

ChildVision

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



ChildVision

National Education Centre for Blind Children





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Welcome Message from Chair and CEO

Welcome to the 2018 Annual Report and Financial Statements for ChildVision. This year we touched the lives of almost 2,405 families, reflecting the growth and recognition of the need for the specialised services we offer children and young people in Ireland.

With the launch of our Strategic Plan, Adapt to Grow 2018-2023, we took a fresh look at how we organise ourselves and develop our people and restructured our services into four service platforms: Clinical Services, Education Services, National Network Services and Reading Services. It was timely to receive confirmation from the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, and the HSE, that we were approved for capital funding of €9.5M. This will allow us to provide much needed upgrading and extensions to our campus.

Also announced in 2018 was the provision of a second clinical team to ChildVision. We are committed to providing the highest level of specialist care to children as young as a few weeks old, right up to young people in their mid-twenties. The demand on our services has grown exponentially in the last few years, the provision of a second team will mean we can provide more Early Years places and provide essential therapeutic intervention as early as possible. We can also reduce the waiting list for Early Years assessment, Multi-Disciplinary assessment, and ADOS2 assessments

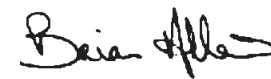
Innovation and growth in service delivery is always important and, during 2018, our Clinical Director pioneered two new projects, our first telehealth pilot project with partner, VideoDoc, allowing parents, guardians, allied health professionals to access through an app or their desktop and make an appointment for a free consult. The project will pilot in 2019. The second project was the development of an e-learning site, again accessible through childvision.ie with courses aimed at visiting teachers, parents and other professionals.

Our services expanded to include a second learning strand for our lifelong learners following the HSE New Directions focus on greater responsibility for decision making by the individual and experiences drawing from work and social enterprise projects. Our campus facility is rich with social enterprise possibilities with the on-site charity shop, garden centre, restaurant and equine centre populated by the public. Our newly developed projects of recycling, shredding and horticulture will be interesting to establish and develop. Early Years also developed their service in Dublin and Cork to include parent groups in the afternoons and sessions at Easter and summer. Our own annual summer camp moved back to campus and had 20 participants.

In 2018, ChildVision was once more a recipient of Charities' Institute of Ireland's Triple Lock, demonstrating openness, transparency and integrity to all our donors and beneficiaries. Trust in what we do is very important to us and our door is always open, we always welcome anyone to arrange a tour and see how we fund our service. Another acknowledgement of our work in compliance in 2018 was in our Term Time Living. Each of our houses was scheduled for re-registration in 2018 with the Health and Information Authority (HIQA) and those inspections were highly complementary of the person-centred service offered to our young people. The reports achieved among the highest standards in the country.

2019 will be a challenging year as we try to bring our capital project on to the next phase and do the best for the families and young people in our care. We will continue to innovate and develop our people to provide the best possible level of specialist care to as many people as we can. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the donors, volunteers, supporters, management team and staff who work alongside us every day to help make outcomes better for the children and young people who come to ChildVision –

nothing would be achievable on our own. With your continued help and support we can meet the challenges and deliver what we promise – no barriers to the fulfilment of aspiration or ambition.



Brian Allen
Chief Executive



Shane Cowley
Chair

Our Vision

To provide a supportive and inclusive learning community where disability does not create a barrier to the fulfilment of aspiration or ambition.



Our Values



Person-Centred Inclusivity

Delivering a person-centred, inclusive service that embraces diversity and encourages participation.



Professionalism

Professional and critical practice.



Transparency and Accountability

Transparent and accountable decision making made in consultation with stakeholders.



Safety and Integrity

Integrity of care and utmost safety are the pillars of all our interactions with our young people.



Valuing Uniqueness

Valuing the unique attributes of each child and young person.

What We Do

ChildVision is Ireland's only dedicated centre for children and young people with a visual impairment, some of whom have profound sensory impairments and additional disabilities.

ChildVision, located on a site in Drumcondra dedicated to the care of the blind in Ireland since the 1850s, provides a national resource for families and professionals who need expert help in the area of visual impairment or visual impairment and additional disabilities. We also operate a satellite service from our Cork centre.

Our work is divided into four different areas Education, Clinical, National Networks and Reading Services which provide a full range of supports for children and young people from birth to 23 years.

We are a registered charity and operate as a not-for-profit organisation in partnership with the Health Service Executive as a Section 39 provider, part funded, and the Department of Education and Skills. We rely on the kind support of donors for so much of the work that we do.

“ Within three days of speaking to the therapists at ChildVision they had given me so much information.

Even very simple things I was doing wrong I had no idea, like putting Richard facing the window so he could see out. They have informal information sessions on therapies as well, it benefits not just Richard but the whole family. He'd been getting care before, but it was like a jigsaw and none of the pieces were fitting together. When he came to ChildVision, they fitted.”

Brigid, Richard's mum



Our Services



Clinical Services

Therapies

Speech and Language
Occupational Therapy
Physiotherapy

Nursing

Clinics

Low vision
Ophthalmology

Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy



National Network Services

Assessment

Early Years Arena
Multi-Disciplinary
ADOS2, autism

Family Events

Professional Training Events



Reading Services

Braille

Large Print and Daisy Education
Transcription

National Children's Library

Assistive Technology

Professional Resource Library



Education Services

Lifelong Learning

Social Enterprise programmes

Education Supports

Habilitation, Technical, Orientation and Mobility

Early Years

Residential Term living

Clinical Services



What we do

The multidisciplinary team at Childvision has two occupational therapists, two speech and language therapists and one part time physiotherapist who work along all our education programmes to deliver specialist intervention in low vision and multi-disabled visually impaired children and young people.

