



CATHOLIC BLIND INSTITUTE



ANNUAL REVIEW 2018-19



CHAIR'S STATEMENT

I'm really pleased to say we have had another busy, successful but challenging year. Our regulators including the Care Quality Commission and OFSTED have rated us well, against a backdrop of increasing standards and expectations but we are thankful for their support and ensuring quality is at the heart of what we do. Much of the credit for these successes goes to Dr John Patterson and Julie Magee supported by Sue Robertson who as ever, brings discipline to our financial management and governance, balancing prudence with opportunities to take some risks to ensure we continue to operate. The families of our children and young people in St Vincent's expect the best for their loved ones and we have received excellent support. We would encourage more though whether that is to help us raise funds or help us send the word through social media. If we are to succeed we must all play a part. Raising funds and our profile is a responsibility for us all. Have you joined our 5050 club? Have you liked one of our tweets? Have you encouraged someone to remember us in their will?

Next year will see a significant change in our charity. Our CEO has been with our charity for 24 years. CBI has been an enormous part of his life and he has guided us through many tough times, opportunities and helped us make some of the decisions that have ensured we are what we are. Martin Sandeman (our current CEO) is leaving us in the Spring of 2020 and as I write this our Journey to replace him has begun. Recruiting a new CEO is one of the most important decisions our trustees will make. I'm confident we will find an exceptional and compassionate leader who will drive us forward whilst respecting how it all began.

But it's not all about what I think.

Here is what the mum of one of our pupils has to say *'Our first visit to St Vincent's was one of relief! We have at last identified a school where our daughter would be happy, safe and learn in an environment enriched with knowledge and understanding.'*

'And here is what a daughter of one of our community in Christopher Grange has to say "my mum loves the staff, they are first class, could not be kinder"

My final thanks goes to Sister Evelyn who has joined us since the departure of the much loved Sister Patricia.

Anne Reading
Chair of Trustees



GENERAL SECRETARY & TREASURER

It is always good to report an increase in a charity's net worth over the year; CBI is reporting an increase of almost £159,000 for the year to 31 March 2019.

Closer examination of the figures, shows that all but £30,996 arose from an increase in the value of our investment portfolio; our safety net. The £127,950 gain on investments is derived from a valuation at one point in time. It is an amount that can rise or fall and, as last year, even become a deficit in the twinkling of an eye.

The £30,996 surplus arising from the Charity's other financial activities is a very small amount (less than 0.6%) compared against our total income for the year of £5.24 million. Such surplus masks a deficit of nearly £800,000 arising from provision of the services that we deliver each day to those assisted by the Charity. This reflects the difficulties faced by many in the education and social services sectors, principally arising from the reluctance of government to recognise the true cost of those services in the fees paid for that provision.

It isn't just the investment portfolio that helps to keep our Charity afloat. Careful budgeting and monitoring of expenditure by those responsible within the Charity for financial matters is a vital part of managing the Charity, as is finding and promoting other sources of income. I wish to express grateful thanks to all those who take on that role within Catholic Blind Institute.

Of course, financial reporting is but one means, albeit vital, of measuring the work of a charity. Our Charity is blessed in having so many good people as it's employees. People serving people is at the heart of the Gospel message and what our Charity does best. May God continue to bless the work that we do through them all.

Paul Robbins
General Secretary and Honorary Treasurer

How can we measure the successes of the last year? Apart from maintaining our Ofsted 'Outstanding' status for Residential thanks to Mrs Buckle and her team; measures must surely be taken from the individual and collective achievements of our pupils. What is it we have done with and for them by enhancing their strengths? With such a wide range of projects and individual support activities 'on the go' it is impossible to report on all of them here; although we do share them as they happen on our Twitter feed @StVincentsL12 .

I can, however, highlight some pupil achievements of which we are all immensely proud via other external recognition as follows. Rainbow has secured a place on the England Visually Impaired football team playing (and scoring) overseas in Belgium and Japan. Scott won an RNIB recognition award for his work with ceramics and the training of others. Further ceramic work won the International 'Never Such Innocence' competition commemorating the Great War Centenary and facilitating invitations to the Westminster Abbey Service and a visit to the Berlin Embassy for our pupils. Sightbox won an RNIB recognition award with one of the volunteer team also winning a prestigious Rotary International 'Agent of Change' award. Elliott's 'Hate Crime' comic was featured during Merseyside Police hate crime week and the international 'Purple Light up' presenting him with opportunities to deliver lectures on his project at both Liverpool Hope University and School Improvement, Liverpool.

