



Annual Report 2017



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Part B- Financial Statements 2017

Introduction

The mission of Polio Survivors Ireland is to create awareness and to provide information regarding the Late Effects of Polio among polio survivors, statutory agencies and the wider medical profession, and to ensure that the needs of polio survivors relating to their condition are met to enable them to live with dignity.

Polio Survivors Ireland was established for polio survivors by polio survivors. The organisation was formed in 1993 and we are run by a voluntary Board of polio survivors and volunteers. We are supported by voluntary committees, active members and a small executive staff at the office in Dublin. Our organisation is the only one in Ireland providing practical support to those unfortunate enough to have contracted polio. Currently we have 928 members across the country.

Polio Survivors Ireland assists polio survivors by providing aids to daily living; stair lifts, callipers, bespoke footwear, electric scooters and wheelchairs. We also help survivors access Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Respite Breaks, and provide those



Picture: Spring photo by member, Edwin Bailey

who need it with assistance with their heating bills. We employ two Service & Information Co-ordinators who provide information, respond to requests for assistance from members and, perhaps most importantly, provide a listening ear to survivors in need.

Our charity has a network of 20 Social Support Groups around the country and also offers a Telephone Support Service for those members who have difficulty in attending meetings.

The charity works tirelessly to:

- Create awareness of Post Polio Syndrome
- Provide information on polio and its Late Effects
- Ensure the needs of polio survivors relating to their condition are met to enable them to live with dignity

Any of the estimated 7,000 polio survivors in Ireland can contact us for support irrespective of whether they are a member or not.

Funding for Polio Survivors Ireland is provided by the Health Service Executive; The National Lottery and various grants from statutory and private bodies and fundraising by members, families and friends.

Organisational Structure

Board

Board
Nominations
Sub Committee

Finance &
Audit
Sub Committee

Services Quality
& Safety Sub
Committee

Governance &
Compliance
Sub Committee

CEO

Staff

3 Active Member Networks:

- Publicity & Campaigning
- Fundraising
- Recruitment

Services & Supports to Members

- Aids & Appliances
- Therapies
- Respite
- Heating Grant

Social Support Service

20 Social Support
Groups around
the country

Telephone Support Service

Chairperson's Report



2017 was a very challenging year for Polio Survivors Ireland (formerly Post Polio Support Group). In 2016 we lost the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government grant. Fundraising has also been under pressure as a consequence of the lack of public confidence in the voluntary sector due to well publicised scandals over recent times. Finally the Polio Fellowship of Ireland did not extend their funding to us beyond mid 2017. The combination of these factors resulted in a small trading loss of " 5,977 in our audited financial statements. This loss was absorbed by our reserves and we are still in a strong financial position. This was a satisfactory position in consideration of the major financial constraints imposed on us. Financial income is reducing each year and overall funding is substantially less than eight years ago. The challenge is to maintain it at the present level. However, astute and prudent financial management of our staff costs and resources by our CEO has minimised the level and the impact of the trading loss.

Complying with statutory and regulatory requirements has a major impact on our time and resources. Regardless of the organisations size, the same standard of requirements, in implementing the principles of good governance, is demanded. The Wheel indicates that discussions are ongoing with statutory bodies to make the demands proportional to the size of the organisation. In this context our implementation of the Governance Code for voluntary organisations is progressing satisfactorily. However, we are also involved in ensuring that the organisation is adhering to current data protection laws and best practice by implementing General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) . which is a major challenge for a small organisation.

To strengthen governance of the organisation, some Board sub-committees have been renamed and two new ones formed . the Board Nominations and the Finance & Audit sub-committees. The Board Nominations sub-committee is the mechanism by which we hope to strengthen the Board by encouraging people with appropriate skills, knowledge and experience to join us. Up to five external nominated directors can be appointed by the Board. At this time, the Board is critically short of personnel, both members and non-members, to allow it to function at an optimum level. The function of the Finance & Audit sub-committee is to oversee the financial and risk management of the organisation and to ensure that our finances comply with full statutory criteria.

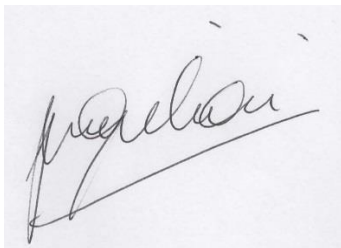
Our primary objective as an organisation is to serve the needs of our members by providing advice and finance on aids and appliances, a range of therapies, heating grants, respite, etc. We monitor the achievement of this goal by tracking progress of implementation of our Strategic Plan which is generally on target. However, the

challenge going forward is to continue to provide an acceptable level of service with greatly reduced funding.

The changes approved at last year's AGM and EGM. the name change to Polio Survivors Ireland and the new Constitution - have been of major benefit in promoting and advertising the organisation. But we are aware that many polio survivors, who are not members, may be unaware of the range of assistance and aids provided by us. We have established the Polio Register to engage with non-member polio survivors. It will be supported by regional and national advertising including RTE radio adverts which will promote the Register during 2018.

During the year a number of staff changes were made. Lilian McElvaney retired after 9 years sterling service. Ciara Hudson joined us as a new Assistant Service & Information Co-ordinator and Paul Turner was appointed as the Administration Officer.

I should like to compliment all the staff, volunteers and members, who have provided such valuable assistance to the organisation over the years and continue to do so. Polio Survivors Ireland would be a lot poorer organisation without their hard work and dedication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat McGillion', written on a light-colored background.

PAT MCGILLION
Chairperson

New Strategic Plan 2017 - 2019

Our organisation faces some enormous challenges. Our Board takes its responsibilities very seriously and is taking steps to address and respond to these challenges. We have therefore produced a Plan that we believe will provide a roadmap for our activities over the next 3 years and sustain our organisation into the future.

While we will continue to provide services directly to our members, the Plan includes measures to reallocate some of our resources, reaching out to more polio survivors and raising awareness of the needs of our members. These activities were given greater priority in the early years of the organisation and we want to revitalise our efforts in these areas.

- **Strategic Priority 1:** Directly provide a range of services and supports that assist polio survivors in maintaining their independence, reducing their social exclusion and enhancing their quality of life.
- **Strategic Priority 2:** Inform, educate and assist polio survivors in accessing the services, supports, medical care and benefits they require.
- **Strategic Priority 3:** Advocate for improved statutory provision of services, supports, medical care and social welfare benefits for polio survivors.
- **Strategic Priority 4:** Develop the organisational board and staffing structures in Polio Survivors Ireland to implement this plan and achieve these objectives.