The team provides daily medical intervention to children and young people on campus to allow them to avail of the educational supports of the service. We believe in offering an accessible and inclusive approach to therapy and, before a therapy block commences, we write to parents or guardians inviting them to attend a number of sessions. We also provide regular training sessions for parents and professional therapists throughout the year.

The nursing team are available throughout the day and an on-call out of hours service is available Sunday to Friday evening to the residential term-living teams. Two eye clinics operate throughout the year, an eye clinic and a low vision clinic run by an optometrist in association with Temple Street Children's Hospital.

Our equine assisted occupational therapy team work on campus for students in our service but also see people from other disability services throughout the year.

Therapies

Speech and Language
Occupational Therapy
Physiotherapy

Nursing

Clinics

Low vision
Ophthalmology

Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy

How people use our services



Physiotherapy

28	Early Years
54	Education Supports Primary
17	Term Time Living
4	Life Long Learning



Speech and Language Therapy

34	Early Years
34	Education Supports Primary
14	Term Time Living
6	Life Long Learning



Nursing

29	Early Years
53	Education Supports Primary
19	Education Supports Secondary
18	Life Long Learning



Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy

45	Early Years
53	Education Supports Primary
4	Term Time Living
17	Life Long Learning

Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy

This service is run on campus during term time and throughout the summer and Easter holidays. It caters for the students of ChildVision but also for people in other disability services who would benefit from it. A long-standing member of our multidisciplinary team oversees the equine assisted occupational therapy input and works full-time with the equine team on this service delivery.

Equine term breakdown at a glance

2,550

SESSIONS PER YEAR

9,500

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS PER YEAR

During term time



2,400

SESSIONS PER TERM

60 sessions per week



8,600

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS PER TERM

215 people per week

Childvision service users allocation during term time



520

SESSIONS PER TERM

13 sessions per week



2,000

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS PER TERM

50 people per week

Summer time



43

SESSIONS PER WEEK



900

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS IN TOTAL

150 people per week

Term time is 40 weeks



National Network Services



What we do

Our National Network Services team seeks to form new alliances with professionals and parents around the country to ensure our service provision reaches all who need it in good time. Our assessment team is comprised of members of our early intervention team, clinical and nursing specialists, working together to identify needs and abilities. We conduct functional vision assessments, an Early Years Arena assessment from birth to five years, a multi-disciplinary assessment from 5 to 23 years and an ADOS-2 (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule for three to 16 years olds, every residential student also receives an annual review to assess their needs.

National Network Services also hosts a calendar of events for families and professionals, both on campus and around the country, sharing information, support and advice for those supporting children with a visual impairment in their local communities.

