



CATHOLIC BLIND INSTITUTE



ANNUAL REVIEW 2016-17



CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Time flies and it's always a surprise when as Chair I find it's time to write my piece for our annual report. I wonder what should I say? I'm thankful things seldom stand still in our charity; business as usual is combined with innovation, hope and planning.

Our journey has continued this year and we are confident that our strategy is the right one. Our focus is to deliver excellent but also safe and person centred support to the pupils in our school, those who use our rehabilitation facilities and our residents in Christopher Grange. We want everyone who joins our charity whether as a pupil, a member of staff or a volunteer to contribute to our strategy and our values.

To be person centred we must ensure our young people in St Vincent's and our residents in Christopher Grange are central to all we do. We do not simply offer a menu of what is available, rather we listen to their aspirations and choices and use these to focus what we do. We can always improve how we do this and we shall.

The incredible progress across our site is there for all to see. We now have our professional education centre. Our ambition is for it to be at the heart of VI excellence in the north of England and internationally. We are delighted to hear the joy of nursery children through our partnership with The Little School House who are also committed to provision for pre-school VI children. We now have Maggie May's Community Café open, encouraging people to come to see what we do but more importantly what our children can and are doing.

The perilous state of residential and nursing care remains under intense media scrutiny. It's not an easy "business". It requires immense effort to ensure the challenges of running this important part of our charity does not impact on the people who view Christopher Grange as home. The professionalism of our staff and the genuine affection they have for people we care for is humbling. The Daughters of Charity continue to provide comfort, often in very dark times, and the loss of Sr Brenda was felt by all who were touched by her humanity and compassion.

I must mention Mike Bailey and the rehabilitation team. They have dragged us into the exciting world of social media so we can all see the positive impact this service has on people with sight loss.

My ambition this year is to further strengthen our Board and school Governors. We have an incredible base of skills but we must continually look at the rapidly changing external environment and renew ourselves. The role of trustee, when done properly, is tough but incredibly rewarding. We need individuals with different backgrounds, life experiences, career paths and diversity of thought.

Finally, with our ambition comes increased pressure on our finances. We have committed to employing a fundraiser and welcome any support that you feel you can give, large or small.

Anne Reading - Chair of Trustees



GENERAL SECRETARY & TREASURER

Reporting a surplus for the year of just over £650 thousand pounds might indicate that we are operating our charitable services at a significant profit. Closer scrutiny, however, shows that this surplus is attributable to two factors that are largely outside our control. Without them, we would be reporting a deficit for the year. One of these, donations and legacies, benefited from a significant contribution to the cost of refurbishing what was Rice House on the school site. The other was a valuation increase of over £393 thousand in our investment portfolio at a time when world stock markets are buoyant. The major refurbishment, partly funded from our investment portfolio, is a significant investment in the future of our charity. In reality, what we spent on our charitable activities during the year was significantly more than the income we were paid to provide those services. Prudent investment in the past is enabling us to continue the work we have been doing for so many years.

This demonstrates that investing for the future, which is important in any organisation, is continuing within our charity. We are continually monitoring the needs of our client base – our residents and those rehabilitating at the Grange and our pupils at the school. Of course, our greatest ‘assets’ as an organisation providing charitable services are our employees and others who assist the charity in its work. We thank them for all that they do for our charity, for their support, their hard work and all that they do to promote our good name. Their work is often hidden from view but it is very much appreciated.

Please continue to assist the work of Catholic Blind Institute in any way you can. Any contribution, whether spiritual, financial or by way of your time is gratefully received. If you are not able to assist in any other way, please consider making a lasting difference by leaving us a legacy in your will.