How We Will Achieve These Results

Successful implementation of this plan is dependent on three key underlying strategic approaches:

- A focus on recruitment of new polio survivor members over the duration of the plan
- Polio Survivors Ireland as a Hub for polio survivors - advising, directing and supporting survivors in accessing the services, supports and benefits they need
- The utilisation of overlaps between educating polio survivors, recruiting new members and advocacy/campaigning activities

A full copy of the plan is available from the office in hardcopy or by downloading it from the website, <https://polio.ie/about/strategic-plan/>

Report on Extraordinary General Meeting

Over 50 members attended an Extraordinary General Meeting that was held in the Green Isle Hotel, Dublin on Thursday, 2nd March.

In her opening remarks the (then) Chairperson, Susan Dowling, spoke about the challenges that face the organisation and how the Board are taking steps to address and respond to these challenges in line with good governance practices. The Chairperson explained that this EGM had been called to seek approval from the membership for changes to our governing document now known as a Constitution. Some of these changes are required under the new Companies Act while others are at the request of the Revenue Commissioners and the Charity Regulator. She explained however that the Board are recommending other changes in relation to the election of Directors in order to make the Board more effective and inclusive and therefore better serve the organisation. The keys changes proposed were:

1. Up to eight Directors to be elected by the membership . (~~%elected Directors+~~) in 5 regions:
 - Dublin: 2 Seats
 - South East: 2 Seats
 - South: 2 Seats
 - West: 1 Seat
 - North East: 1 Seat
2. Up to five other Directors (Board Nominated Directors) to be appointed directly by the Board subject to ratification by the members at the next AGM

The Chair confirmed that the new Constitution includes all these proposals and that outline approval for these changes has been sought and given by the regulatory authorities.



Joan Bradley, Anne Burns and Libby Hendrick at the EGM

Following a discussion the special resolution to adopt the new constitution was then put to the meeting. When proxy votes received by post before the closing date were included, the result of the ballot was as follows:

In favour of the resolution: 222 votes

Against the resolution: 2 votes

Abstentions: 6 votes

As the proportion of votes in favour of the resolution exceeded the requirement that 75% of all votes cast must be in favour of a resolution, the Chairperson declared the new constitution approved.

The Chair confirmed that this concluded the official business of the EGM and the meeting was closed.

Report on Annual Conference and AGM

AGM

The AGM of Polio Survivors Ireland took place on Wednesday 31 May, 2017 in the Tullamore Court Hotel. At the meeting, Chairperson Susan Dowling welcomed all delegates and held a minute's silence in memory of those who have passed away during the previous year.

The minutes, Chairperson's Report, Company Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report were all proposed and seconded by members, as well as audited accounts and appointment of auditors.

Resolution

A Special Resolution that article 39.3 of the new Constitution be amended was proposed by Susan Dowling and seconded by Joyce Henderson. 230 votes were cast in favour with 4 against and 8 abstentions. As the special resolution was approved by well over 75% of the members who voted the Chairperson declared it approved.

Any Other Business

Comments and questions raised included:

- Disappointment was expressed that no nominations were received for the Board from the West
- That a key problem for the organisation is that there are no local or regional structures as is stated in Strategic Plan
- That we seem to be just passing on HSE funding and that the HSE is using us for our fundraising efforts
- What is the purpose of our organisation?
- A delegate requested that the Mission Statement be read out
- A special thanks to Joan Bradley

Board Changes

Following the count of the ballots cast in the Dublin Region, Pat McGillion and Róisín Nolan were elected to the Board. Susan Dowling, who announced that she was standing down as both Chairperson and a Board member, was thanked for her work as Chairperson and member of the Board over the last 5 years.

A tribute was read and presentation made to Joan Bradley who was also retiring from the Board. There being no other business the Chairperson closed the AGM. This was followed by Gareth Williams' talk on 'The Story of Polio'.

Keynote Speaker, Professor Gareth Williams: *The Story of Polio*



Professor Gareth Williams is Emeritus Professor of Medicine, at Bristol University, where he researches the history of medicine and science. He is the author of 200 papers and reviews, has authored or edited over 20 medical textbooks and written books on smallpox, on polio and on the Loch Ness mystery.

Professor Gareth Williams, author of 'Paralysed with Fear: the Story of Polio' told a rapt audience the history of polio and its treatments during his both entertaining and fascinating talk, at our Conference in the Tullamore Court Hotel, on Wed 31 May.

Speaking of some of the treatments that were firstly applied to Polio victims, Professor Williams outlined red hot poker treatments, leeches and other gruesome techniques that were applied before it was understood that polio patients cannot be cured but helped to recover.

With a display of historical photos and many facts and figures, Professor Williams, of Bristol University, showed both the human and the scientific story behind polio, which was the second greatest fear in the US, next only to the atom bomb, according to a public survey undertaken in the 1950s.

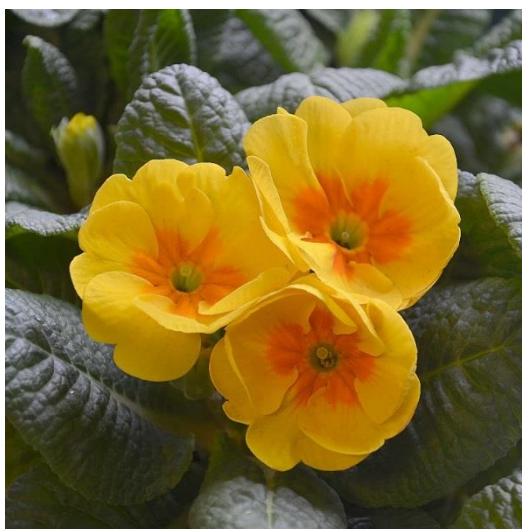
Clinical trials on an initial vaccine were undertaken in Belfast in the 1950s and though this version did not succeed it was certainly the beginning of the end of polio, a disease now almost eradicated throughout the world, with only three countries remaining to be rid of this horrendous disease.

Professor Williams urged the likes of Rotary and the WHO not to give up in their efforts and also highlighted the essential work that charities such as ours do for polio survivors, those who are left with the impact of the disease and often develop Late Effects or Post Polio Syndrome, which can affect mobility and the ability to undertake even everyday tasks in later life.

Presentations

The afternoon session consisted of presentations by Niamh Murphy, Membership & Volunteer Recruitment Officer and Emma Clarke Conway, Development Officer on their role in implementing key aspects of the new strategic plan, most notably the Polio Register where polio survivors who are not already in touch with the organisation will be urged to make contact with us in order to ensure they are advocated in future planning for their needs in relation to medical and social welfare benefits.