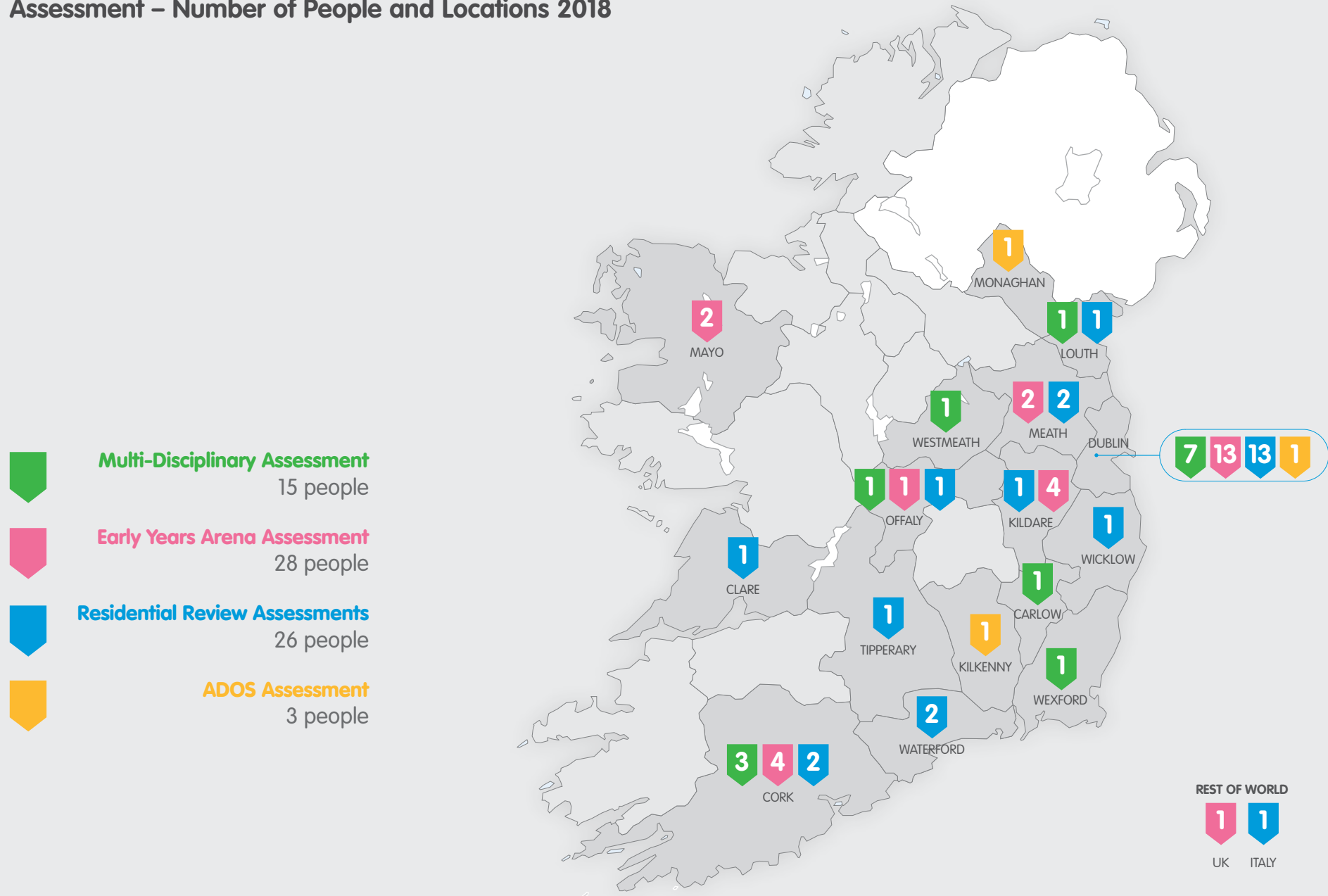
Assessment

Early Years Arena
Multi-Disciplinary
ADOS2, Autism

Family Events

Professional Training Events

Assessment – Number of People and Locations 2018



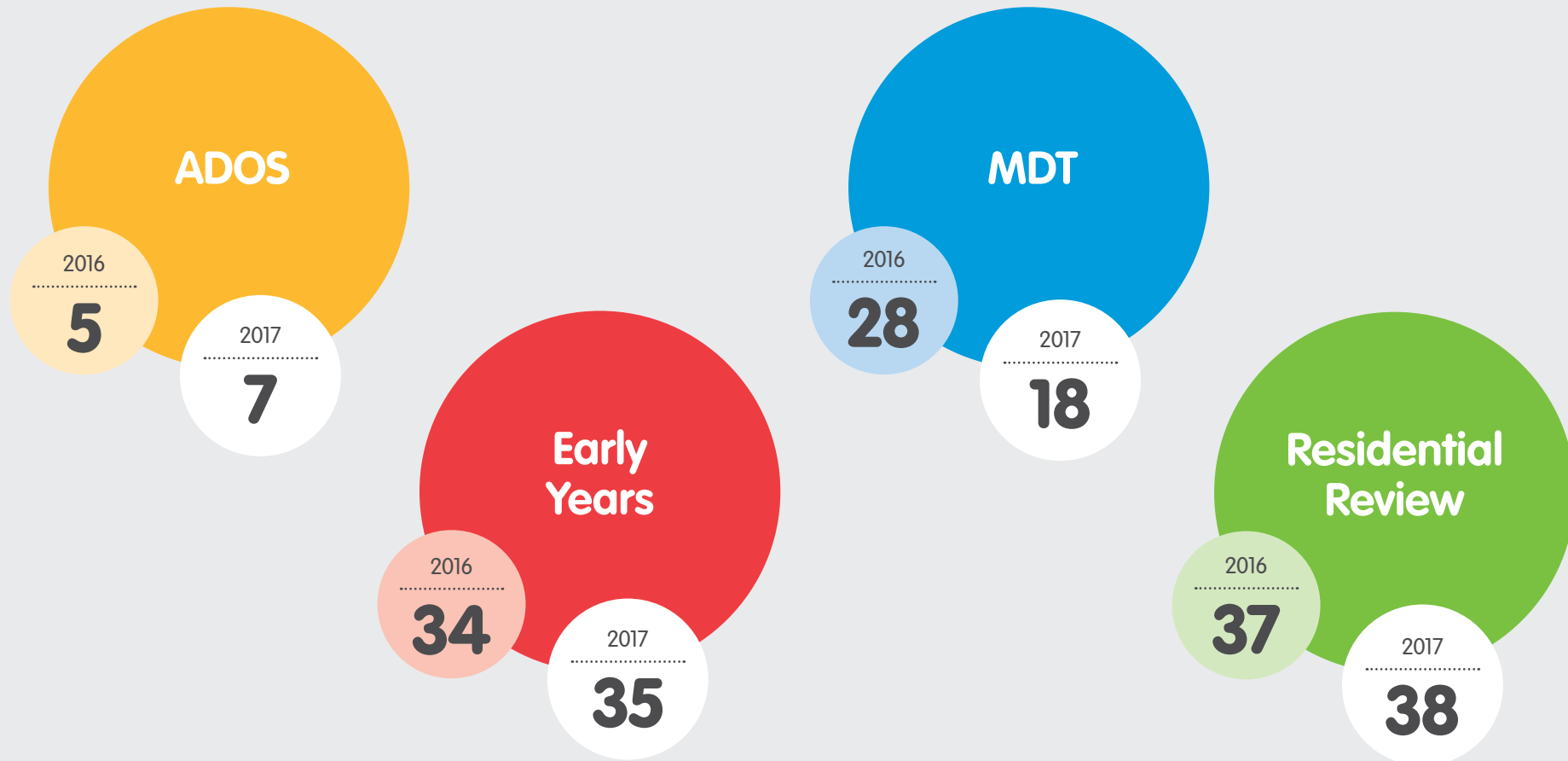
A photograph of a family outdoors. A man with short dark hair, wearing a blue and green plaid shirt, is kissing a young girl on the cheek. The girl has blonde hair with a white headband and is wearing a light blue cardigan over a pink dress. She is laughing with her eyes closed. A woman with long dark hair, wearing a green top and a grey scarf, is holding the girl and smiling. She has sunglasses on her head. The background is a blurred green field.