School received a High Sheriff Award for its 'Lasting Legacies' project and 'valuable service to communities'. Adam, Emilio, Elliot, Abyan, Rainbow, Reece, Leighton and Harvey won the 'Shackleton Crew' in the 'I Believe' Awards for their teamwork in 'Free running' and the 'Grow Wild' project enabled school to win a Royal Horticultural Society, Britain in Bloom 'Outstanding' for the use of the grounds. Overlaying all of this, we have seen pupils securing Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards this academic year. Interest in our school curriculum is growing marked by both local and national interest from teachers wishing to undertake the Mandatory Qualification for Teachers of the Visually Impaired (MQTVI) we deliver in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University. Furthermore, I have been invited to speak at a range of National and International Educational conferences to share our best practice.



As we build on the school's history and reputation as a leading light in teaching, learning, research and innovation with and for the VI, it serves to widen opportunities for those who come through our curriculum as St. Vincent's pupils. We have taken that message to the heart of Government as we seek better opportunities and outcomes marked by the presentation of our 'Lasting Legacies' ceramics to hang in the Palace of Westminster no less.

Moving forwards, we will build on our vision through further 'enrichment'. These sessions have and will be offered to VI pupils across the Mersey Region and nationally. Building on this year's pilot where we hosted VI pupils and teachers from Sierra Leone and Indonesia, with our pupils acting as the 'trainers of the trainers' using the Sightbox content, we will look at International placements which can only add value to our pupil experience and the opening of wider opportunities for them.

What can you do to support our pupils?

The best way you can support our pupils is by learning more about our vision and our taught curriculum, then talking about the positive value under the headings I noted at the start i.e. our INTENT, IMPLEMENTATION and most importantly **IMPACT**. Our website shares success stories www.stvin.com to inform your understanding. Ideally, I would encourage you to follow and engage with our twitter feeds on @StVincentsL12, @DrJohnAPatters1, @Sightboxuk where you can experience the impact of our curriculum and vision day-to-day and as it happens. Perhaps you may wish to follow one project noted in the article referenced in this report and become an even more active supporter? Our intent is to have St.Vincent's pupils train others and launch the 'I-Rugby' ball as new Sightbox content for the 2021 Disability Games which are to be held in Liverpool. It's a wonderful exemplar of what can be achieved when an investment is made into the strengths of our VI young peoplethat is what we do, and do well at St. Vincent's locally, nationally and increasingly, internationally.



Residential

Residential pupils continue to thrive in the residential setting and improvements have been made to our Caulfield residential group – new ceilings and lighting in place and lounges and bedrooms have been newly decorated. New carpets have been fitted in downstairs bedrooms.

New art work has been bought for the downstairs lounge along with some soft furnishing items. So a big thank you to Andy and John, maintenance staff for all their hard work. A Big Thank you also goes out once again to Keith Burns, School Governor and his team for their very generous donation to the Fun Fund which helped to buy some of the soft furnishings.

All activities continue and these have included: trips to the beach, Taylor Park outdoor gym and shopping trips to Ikea and Asda purchasing new bits and pieces for group.

Care staff training: along with school staff took part in Mental Health and Wellbeing training on 4th April – which proved to be very useful. We are continuing to look at online training in different areas through our new school insurers, which should be good when it is up and running.



Dr JA Patterson
Principal

CHRISTOPHER GRANGE

Another busy year for all of us based at Christopher Grange. There have been some new additions to the team and some staff have moved onto other things. We said a fond farewell to Sister Fran after 34 years of service to CBI, she will be greatly missed by all. Our ongoing partnership with the Daughters of Charity is at the heart of what we do here at



Christopher Grange. The commitment and dedication the Sisters have shown to residents, staff and families knows no bounds. Their involvement in the activities that residents take part in and their time given to everyone is invaluable.

Christopher Grange is a much better place for having their continued presence and support. Thank you, Sister Evelyn and your team of dedicated Sisters.