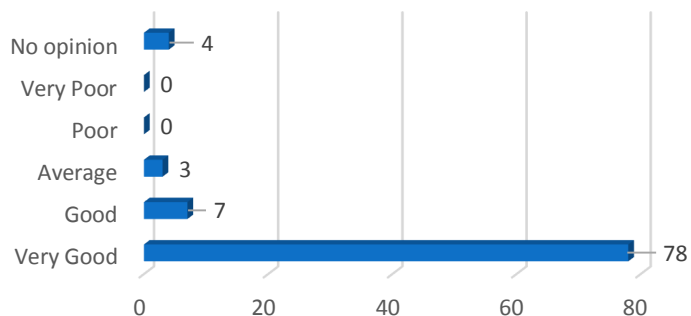
A huge thanks to [DM Mobility](#), [Home Instead](#) and [Medifix Healthcare Ltd](#) who supported the annual conference.



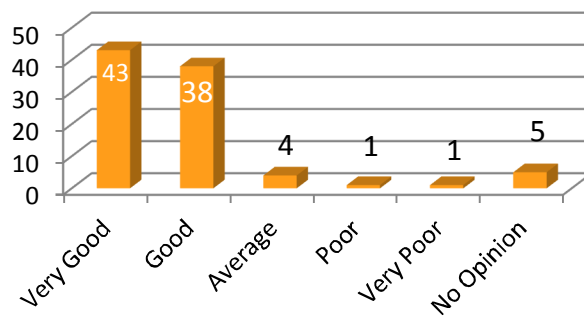
'Primrose' by member Edwin Bailey

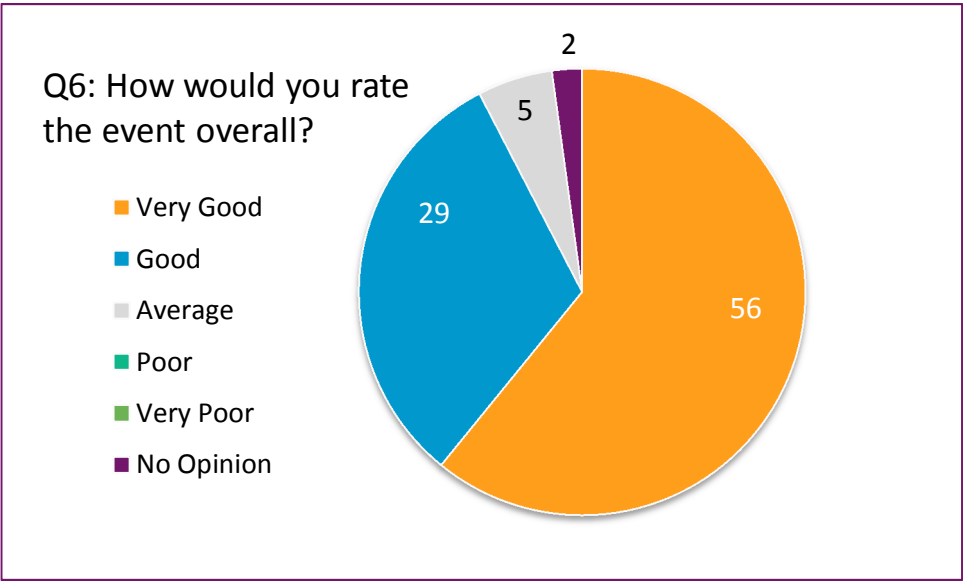
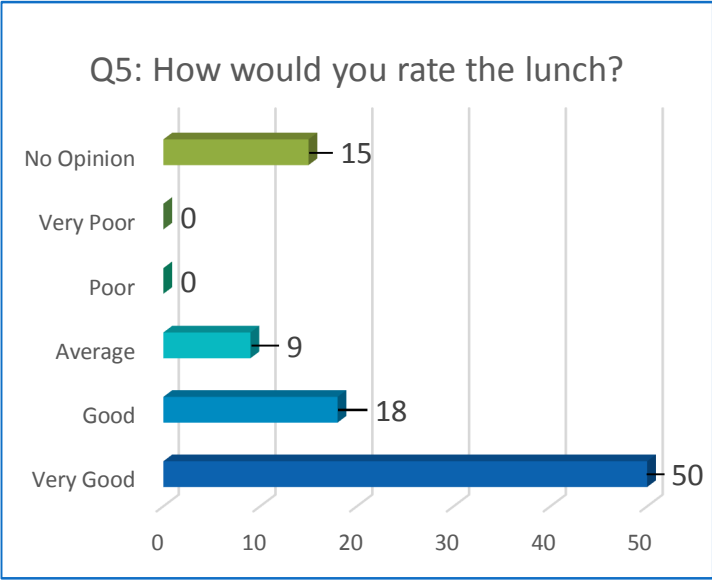
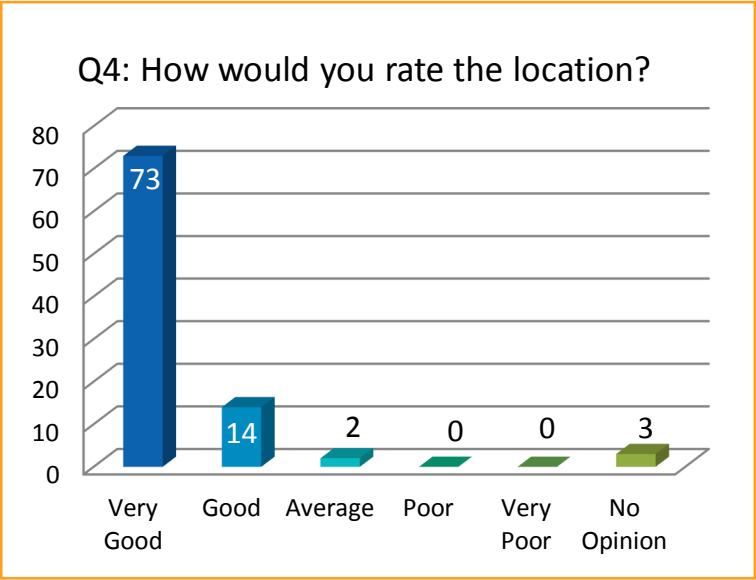
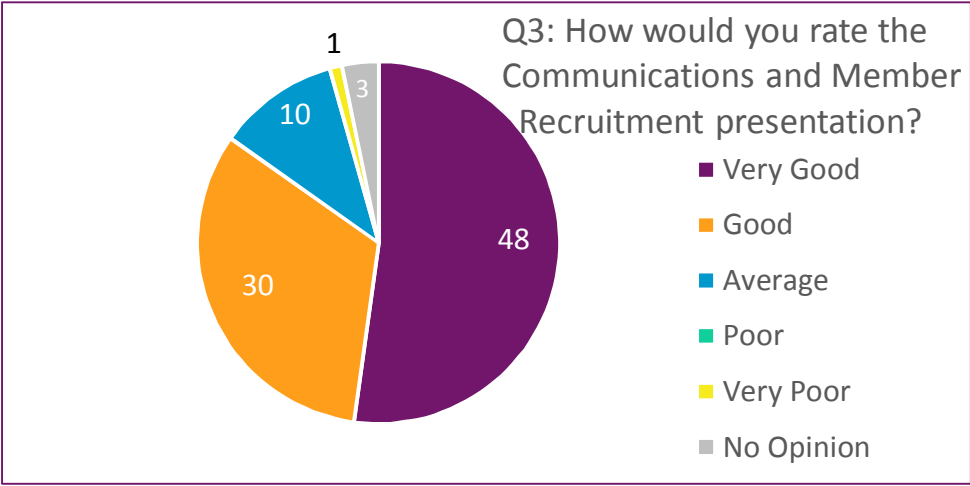
Conference Evaluation

Q1: How would you rate the talk by Prof. Gareth Williams?