**“ When we came to ChildVision,
that alone feeling started to lift.**

Everyone had different stories but we were all there for the same reason. This had been so hard to find in our own community. It was like we finally found ‘our place’. When despair is stopping everything else, ChildVision are like a family with such expertise and warm hearts that help you find a way.”

Sara, Freya’s mum

Assessment Numbers – Year on Year Comparison



Reading Services



What we do

We transcribe nearly 6,000 educational titles for 900+ students in alternative formats (braille, large print, 3D and tactile). Our students are represented nationally and attend mainstream and special schools across the Republic of Ireland with over 65% attending primary education. The majority of our students access their educational material through large print but in 2017/18 there was a continuous rise in the numbers requesting digital formats. This is very much in line with trends in mainstream education. There was also a rise in the number of students accessing education through Braille, both in hard copy and through advances in assistive technology, enabling more choices for students to trial new formats.

We operate an assistive technology 'try it out' hub to help visually impaired young people make the right choices about what technology is right for them before they commit to it. We also provide a phone helpline for technical support and advice as the need arises.

Our library has free membership and has 1,200 members from all over Ireland. We deliver all formats of books to members free of charge and, apart from our young people's titles, we also have an extensive professional resource library for people working in the area of VI.

Transcription Breakdown 2018

	New	Reprints
Braille	116	118
Large print	409	2873
Txt files	52	101
DAISY	331	1951
Total	908	5043