As part of the move to work in partnership with other agencies this year we embarked on a joint venture with the younger children at St Vincent's and the children at the nursery based in the grounds of St Vincent's. This has been very beneficial and enjoyable for our residents. The smiles this puts on the residents' faces is wonderful.



The plan is to develop these links and more sessions have been agreed for both the young and old to work together on baking, craft and Lego building. Another activity that we have undertaken this year is the residents having "pen pals" from other homes and for them to eventually meet up, again building links with other care homes.

We have held joint events with our catering company (Caterplus) and the staff from the RVS to raise funds for other organisations including Marie Curie and Macmillan Nurses. We as a charity know how difficult it is to raise funds and wanted to show our support to other worthwhile organisations.

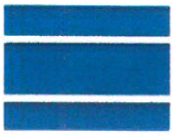
During the year the residents took part in music and therapy sessions with a local group (Singing Mamas). The residents and local mums with young children got together to sing and enjoy each other's company through music therapy. We are in the process of setting up a year long project using music therapy sessions for residents in the hope that we will be able to



hold concerts to showcase the talent within the home, as well as looking at individual residents who might not wish to take part in group sessions compiling a CD of "their lives through music".

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. We still have a link with St Edward's College who bring their students in to spend time with some of our Residents. This has been beneficial to all. It has been good to see the younger generation learning from the older generation and having some fun along the way.



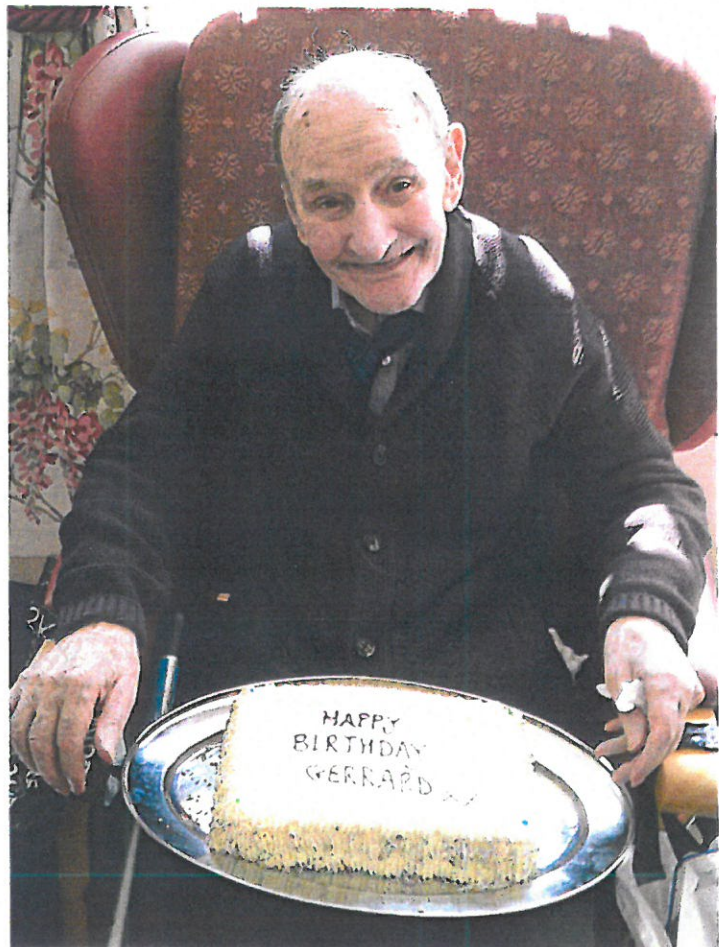


CHRISTOPHER GRANGE

Residents also enjoyed the tennis, the Grand National and the football this year. Bringing residents from all units to celebrate allows residents to build up relationships with people they may not see every day and is at times a welcome surprise, as some have been old friends or neighbours, so rekindling friendships. As well as the normal daily activities on offer to all residents, we have had a variety of Entertainers coming into Christopher Grange and these afternoons have been enjoyed by Residents and Visitors alike. A big Thank You to Sue and Maureen for all their hard work. I think everyone will remember the "Day at the seaside" as a special day, residents and staff going out to the front of the building to get their ice-creams from the ice-cream van just like they use to do, followed by fish and chips in cones. A great day was had by all.