Q2: How would you rate the AGM (formal session after lunch)?





Highlights of 2017

Silver Surfer – Jackie Minnock

North East member, and stalwart contributor to *The Survivor* magazine, Jackie Minnock, was shortlisted as a Silver Surfer in the Hobbies on the Net category of the Awards run by Age Action, in association with Eir.

Jackie was invited to Eir on Tuesday 28 March for the Awards ceremony, which were opened by Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Helen McEntee TD, and presented by well-known TV and radio personality Baz Ashmawy (50 Ways to Kill your Mammy), and his amazing mam Nancy.

Jackie was nominated by the Polio Survivors Ireland for the award, as she continually uses the internet to research, learn and for enjoyment, and is then willing to share her findings with other polio survivors through *The Survivor* magazine.

We are very proud of Jackie's achievement. Regardless that she did not win on this occasion, she enjoyed a lovely afternoon at the event. We were delighted to have Jackie interviewed on LMFM and to be featured in the Dundalk Democrat and on www.talkofthetown.ie, giving Polio Survivors Ireland great media coverage as a result.

Introducing our new name

Following a consultation process in 2016 a new operating name was proposed for the organisation, and in the run up to the AGM, members were asked to vote upon three shortlisted options: Polio Ireland, Polio Survivors Ireland or (staying as) Post Polio Support Group. The result, by a significant margin, was to change the brand name of the organisation to **Polio Survivors Ireland**.

This name reflects the way polio survivors refer to themselves and indeed, has been used by us frequently in media and social media as a way of reminding the public: *We're still here!* While *Post Polio Support Group* remains our legal company name, we believe that this simpler and clearer brand name will make a positive impact on our fundraising and promotional activities, giving us a clear, focused title, as a national polio organisation.

Following this decision work commenced on creating a new logo to match this new name and this was introduced in the summer of 2017



This new logo and identity was created by Geraldine Martin who worked on the design of *How We Survived and Surprised*. The new look is inspired by a short story in that book, *Louis Heels* by Anne Shanahan.

The footprints lead away from polio and suggest the long journey taken by survivors. They can also indicate how, despite their difficulties, polio survivors have made their mark, such as within their local community or society as a whole. One shoe is smaller than the other, a common experience for many children with polio. There are however numerous interpretations.

The new logo and branding has been well received in the main, by both members and by peers in the voluntary sector, as well as outside stakeholders. It is clear what we do and who we are working to help.

Launch of new National Polio Register pilot

The 50 Plus Expo in Galway at the beginning of September was the perfect time to launch the Galway Pilot of the new National Polio Register. With several thousand expected through the doors of the Radisson Blu Hotel, it was a wonderful opportunity for Polio Survivors Ireland to interact with people and highlight the work of the organisation and in particular introduce the new Polio Register.



Pictured launching the new Polio Register in the Tullamore Court Hotel, on Wed 31 May are Fran Brennan, CEO; Bernie O'Sullivan, Offaly; Professor Gareth Williams, author of 'Paralysed with Fear – the story of polio'; Geraldine O'Neill, Offaly; Jimmy Todd, HSE Offaly; and (front) polio survivors Susan Dowling, Barbara McDonagh & Joan Bradley

Many people we met with had known or knew polio survivors and we distributed leaflets and made some of our active retired population aware of the organisation and the needs of polio survivors. Our staff and members circulated the event meeting lots of other organisations and businesses that may also interact with polio survivors. Sinead Ryan, a well-known journalist, to take a photo with our Polio Register pencil.

50 Plus Show, RDS

In October, the Expo took place in Dublin, in the RDS, ahead of World Polio Day. The footfall on this occasion was even higher than in Galway and we again mingled with the many other organisations to highlight the Polio Register. A boon of the event, was having the BBC Antique Roadshow's Eric Knowles at hand to join us in a photo commemorating our new name and World Polio Day.



Pictured (l-r) are Bridget Quigley O'Brien, Fran Brennan, CEO, Anne Burns and (front row) Joan Bradley and Johnny O'Sullivan at the RDS for the 50 Plus Expo, launching World Polio Day 2017.

We had a number of excellent members helping us to run the stand at the event, talking to people about polio and about the support provided by Polio Survivors Ireland, as well as featuring in the press photos in the RDS (such as above) which were circulated to national media.

World Polio Day

World Polio Day, October 24th, is marked by polio organisations throughout the world, including the European Polio Union, the Rotarian Action Organisation and many polio survivor associations.

World Polio Day was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis.



Pictured (l-r) Fran Brennan, CEO; Garth Arnold & Dave Murray of Rotary Ireland & Pat McGillion, Chairman

A night at the movies for World Polio Day

It is not often that movies are made featuring polio survivors as the main character, but in 2017 the movie *Breathe*, the true story of polio survivor Robin Cavendish, starring Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy was released.



We were delighted to be invited to be part of a special screening for World Polio Day 24th October, in the Odeon Cinema in Charlestown, with hosts Rotary Ireland and to have the opportunity to raise some funds, and as importantly, some awareness around this Day.

We were featured on various radio stations and had some coverage in local papers with thanks to those who became media case studies speaking on their experiences of living with the impact of polio.

We raised " 825 thanks to those who attended or who donated. Movie guests were treated to a glass of prosecco and a goodie bag.

Our chairperson, Pat McGillion addressed the audience, as did Rotary representatives and highlighting the campaign to End Polio, while also reminding Rotarians that polio survivors themselves still require help and support.

Staff News 2017

- " Long serving staff member, **Lillian McElvaney** (pictured right) retired after over 9 years. We are very grateful for her hard work on behalf of our members.
- " **Ciara Hudson** (below right) joined us as a new Assistant Services & Information Coordinator in October 2017.
- " **Paul Turner** (below left) was appointed as our new Administration Officer also in October 2017.



Selection of Social Support Group Events 2017

Mountmellick Outing – Dublin North City & Laois Offaly Groups

The Dublin North City Social Support Group joined the Laois Offaly Group for their outing to Mountmellick and Emo, Co Laois in during Heritage Week 2017.