Total Transcriptions
2018

5,951

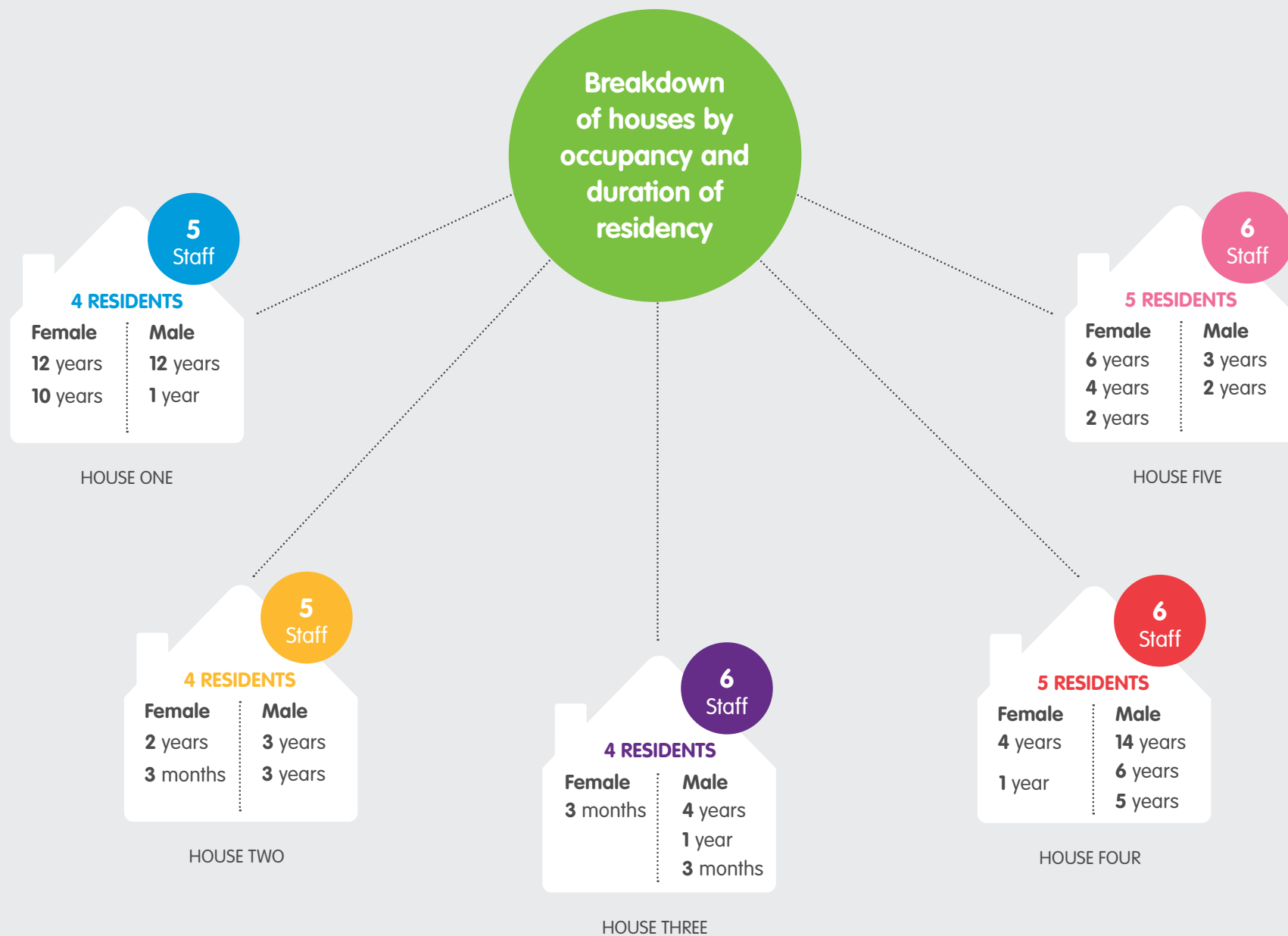
Braille

Large Print and Daisy Education
Transcription

National Children's Library

Assistive Technology

Professional Resource Library



Education Services



What we do

At ChildVision we are committed to giving the best possible choices to the children and young people in our care and this includes giving access to learning. Through our Early Years specialist intervention education programme, we cater for VI and MDVI children from a few months to six years. We offer this service in Dublin and Cork.

Our education supports allow students with complex medical needs access education adjacent to our campus, on-site nursing, therapeutic intervention, equine therapy and residential term living makes access to their education both possible and greatly enhanced.

Residential term living for children and young people allows a rolling programme of independent living skills and peer interaction happen in parallel to education programmes which cater for the varied needs of VI and MDVI young people from 12 into young adulthood.

Lifelong Learning is a life skills programme for 18-24 year olds, programme one focusses on independent living skills while programme two focusses on developing these skills through workplace training, social enterprises, education & training and 'real life experiences'. Across all our education programmes students are supported by habilitation, technical, orientation and mobility skills.

Lifelong Learning

Social Enterprise programmes

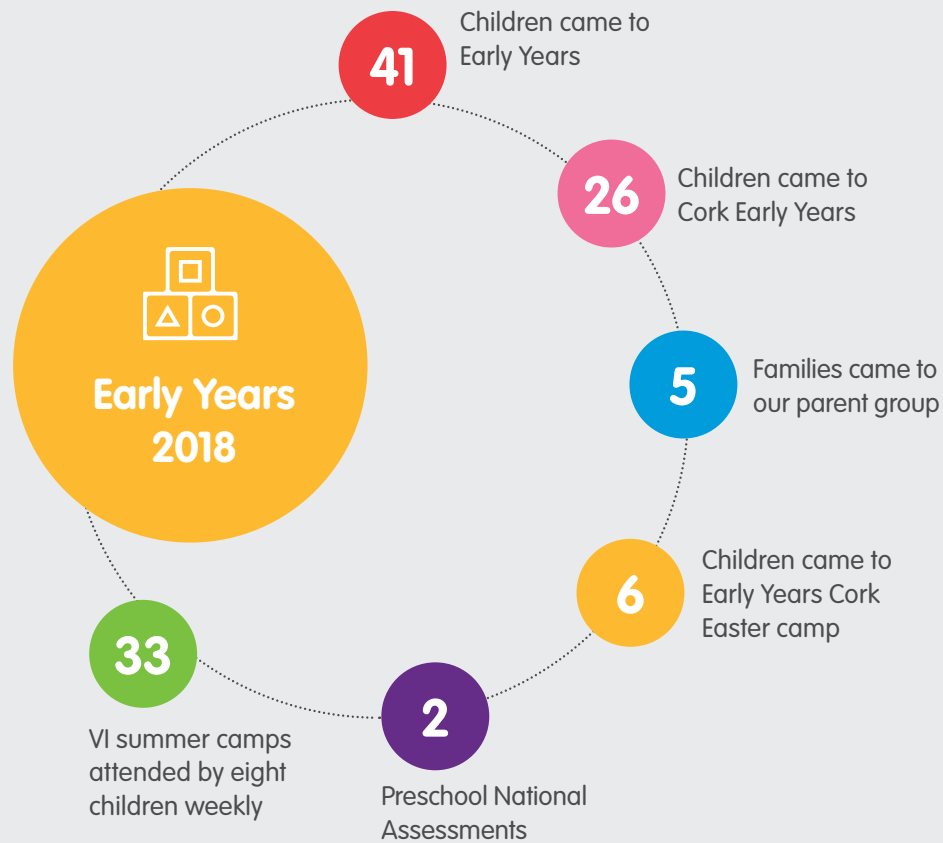
Education Supports

Habilitation, Technical, Orientation and Mobility

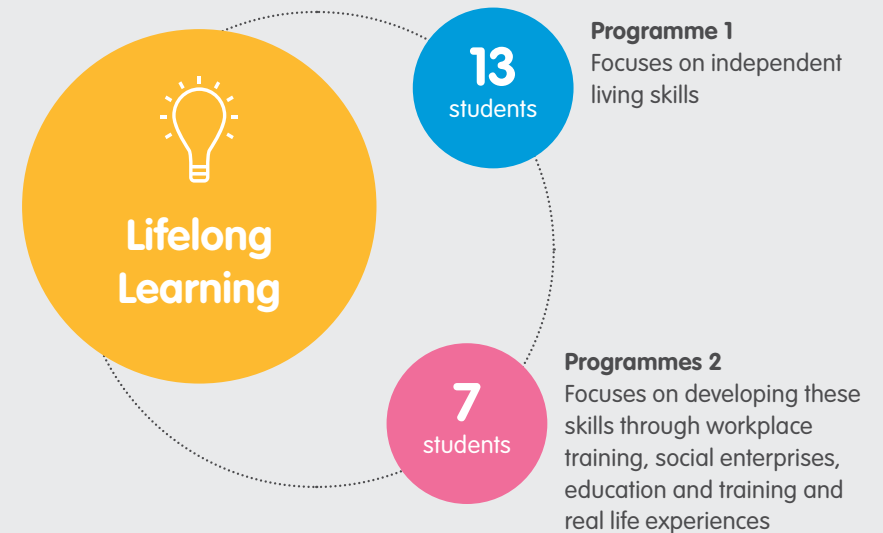
Early Years

Residential Term Living

Users of our early years specialist intervention education programme



Our lifelong learning is a life skills programme for 18-24 year olds



“ I knew I wanted to be in my third level, and I always want to keep learning – to follow through and do my PhD.”

