

Chairman's Report for the AGM of Tullow Day Care Centre CLG 2021

The year 2020 was the most unusual and challenging year for Tullow Day Care Centre. The year started off well. We had plans to extend our services beyond our catchment area, we signed up to the Charities Regulatory Authority which committed us to comply with the 6 principles of good governance and we organised training courses for members of the Board. We had also planned fundraising events, golf classic, church gate collections, bag packing etc.

One of the first changes we were advised to make was to change the title of Management Committee to Board of Directors, the second change was to split the role of Nurse/Manager into two - nurse and manager because the workload of the main office has increased so much and thirdly to have a financial committee instead of one treasurer. These recommendations have been carried out. But our plan to extend services beyond our catchment area was severely curtailed with the onset of Covid-19.

Following a directive from the HSE the Centre closed its doors to clients on Monday March 16th but offered meals-on-wheels to all clients who were cocooning at home. The usual daily numbers of meals-on-wheels increased from 40/45 to 80/90 plus 40/50 extra on Fridays for the weekend and all staff were kept on to maintain this service as well as laundry and phone calls. The staff also decided to prepare and deliver meals on bank holidays.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their dedication and commitment to the Centre and the clients. Thanks to the DEASP, the CE participants and their Supervisors, Fiona Nash and Marina Balfe who helped to keep the Centre open.

Our fundraising plans had to be cancelled also leaving the Centre with a worrying financial deficit. But thanks to our Manager, Wendy, who was then Office Administrator and researched grants, we were successful in getting funding from Carlow County Council for a temperature scanner, insulated bags for the delivery of meals-on-wheels, food containers, CCTV, video intercom, Covid screens and PPE equipment. I would like to sincerely thank Carlow County Council for their generosity.

Wendy also applied for funding from the Stability Fund for Community and Voluntary Organisations and the Centre was granted €51,122 which was a huge relief and I thank Wendy most sincerely for sourcing this grant to keep us going financially.

The HSE supported us throughout the year with funding and advice and I thank them and the DEASP for their continued support.

There were other changes too. Our Nurse/Manager of 31 years, Marian Doyle, retired in October and was replaced by Wendy Sinnott, our long serving Chef, Jackie, also retired and was replaced by Gavin Byrne and our new Office Administrator is Emma Gartland. I thank them all for accepting these positions and wish them well for their future with Tullow Day Care Centre.

From April 2020 the Board of Directors held their meetings via Zoom - a totally new experience but one we all adjusted to. It was important to maintain contact with the Manager and staff of the Centre and offer support where necessary.

All decisions taken by the Board are democratic and follow detailed discussions. These decisions are then communicated to the Manager and staff of the Centre. I thank all the members of the Board for their work and commitment to the Day Care Centre.

Signed: *Laz Murphy*

Date: *14-09-21*