This visit to the Mountmellick Embroidery Museum, followed by dinner and then a trip to Emo Court House and gardens, merited a feature and interview with Bernie O'Sullivan in local media.

Both groups enjoyed visiting these historical venues, while taking the opportunity to exchange hospital stories and polio histories, which can be therapeutic to survivors, who've been through so many similar experiences.



Cork Group 'Chill Out Day'

In August, the Cork Social Support Group held their annual 'Chill Out Day' at the Dominican Retreat Centre in Cork. This involved a talk from Board Member, Macrina Clancy, on the latest news from Polio Survivors Ireland, followed by lunch, then a presentation from yoga teacher, Helen O'Connell on the uses and benefits of aromatherapy and essential oils, along with some relaxing exercises. At the evening meal, the 50th anniversary of the convenor, Evelyn Wainwright and her husband Terry was marked with a cake. The group were joined with polio survivors from Galway and Kerry for this most enjoyable day.

Clare Summer Outing



The Clare Social Support Group's outing on 30 August, took place at Vandeleur Gardens in Kilrush, West Clare.

The group visited the garden maze, glass house, arboretum and the museum portraying the history of Kilrush and the Vandeleurs dating back to the 1600's.

Mayo Outing in Foxford

Mayo Social Support Group went to Fr. Peyton Memorial Place, in Attymass, Foxford, Co. Mayo, where they enjoyed a meal, plus watched a video about the life of Fr. Peyton (The Rosary Priest) and had a look around the museum.



Fundraising Activities

Polio Survivors Ireland members, supporters and staff engaged in a wide range of fundraising activities throughout 2017. There are too many to mention all here, this is just a selection that demonstrate the variety and national reach of our fundraising activities, which additionally serves to raise the profile of the organisation and give us the opportunity to engage with new potential members.

Survivor Sweepstakes Results

Our Survivor Sweepstakes in 2017 continued to be a source of important fundraising. Members can match 4 to win " 1,000 and if there's no match 4 by the end of the year, then we run a secondary draw for " 1,000. This was won in 2017 by our member Maureen McGovern. There are three draws held during the year, with " 50 winners also drawn. Congrats to all and many thanks to all who supported this draw. We have raised " 5730 in total in 2017 thanks to the support of members.



Hospital Saturday Fund

We received a significant grant of " 7,000 towards our Winter Heating Grant from the Hospital Saturday Fund.

Many polio survivors suffer a significant intolerance to cold as a result of their condition. Having help with the additional costs can make the difference between going to bed early to keep warm and affording to keep the heat longer.

Margaret Rogers (right), from Heart Children Ireland presenting the cheque to staff member Emma Clarke Conway.



Live Crib Collection at the Mansion House

Polio Survivors Ireland was one of the charities to benefit from the Live Crib Collection at the Mansion House in 2017 . the Mansion House Fuel Fund being one of the oldest charitable fundraisers in Dublin, which seeks to benefit people in need. Our volunteers manned the crib on one of the days during the Christmas period, despite the cold and enjoyed the Winter Wonderland set up there. A grand total of " 34,465 was raised via a Ball

Pictured left with the Lord Mayor, Brendan Carr, are Polio Survivors Ireland members' Pat Cullen and Anne Burns, who helped with the Fuel Fund collection.

and the Live Crib, the money from which was distributed among charities including Polio Survivors Ireland at a function just before Christmas.

Ice Cream Blitz in Bray

In August the well-known Rainbows Ice Cream Parlour, in Bray, held a fundraising Ice Cream Blitz in aid of Polio Survivors Ireland. With sensational sunshine and stunning silver surf, it served as the perfect backdrop for an ice cream fundraiser. Ice-cream was sponsored by shop owner Carol, and staff and volunteers, along with a number of our Bray Social Support Group members helped raise " 638 in total thanks to the efforts of all involved.

Women's Mini Marathon



Pictured is Lorraine Harte, who took part in the 2017 Women's Mini Marathon in Dublin on behalf of Polio Survivors Ireland, with her friends Mairead Kelly (left) and Jackie Ryan at the 9K mark.

A huge thanks also to Libby Hendricks and to Aideen Lee who both raised funds for Polio Survivors Ireland by participating in the event.

The grand total raised was just over " 1,000 . well done to everyone who went to such effort and to those who sponsored the participants.

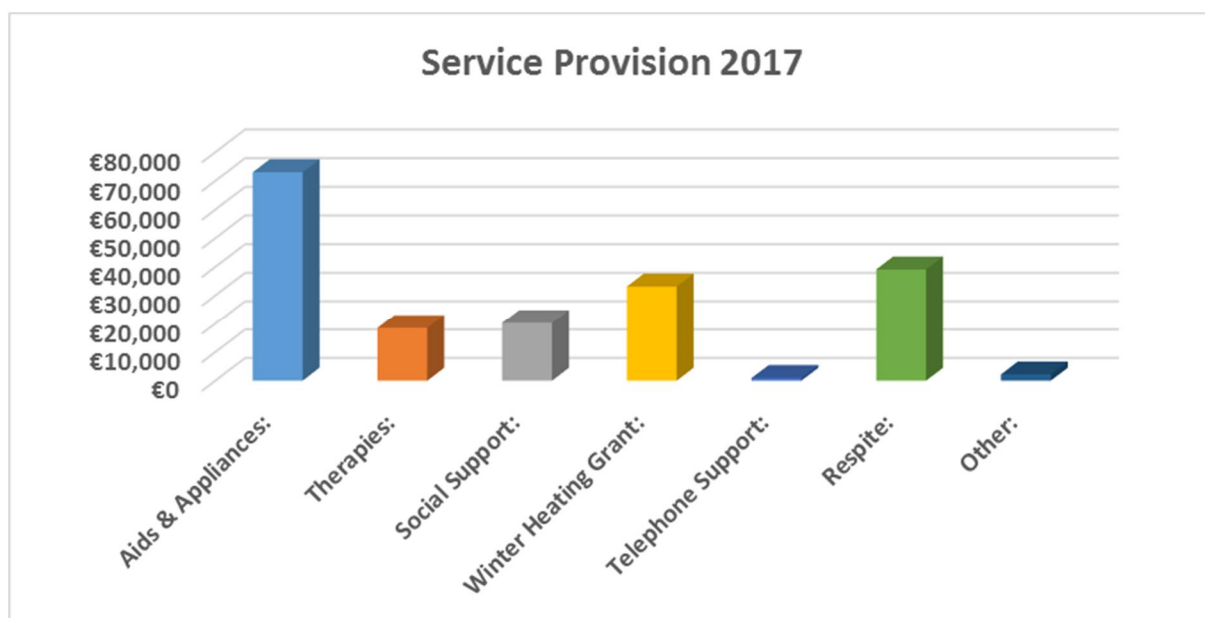
While numbers taking part in such events in recent years has gone down, we continue to see steady fundraising income from fun runs and marathon events around the country, thanks to our members and their families and friends.