Paul Robbins
General Secretary
and Honorary Treasurer

ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL

Our curriculum sits at the centre of school. The 'common good' and global citizenship, however, lies at its heart. Thus, this year will build on that reasoning via our platform, which is:

1. sustained 'Outstanding' Ofsted grading for the School and Residential with the curriculum highlighted as 'a strength of the school'
2. recognition via High Sheriff of Merseyside's 'Hidden Gems' Award
3. recognition via 'Freedom of the City' with the citation reflecting our values and strength
4. pupil and school recognition via Roscoe Lecture and Citizenship awards from LJMU
5. LJMU Corporate Award with the citation recognising what we have already delivered and intend to deliver *ie our vision*
6. recognition in sharing our vision via peer review publications (ie Teesnet, British Journal of Visual Impairment)
7. Department of Education recognition via MQTVI Awarding power
8. growing International recognition and outreach via Rotary International i.e. 'Sightbox'



Freedom of the City



First intake of St Vincent's MQTVI



St Vincent's School, Yew Tree Lane, Liverpool L12 9HN
Tel: 0151 228 9968, Fax: 0151 230 5070

THE focus and aim for this year is to provide the best possible (monitored, measured and recorded) outcomes for all pupils as we simultaneously:

1. sell our curriculum strength to attract pupils using Wednesday enrichment Sessions, Friday afternoon open activities, supporting creativity, individual strengths, innovation and including bids.
2. send further 'Sightboxes' and 'Sightbags' to schools for the visually impaired across the globe collaborating with Rotary International for funding towards this end and Liverpool John Moores on further content development (so far we will have reached Nepal, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Gambia, India)
3. attract sponsorship from Rotary for Individual pupils from these countries to attend St. Vincent's
4. attract teachers from these countries to undertake, at St. Vincent's, the (UK) mandatory qualification needed to be a teacher of the visually impaired in collaboration with LJMU (first cohort of UK teachers start September)
5. place a large scale central government bid to 'pump prime' our aims Stephen Twigg MP is strongly supporting and working in Westminster/ Whitehall on our behalf.

Towards the local and national student attraction, we have a plan in place attached to the ongoing use of creative projects to market school. Please do come in on a Wednesday to see!

Towards our services for pupils with VI , locally nationally and internationally and within that 'common good'. We will be:
presenting in China in October during the half term holiday;
presenting at CISC National Conference January 19th 2018;
presenting in the Emirates in March;
presenting at International Rotary in June 2018.

I invite, please, your prayers at all times for our pupils, for staff and leadership and our overarching vision.

Dr J A Patterson - Principal



CHRISTOPHER GRANGE

It is 45 years since Christopher Grange opened its doors to 85 visually impaired older people and 12 'Sisters'. Since then it has seen many changes but the one consistency is the presence of the Daughters of Charity who, although reduced in numbers, continue to provide invaluable support to the Residents, their family and friends and our staff. 'Thank you' Sister Patricia, Sister Paula and Sister Fran for all the work you do in your quiet, unassuming ways.

We were all very sad when Sister Brenda passed away peacefully earlier this year in Rhona House, we remember her with great fondness.

This year the work of Margaret and the Volunteers in the RVS coffee shop has resulted in us receiving a magnificent donation from the RVS of almost £10,000 to purchase lounge furniture for the Units. The coffee shop is open 6 days a week providing a valuable resource to the Residents, their families and friend and our staff.

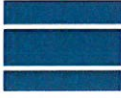


Matthew Robinson, whose mother is a resident on Rhona House, and his colleagues from 'JAGUAR' took part in a 'sky dive', this event raised over £2,000 which was used to purchase equipment for the Nursing Unit.

A very big thanks to all those who continue to support us in our work.

We have celebrated the 'long service' of two members of staff this year, Jan Allen has 40 years of service and Donna Wall, 25 years, a considerable achievement. Many thanks for your hard work and dedication.





Christopher Grange, Youens Way, Liverpool L14 2EW
Tel: 0151 220 2525, Fax: 0151 220 1972

Our Residents continue to enjoy numerous activities and outings, the monthly 'social evenings' continue to grow in numbers. Of particular enjoyment was the 'garden party' which, due to the fairly typical English summer weather, unfortunately had to be held inside.

'Every member of staff I came into contact with was attentive, thoughtful and quite genuine in their care for her. I would commend all of them, hence my letter. So many care homes employ staff who are only there for the wages – Christopher Grange appears to employ people who are working there to make a difference. Please convey my everlasting gratitude to them for making Mum's last year so much more comfortable than it might have been if she continued to live alone' (relative).