This year Dorothy Jones celebrated her 106 birthday, with Ken Coltart catching up at 103. We have had lots of milestone birthdays during the year with residents reaching 90+. 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 from the RVS which will go towards new soft furnishings for Rhona House and much needed equipment. Thank you all again, Christopher Grange is very fortunate to have such valued and loyal friends.

Like all other regulated Care Environments, the Residential Units were inspected by The Care Quality Commission (CQC) this year. They retained their "Good" rating. 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 part of our ongoing work to continually improve and develop the services we offer to residents we have started to embrace technology, with the introduction of electronic care plans. In the long run we hope this will be beneficial to the service as it will give the staff more time with residents and less time on paperwork, as the new system allows staff to "speak" their reports there and then when with the residents, offering the resident the opportunity to add to their daily reports and giving residents even more control over their care choices.



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

One resident said "staff are always respectful and knock before they enter my room". A relative said, "Yes the staff are lovely, my relative responds to them as soon as they see the carers". Another said, "my relative loves the staff, they are first class, could not be kinder"

Julie Magee
Director of Care

SIGHT LOSS LEARNING HUB

'At our Hub we have every reason for optimism, the future is ripe with potential, especially when we all work together' ... a sentence taken from last year's Annual Review.

In December 2018 Christopher Grange and Bradbury Fields entered into a single contract with Liverpool City Council to deliver the best possible service to adults with a visual impairment.

Our sector is increasingly calling for organisations to collaborate, but it is so important to remember that organisations themselves do not collaborate, people collaborate! Therefore, the ultimate success or failure of a partnership rests with the people around the table. By utilising the experience, strengths and skills of people and organisations, we have started a journey offering a unique service that will be the envy of every local authority in the UK, a service that we are proud of.

Be Active with Sight Loss					Key:	Sight Loss Learning Hub	Bradbury Fields
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend	Monthly	
The Hub Tech Helpline Monday - Friday Please call 07571 448234	The Hub Tech Helpline Monday - Friday Please call 07571 448234	The Hub Tech Helpline Monday - Friday Please call 07571 448234	The Hub Tech Helpline Monday - Friday Please call 07571 448234	The Hub Tech Helpline Monday - Friday Please call 07571 448234	Sunday Tandem Cycling Group 18C Contact Sam at Bradbury Fields	Talking Shop Two Hour Support Forum 10.30 - 12.30	
Active Vision Club Active and Social Club Monday - Thursday, 10.00 - 14.00 £15 Contact Kim at Bradbury Fields	Active Vision Club Active and Social Club Monday - Thursday, 10.00 - 14.00 £15 Contact Kim at Bradbury Fields	Active Vision Club Active and Social Club Monday - Thursday, 10.00 - 14.00 £15 Contact Kim at Bradbury Fields	Active Vision Club Active and Social Club Monday - Thursday, 10.00 - 14.00 £15 Contact Kim at Bradbury Fields	Liverpool Inspirational Writers Club 10.30 - 12.00 Call Tom Taylor: 07540 741132	Bradbury Walkers Group 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month CONTACT Leo How: 02128 893380	Retina UK Group 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month 13.15 - 15.15 Call 01280 825 338	
Let's Get Aisy - Support Groups By Appointment	Living with Sight Loss Course By Appointment	Raising Blind Club 10.30 - 11.30 £5	Living with Sight Loss Course By Appointment	IT - Touch Typing 10.30 - 12.30 By Appointment		Usually Impaired Angling Club With Exam, Exclusion, or Waters 10.30 - 12.00 Contact Sam at Bradbury Fields	
Braille Group (Amateur) 10.30 - 12.30 £3	Waltow Advice 1.30 - 2.30 Call Helen Tince: 07877 652 965	IT - Touch Typing 10.30 - 12.30 By Appointment	Swimming Session Park Road Leisure Centre 11.15 - 12.00 Contact Sam at Bradbury Fields	Braille Group (Professionals) 10.30 - 12.30 £3		Macular Society Support Group Third Thursday of each month 13.00 - 15.00 Call 0161 286 9029	
Yoga Class 11.00 - 11.30 Contact Kim at Bradbury Fields	Art Group 11.30 - 12.30 £5	N.E.A. Exercise Class 11.00 - 12.00 Contact Sam at Bradbury Fields	Zumba 11.00 - 12.00 Contact Sam at Bradbury Fields	Gym & Spa Session Park Road Leisure Centre 12.30 - 14.15 Contact Sam at Bradbury Fields		African Caribbean & Friends Fourth Friday of each month 12.00 - 15.00 £1.50 Contact Sam at Bradbury Fields	
Enigma Group 10.30 - 11.30 £2.50	Gym Club at EAU Preston Park Sports Centre 11.00 - 11.30 Contact Adam: 07815 843348	Quilt Group 11.30 - 15.00	Macular Society Support Group Third Thursday of each month 13.00 - 15.00 Call 0161 286 9029	Creative Writing 11.30 - 15.00 £3		Charles Bonnet Support Group Second Friday of each month 13.30 - 15.00	