Service Provision 2017

Polio Survivors Ireland provides a range of services and supports to polio survivors. These include information, personal advocacy, funding for aids and appliances, a variety of therapies, respite breaks and stairlifts as well as heating grants. These supports are administered by the Service and Information Co-ordinator (SIC) and the Assistant SIC. Polio Survivors Ireland would like to gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the HSE in particular, a number of other grant making trusts and of course our fundraisers without whom these services and supports to our members could not be provided.

Membership of Polio Survivors Ireland stood at 928 people at the end of 2017. The Organisation carries out a number of interventions with polio survivors each addressing an aspect of the deterioration in their functional abilities, in so far as is practicable. Each intervention provides incremental redress of the loss of functional ability. The intervention originates with formal self-assessment by the polio survivor followed by contact assessment from an SIC or ASIC. In addition we provide supports to those with needs arising from unforeseen circumstances and respond appropriately. The Services and Information Co-ordinators work co-operatively with HSE frontline staff and other professionals to ensure that the intervention proposed is appropriate to the individual polio survivor. 301 different polio survivors contacted our office for help during 2017.

Figures for supports provided during the year are as follows:



76 polio survivors received aids & appliances during the year with a total expenditure of " 73,002.

67 polio survivors benefitted from therapies such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Chiropody and Counselling at a total cost of " 18,517.

119 members received a Respite break during the year at a cost of " 39,111.

265 members received the Winter Heating Grant at a cost of " 33,146. This grant is offered to those members who are assessed as having difficulty in meeting their fuel bills. All the money for the heating grant is sourced from fundraising. We are very grateful to those organisations and individuals who supported us in providing this much needed grant.

Other support provided to polio survivors in 2017 included repairs to stair lifts and hardship support at a total cost of " 2,191.

In addition to these direct supports, we provide:

Social Support

We run 20 social support groups around the country in the following locations:

Athlone, Co Westmeath; Bray, Co Wicklow; Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan; Carlow; Ennis, Co. Clare; Cork, Finglas, Swords and Tallaght in Dublin; Donegal; Enniscorthy, Co Wexford; Galway; Kilkenny; Limerick; Navan, Co Meath; Kildare; Castlebar, Co Mayo; Portlaoise, Co Laois; Sligo; and Kerry.

Over 200 members benefitted from attending social support group meetings and events in 2017. The cost of the Social Support service in the year was " 20,293.

Telephone Support

Our Telephone Support Service is a peer service provided from home to home by and for polio survivors across the Republic through our RingRing and PhoneChat services.

- RingRing is a one to one peer support service where a volunteer polio survivor calls a fellow survivor who may have difficulties attending our events or even leaving the house. Typically each volunteer has three regular survivors who they phone each month. At the end of 2017 there were 18 Leaders calling 38 fellow polio survivors.
- PhoneChat is a fortnightly group conference call . a volunteer polio survivor and member facilitates a conversation with 3 to 4 fellow polio survivors. At the end of the year there was 1 active Phonechat Network with 3 participants.

" 909 was spent on Telephone Support service in 2017

Other Support

In addition many polio survivors contact our office for information, advice and general support.

Complaints

The organisation has a complaints procedure and maintains a register of all complaints and actions arising. 1 complaint was registered in 2017.

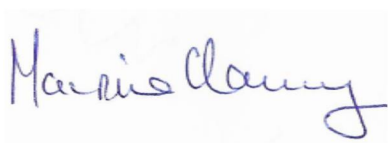
Financial Summary 2017

The organisation had an operational deficit of " 5,977 (Expenses over Income) after providing for depreciation for 2017. In 2016 there was a small surplus of " 1,992.

1. Income: The operating income for the year amounted to " 468,990, which was down from " 513,405 in 2016. This was partially due to a difference in " 10,109 from the HSE, the loss of a grant from the Dept. of the Environment and a decrease of " 4,500 in Other Grants. These shortfalls were partially offset by an additional " 5,000 from the Polio Fellowship of Ireland/Rehab Group compared to 2016.
2. Expenditure: The expenditure directly attributable to activities came to " 318,490. This was slightly down on last year (-" 4,079) however, the previous year's expenditure was significantly higher compared to previous years. Services to members' costs were down due to staff changes. The Administration Expenses came to " 157,477 which again was lower than 2016 due to staff changes. Total expenditure for the year came to " 475,967 down " 35,447.
3. Net current assets less current liabilities at 31st December 2017 came to " 127,546. This is an indication of the financial health of the company

Outlook for the Future

These are challenging times for the voluntary sector and there are competing demands from all areas of society on the sector. This trend will continue into the future. The sustainability of the organisation is contingent on maintaining good revenue streams which are continually under threat. However, within these constraints, the Board is confident that it can continue to provide a quality service.