'Overall an excellent home, one of the best I visit and one I would want to stay in' (health professional who visits regularly).

'Carry on the same way, my father enjoys his respite stays very much and he is continuously impressed at his care being at such a high standard. The fact that he is safe and secure during our respite periods makes the family feel likewise and are impressed by every aspect of Christopher Grange' (family).





VISUAL REHABILITATION CENTRE

Making a positive difference to the lives of our service users and their families, is at the heart of everything we do. It takes courage to go through life with sight loss and we want to reflect our service users approach to life in our attitudes and decisions.

We continue to assist Local Authorities to help adults with a visual impairment throughout Merseyside: removing barriers, creating solutions and expanding possibilities.

Our bespoke sessions are tailored to each individuals' person centred care plan, helping them to achieve their goals in everyday Living Skills, Kitchen Skills, Technology, Braille and Mobility sessions. Peer support and friendship, also plays a vital part in their journey; 'learning to live with sight loss'

A sample of quotes from our Service Users speaking on camera for our 'Why Rehab Works for Me' campaign: https://youtu.be/a3biAqcGE_g

"My wife used to chuck me out of the kitchen, but now I'm cooking Sunday dinners". *Paul*

"When you're diagnosed with sight loss, it's devastating it really is. More people should be aware of places like this, because they do so much." *Pat*

"Since coming to Christopher Grange on a scale of 1—10, I am about 7, whereas before I came, I was below 1." *Michael*

"My experience of Christopher Grange has been life changing and I wouldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for this place." *Rose*

"This experience has been the most wonderful thing that could have happened to me in this situation." *Pam*



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Partnerships

At Christopher Grange we get the best results when we form active partnerships to achieve our goals, we also build positive relationships with people and organisations who can support us.

We will continue to share best practice and lead the way so that we can make a positive difference to the lives of people with a visual impairment, not just in Merseyside, but throughout the UK, through our new initiatives and innovative projects which other Sight Loss Charities are duplicating to achieve success. Our national award winning Visual Impairment Awareness Training (VIAT) also continues to be studied by people from all walks of life in the Transport, Education, Retail, Care and Hospitality Sectors.

Our priorities for 2018 are: to improve peoples' awareness of what we do to increase referrals, to evaluate the impact of our service in relation to our service users and their families.

Fundraising Guide: Interested in supporting us? Download the guide from our website. Service User Outcomes Report Download our report from our website.

Aliona from Virgin Trains receiving our Certificate of Appreciation Award' for outstanding VI customer awareness from Martin Sandeman CEO Catholic Blind Institute.



5 service users -
5 different
methods
to send an
email.
Communication!



Follow us on twitter: [twitter logo @GrangeVrc](#)



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Finance Report

Annual Report 2016-2017

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| INCOMING RESOURCES | | |
| Fee income | 4,650,255 | 4,451,694 |
| Other incoming resources | 398,997 | 413,187 |
| Voluntary income | 386,849 | 105,225 |
| Investment income | 91,940 | 91,692 |
| TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES | 5,528,041 | 5,061,798 |
| | | |
| RESOURCES EXPENDED | | |
| Christopher Grange | 3,161,980 | 2,952,274 |
| St Vincent's School | 2,075,723 | 2,117,607 |
| Governance costs | 19,922 | 19,821 |
| Costs of generating Voluntary income | 12,676 | 11,918 |
| TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED | 5,270,301 | 5,101,620 |
| | | |
| OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR | 257,740 | (39,822) |
| | | |
| Other Gains | 393,222 | 229,727 |
| | | |
| NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS | 650,962 | 189,905 |



CATHOLIC BLIND INSTITUTE

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West Derby
Liverpool
L12 9HN

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St Vincent's School

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Christopher Grange

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Director of Services: Mrs Lesley Colby
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Registered Charity number: 1102657
Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England number: 5010874
www.catholicblindinstitute.org

Trustees

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Mr Kevin Callaghan
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Ms Anne Reading (Chair)
Mr Paul Robbins (Hon Treasurer)
Dr Sian Snelling
Sister Teresa Tighe
Mr Steve Winstanley

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.)

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