WOW! activities, groups and sessions available to our service users daily, weekly and monthly.

At the Hub we are offering a facility where people can come to receive support and information about living with sight loss. We demonstrate the latest equipment and technology, and run comprehensive Living with Sight Loss Courses. We facilitate regular support groups including Macular Society, Retina UK and Charles Bonnet Syndrome which are well attended as well as maintaining close links with Bradbury Fields. We also partner national organisations including Visionary, Blind Veterans UK, Guide Dogs and RNIB, as well as other local sight loss charities.



Friends from Sheffield & Rotherham Blind Society attending our Charles Bonnet Group – sharing good practice!

Hub Tech Helpline:

With technology moving so fast we strive to be innovative and lead the way in our sector. This year we have introduced our Hub Tech Helpline, available to our service users for queries relating to assistive technology on tablets, phones and computers. This helps partially sighted and blind people overcome their technology frustrations and build skills to achieve their personal goals. In turn we learn common needs and frequently asked questions.

Our **Certificate of Appreciation Award** is helping us market both Christopher Grange and Bradbury Fields by recognising the fact that excellent customer service matters to our service users. The awards empower us to build relationships within the local community, develop corporate partnerships and encourage future volunteering opportunities.



Improving Health and Wellbeing: The impact we are making to service users is massive. We work with them to increase their independence, helping them break their isolation so they can achieve new levels of confidence.

Comments from our service users when asked **“What is the biggest difference our service has made in your life?”** include,

- * “My Life has totally been turned around”
- * “I just feel so lucky compared to my mother and her quality of life – she was also blind”
- * “It’s been fantastic! I am now called Granny Lemon Cake”
- * “It’s made a hell of a difference”
- * “I have been stimulated by other people”
- * “I am not losing myself anymore, I am learning to push myself”
- * “It’s made me aware of my capabilities, I feel more secure, confident and more willing to learn how to cope”
- * “Being in the same position as other people with the same or worse eye condition gives you the confidence to get on”

Finally, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to everyone who has ‘sat at the table’ and helped shape our unique service. We look forward to building on the foundations in place, to continue to make a real difference to partially sighted and blind people who access our service.

Mike Bailey
Service Manager



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial Information for Annual Review 2019

	2019	2018
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£
Fee income	4,407,991	4,485,448
Other incoming resources	516,251	416,202
Voluntary income	232,856	347,592
Investment income	85,119	90,176
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	5,242,217	5,339,418
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Christopher Grange	3,148,918	3,040,054
St Vincent's School	2,021,295	1,972,198
Governance costs	29,091	22,770
Costs of generating Voluntary Income	11,917	12,193
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	5,211,221	5,047,215
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	30,996	292,203
Other Gains	127,950	(69,142)
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS	158,946	223,061



CATHOLIC BLIND INSTITUTE

Catholic Blind Institute

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

Chief Executive: Mr 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

Director of Care: 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
Dr Felicity Knight
Mr Martin O'Rourke
Ms Anne Reading (Chair)
Mr Paul Robbins (Hon Treasurer)
Sister Teresa Tighe
Mr Steve Winstanley
Mrs Emma Lockwood
Col. Stephen Boardman

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.)

Please make any cheques payable to:

St Vincent's School or Christopher Grange or Catholic Blind Institute depending on who you wish to support.

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