living at Morley Court, in my flat, by myself but with people all around me. I now feel I have my own life again. I still attend Christopher Grange and really enjoy it. At this moment, I can safely say I’m having the best days of my life”*** Michael, August 2018



Looking forward to 2019, we must all work together to create a world where barriers to opportunities, further education, employment and resources no longer exist.

We are at a crossroads and there is an opportunity, if we are ready to seize it, instead of accepting the status quo – and leaving behind the individuals who are visually impaired to lack of choice and opportunity.

At Christopher Grange Sight Loss Learning Hub we are seizing this opportunity to lead. However, we can't do this alone, creating a world with no barriers will require the partnership of other agencies and organisations who share our vision. At our Hub we have every reason for optimism. The future is ripe with potential, especially when we all work together.

Finally, we will continue to sustain current relationships and seek new partnerships so we can share best practice to enable us to make a positive difference to the lives of people with a visual impairment, not just in Merseyside, but throughout the UK, through new initiatives and innovative projects.



‘First steps to independence’



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial Information for Annual Review 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Fee income	4,485,448	4,650,255
Other incoming resources	416,202	398,997
Voluntary income	347,592	386,849
Investment income	90,176	91,940
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	5,339,418	5,528,041
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Christopher Grange	3,040,054	3,161,980
St Vincent's School	1,972,198	2,075,723
Governance costs	22,770	19,922
Costs of generating Voluntary Income	12,193	12,676
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	5,047,215	5,270,301
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	292,203	257,740
Other Gains	(69,142)	393,222
NEW MOVEMENT OF FUNDS	223,061	650,962



CATHOLIC BLIND INSTITUTE

Catholic Blind Institute

St Vincent's School
Yew Tree Lane
West Derby
Liverpool
L12 9HN

Chief Executive: Martin Sandeman
Telephone: 0151 230 5097

St Vincent's School

Yew Tree Lane
West Derby
Liverpool
L12 9HN

Principal: Dr J A Patterson
Telephone: 0151 228 9968

Christopher Grange

Youens Ways
Liverpool
L14 2EW

Acting Director of Services: Ms Julie Magee
Telephone: 0151 220 2525

Registered Charity number: 1102657
Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England number: 5010874
www.catholicblindinstitute.org

Trustees

Mr Terry Bates
Mrs Elizabeth Jones
Dr Felicity Knight
Mr Martin O'Rourke
Ms Anne Reading (Chair)
Mr Paul Robbins (Hon Treasurer)
Dr Sian Snelling
Sister Teresa Tighe
Mr Steve Winstanley
Dr Brian Gibbs
Mrs Emma Lockwood

50:50 CLUB

Membership forms are available now



CATHOLIC BLIND INSTITUTE

Would you like to help us.

We are extremely grateful to all the donors who contribute to the charity, your support is very much appreciated.

Title: _____

Name (Block Capitals): _____

Address (Block Capitals): _____

Postcode: _____

Signature of donor: _____

Date: _____

Gift Aid (please tick this box)

I want the charity to treat the enclosed general donation as a Gift Aid donation and to reclaim the tax accordingly.

(You must be a UK taxpayer and pay tax in the appropriate year of an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax reclaimed by the institute on this donation.)

Catholic Blind Institute

St Vincent's School, Yew Tree Lane, Liverpool L12 9HN

Tel: 0151 230 5097, Fax: 0151 228 1520

www.catholicblindinstitute.org, cbi@catholicblindinstitute.org

Registered Charity No. 1102657, Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No. 5010874