Paul, ChildVision residential student



Blind since birth, Paul came to ChildVision when he was very small, and at the age of 12 he told his mum he wanted to become a residential student. When asked at a later age why he made that decision, he answered, 'because at home, I'm my mum's only visually impaired child and at ChildVision I'm one of many and I get to do so many after school activities!'

One of those activities was judo and by the age of 16 Paul was already winning All-Ireland judo competitions against fully sighted competitors. But his aspirations included much more than sport. He used his braille note for everything from social media, listening to music and for studying and aspiring to get to college.

For the next several years, Paul attended the local secondary school while living at ChildVision for the subjects he enjoyed. But as the time approached to sit the state exam, it became clear that a Leaving Certificate was not in Paul's cards.

He is as forthright explaining the situation as he is about every obstacle he's faced. "I knew I wanted to be in third level, and I always want to keep learning – to follow through and to do my PhD. But the Leaving Certificate was just not for me."

Together with Paul, who is now 19, staff at ChildVision set to work. They looked at all the possible options while having him begin interviews for third level. As a result, he was able to successfully receive places without the need to sit the Leaving Certificate Examinations. One of those places was in the access programme in Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) — the exact pathway he'd hoped for to work towards a full-time honours degree in computer science!

Paul, whose sight loss condition is called Leber congenital amaurosis, has lots of supports in college, and with the help of the sports scholarship, he's still doing judo! "It's the place for me," Paul says contentedly. "I really enjoy the challenge. It's good to be able to balance study and sport, and it's the path I see myself going down."



Five days a week, ChildVision's residential houses are a home away from home for many students who attend education programmes with their support.

Eibhlis Cahalane has been part of the social care team for the past five years and team leader for the past two. There is something magical about ChildVision. There is huge kindness. Everybody helps each other. And the fun."She smiles. There is always fun and happiness, and the needs of our students are always central. It's not because we need to tick boxes or because a rule says so. We care deeply for our colleagues, the students and the organisation."

Eibhlis Cahalane, Social Care Team

Staff Member



Questions about our services

Do you only look after blind children?

Children and young people with all levels of low vision attend ChildVision, but we also look after children who have a visual impairment and one of many additional disabilities, which we call MDVI (multi-disabled visually impaired). All children have a diagnosis, from an ophthalmologist or optometrist, of a visual impairment that cannot be corrected by glasses or lenses, such as a visual acuity of 6/18 or less. We work with every child to help them make the most of what they can do, every day.

Can my child go to ChildVision and another service?

Yes, we have many students attending our service and other services such as St. Michael's House, Laura Lynn, NRH or their own local mainstream education provider.

Can my child go to school before or after ChildVision?

Yes, if recommended, many children can go to mainstream after preschool and many older students come to ChildVision for their secondary schooling supports for Term Time Living to practice their independent living supports.

Are your stables, riding area and equine therapy on-site?

Yes, they are. All therapy takes part on our seven-acre campus. There's even a sensory trail, small pet farm, garden centre and coffee shop all open to the public seven days a week.

Do you have any other centres?

Yes, we have an Early Years and Assessment Service in Cork.

Can I ring up if I have a question?