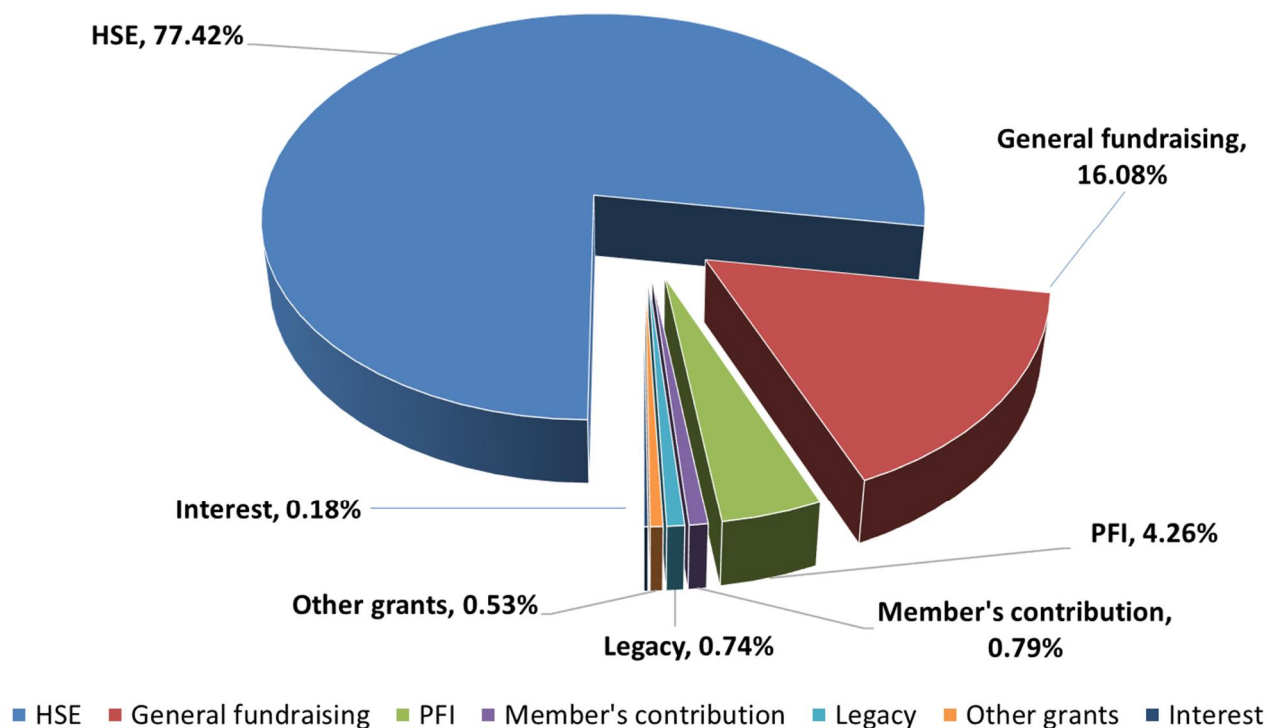


Macrina Clancy
Treasurer

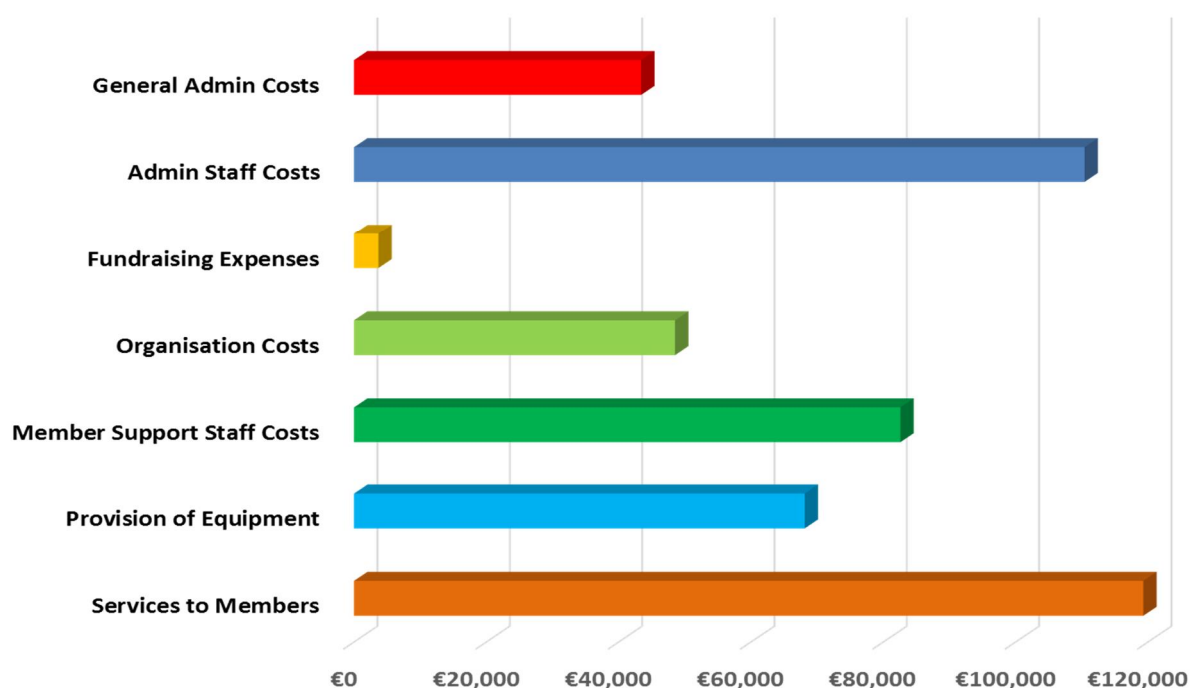
30th May 2018

Financial Highlights 2017

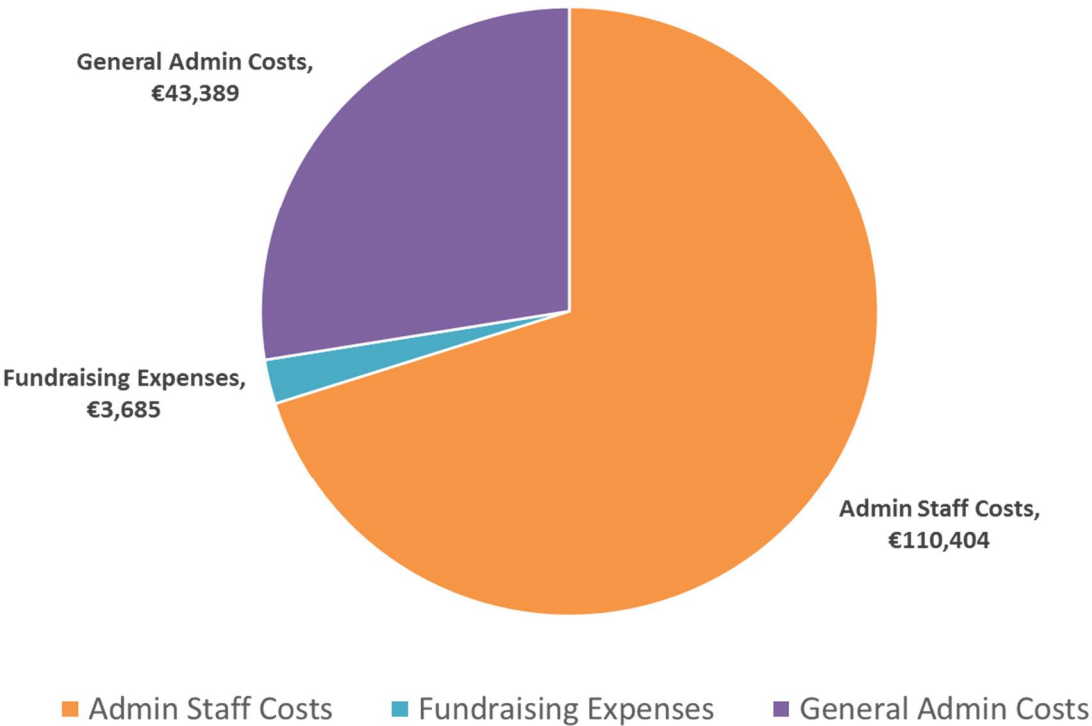
Total Income €469,990