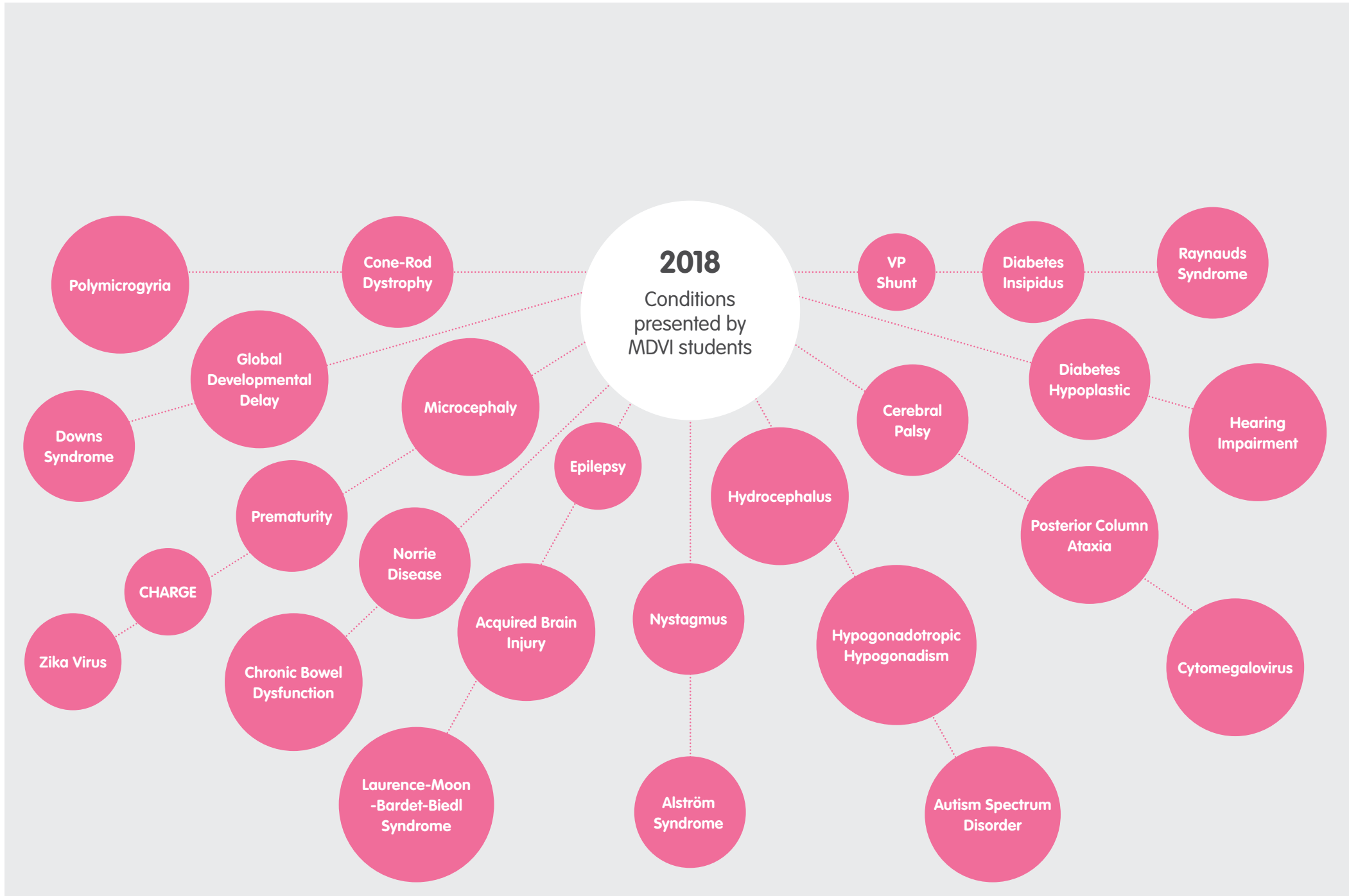
You can, we will always try and help. Or you can make an appointment to see our Clinical Director through our app, available on the app store. ChildVision medical, the service is completely free, you can also access this service through our website.

Profile of MDVI

In ChildVision we work with children and young people who have a visual impairment, but we also work with those who have a visual impairment and additional disabilities, those with two or more additional needs we refer to as multi-disabled visually impaired, we have a high population of MDVI children in our service, including deaf-blind and those on the ASD spectrum.

Some key facts about MDVI

- Children born at less than 26 weeks' gestation have an 80% survival rate.
- Up to 75% of children who are premature have a disability, ranging from mild to severe.
- 70% of VI children have medical needs or an additional disability.
- 33% of VI children have two or more additional needs and meet the criteria of MDVI.



Our Performance

Adapt to Grow

In 2018, we launched our new five-year strategic plan, Adapt to Grow. Creating the strategy gave us an opportunity to take a critical look at how we operate, how we manage our people and how we can change and do things better. As a result, we re-organised our management and service structures focussing on delivering the best quality services to as many people as possible. Within our five-year plan we also look to planning for a capital redevelopment of our buildings, approved by the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, and the HSE in March 2018 following extensive consultation with the HSE. This approval also contains sanction for a second clinical team to expediate waiting lists for children who have specific need for our expertise.

The purpose of our strategy is to fully meet our remit:

- As a national provider of assessment, habilitation, education, therapies, reading services, social care and respite for children and young people with visual impairment, some of whom have additional disabilities.
- With accredited professionals in appropriate settings, delivering timely outcomes and improving the lives of these children and young people.

Year in Review 2018



Deliver the best possible service in a prompt and attentive manner

- Following an extensive period of consultation with the HSE area 9, approval was granted by the Minister for Health and the HSE for €9.7M capital funding and a second clinical team to ChildVision beginning in 2019, subject to funding availability.
- The National Network Services embarked on a nationwide programme of network building with existing and potential professionals to strengthen and establish collaboration and partnerships with a central objective of ensuring the children and young people who should be referred to us for assessment are. This included organisations such as the National Parents Council, the Association of Optometrists of Ireland, NCBI (regional managers) NCSW Visiting Teachers Services, NEPs, HSE Day services and establishment of contact with ophthalmologists throughout Ireland with visits to eye clinics in Cork, Limerick, Galway, Donegal and Dublin.
- The establishment of the Telehealth pilot project with VideoDoc aims to streamline the waiting list for children and young people waiting for assessments with ChildVision, and allow us to prioritise those who need to access the service urgently.
- Reading Services ran a trial of a new digital format (Epub) with a focus on its accessibility for educational material through assistive and mainstream technology. The trial was run in conjunction with the Visiting Teacher Services with expectation of new digital orders for September 2019 being transcribed in Epub.