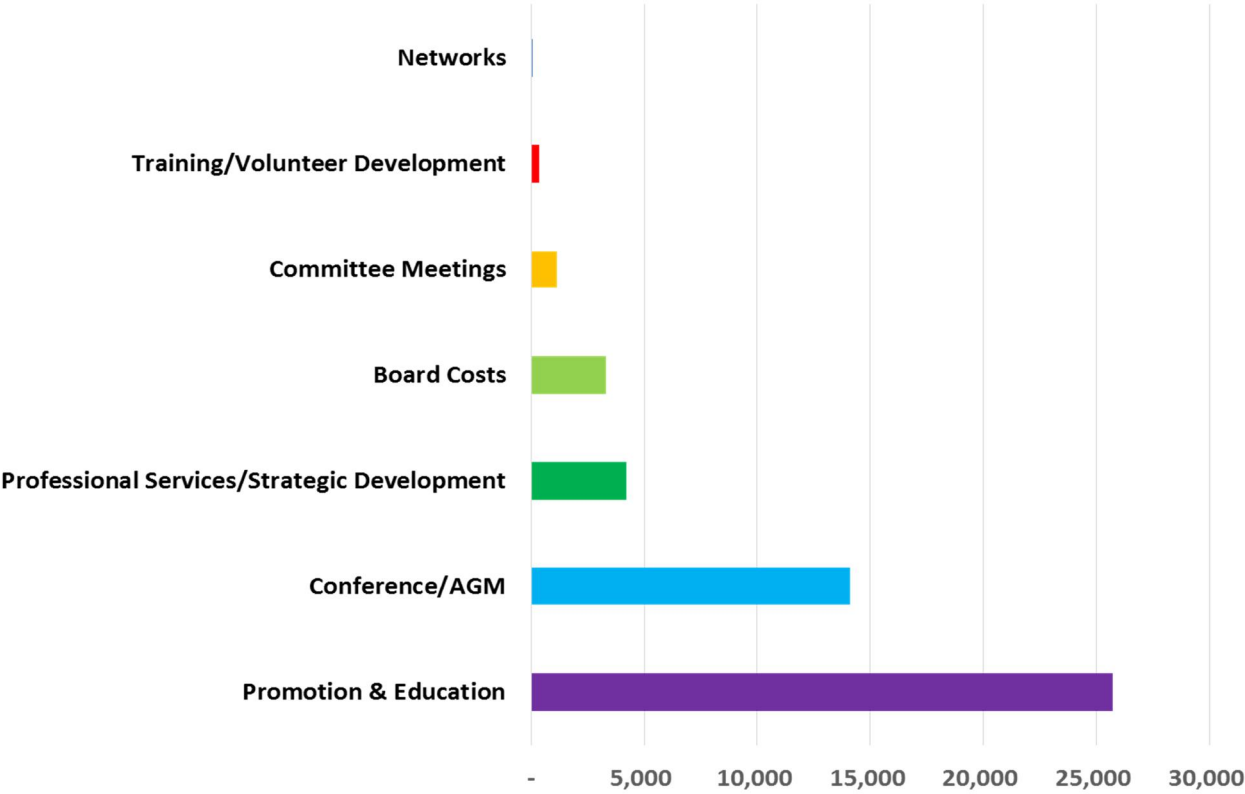
Total Expenditure: €475,967



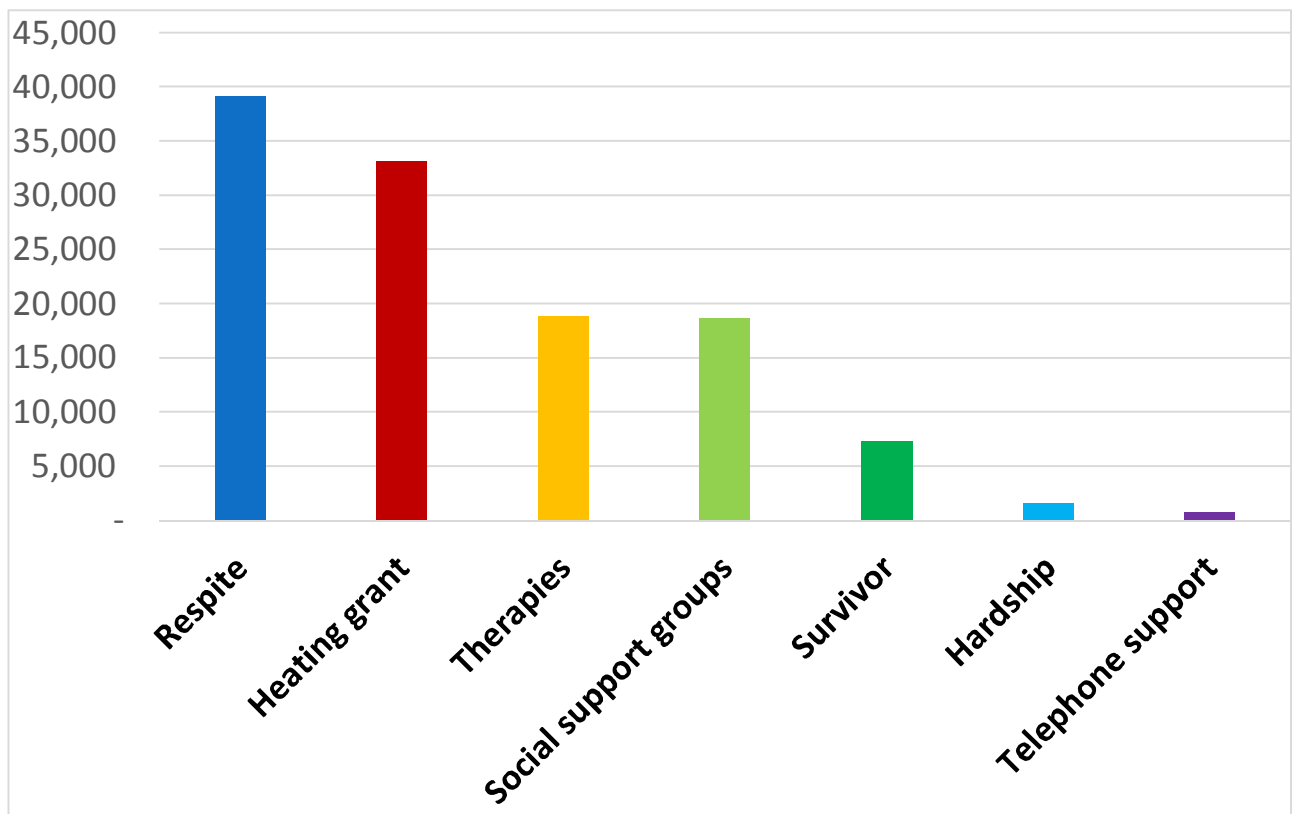
Administration Costs: €157,477



Organisation Costs: €48,515



Services to Members: €119,293



Fundraising & Grant Income 2018