Support friendships and relationships in a person-centered ethos

- There are so many examples of incredibly special, but impossible to quantify realities; the young person who can now dress independently, who engages socially in circumstances which would once have been challenging, who expresses meaningful choices on a daily basis, who enjoys interacting with peers. Here are just some highlights for our students in 2018, each one giving an example of how we help foster confidence and potential to allow each person be happy and celebrate their abilities and concentrate on having the best fun;
- One student combined participation on an access programme in Dublin Institute of Technology, studying maths, physics and computer science full-time with a rising profile as the country's most successful visually impaired judo champion, winning two gold medals in the Northwest international Championship and golds in both the Donegal Open Judo Championships and the 2nd Level Championships. In all of these bouts this young person – a braille user – competes against sighted opponents.
- Another of our young people who has excelled as a park runner, trained to achieve almost 40 5K park runs in 2018 alone; he only took up running in 2017 when he began training on the new exercise pod which is now located on campus and has enjoyed training since with a member of his social care team.
- Our 17th consecutive trip to Space Camp in Alabama was great fun and a great success, with, yet again, another one of our students winning the prestigious Top Gun award, meaning ChildVision participants have now won four of the past five years' major awards at this international gathering.
- One of our students took to the airways with a programme on Near FM as well as a behind the mic stint in RTÉ, meeting An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, as part of a delegation on third level bursaries for students with sight loss.
- Several of our students successfully completed Gaisce awards work placements including working in a charity shop, a local café, a pet grooming service, ChildVision's reading service, and the ChildVision library.
- Summer Camp on campus had 20 participants, including 11 from ChildVision and had a wide range of sporting activities provided by Judo Ireland, Tandem Cycling Ireland, Parkruns, Vision Sports Ireland, the FAI and Tennis Ireland.
- One of our students played the uilleann pipes for President Higgins on stage in the Abbey Theatre and also in the Aviva Stadium recently at half time during a Leinster rugby match.



Improve the outcomes for young people with a visual impairment, some of whom have additional disabilities

- In 2018, we introduced a new programme for our Lifelong learning group, providing space, staff and training to respond to the framework of New Directions (HSE 2015). The objective of this new programme is to focus on independence skills and workplace training through work integrated social enterprises work placements, education and training, and 'real life' experiences. The programme aims to have a more integrated approach, with participants contributing to weekly team meetings, making autonomous decisions, accepting responsibility for managing their individual programme and providing open and honest feedback on a regular basis.
- The new Transformation Health Pod sponsored by Essential Supplies, means all students of ChildVision can now train on this state of the art, zero gravity treadmill, especially commissioned and built with our students in mind. This is part of a health and well-being initiative across campus.

- The recent ratification by Ireland at the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities challenges us to help our students work creatively to realise their rights. During 2018, we provided our young people with the chance to work with a trained self-advocate, a person with a disability, to learn about self-advocacy.



Focus on sustainability, growth and innovation of our service delivery

- We instigated our first pilot project in telehealth in partnership with VideoDoc. This is to trial how ChildVision services might be enhanced or complimented by the reaches of video link services with potential users. This service will allow our clinicians link with families, teachers or therapists via video link using an app or the internet to discuss questions regarding a child with a visual impairment, regardless of their geographical location in Ireland. The trial period will be approximately six months and will commence in 2019.
- In 2018, we developed an e-learning platform with Moodle to allow distance learning for some of our popular courses. We assessed the need and developed an initial roll out of short courses available through our website.
- To support the expansion of our new Lifelong Learning programme we fundraised to provide new social enterprise projects on site for the students to participate in and have implemented social enterprise programmes in shredding, horticulture and recycling.
- Each of our houses were scheduled for re-registration with the Health and Information Authority (HIQA) in 2018 and those inspections were highly complementary of the person-centred service offered to our young people. The reports, which are publicly available, achieved among the highest standards in the country.
- The expansion of our 3D project within Reading Services to reduce production time for transcription of mathematics through Braille. 2018 saw the initial stages of an ongoing project with Transitions Optical's senior engineers around the development of 3D printing.



Engage, develop and value our people

- Our Equine Assisted Therapy Unit produced a pilot study on the effects of equine therapy on the family unit using the Peds QL family impact module. Questions focused on primary carer health (emotional, physical, social and mental), stress and general family relationships. The results of the research were presented at HETI (Horses in Education and Therapy (Dublin) and ISAZ – International Society for Anthrozoology (Sydney). This led to us making contacts with IAHAIO, hippotherapy groups from the Czech Republic, equitation science experts, and to strengthen ties with the RDA and RDAI. From these meetings ChildVision plan to facilitate an All-Ireland Equine Assisted Activities Association.
- Our senior OT continues to be involved in the Paediatric Neuroscience Network specialist group comprising occupational therapists from Ireland and England sharing knowledge and improving services for children with acquired brain injury.
- Members of staff attended the MDVI EUROnet meeting in Italy in June 2018.
- As part of progressing disabilities services our Multi-Disciplinary Team presented a full-day workshop “Working with Visual Impairment; Considerations for Your Practice” for professionals working in CH09 in February 2018.
- Accreditation with a third level institution is being sought for the ADOS project to bring this research project to the next level.
- Staff continue to deliver training to other members of staff across campus in manual handling, first aid, children first, orientation and mobility, multi-element behaviour support work, relationship and sexuality training and management of actual or potential aggression (MAPA). In conjunction with our full CPD programme many of the National Network Services professional training programmes offered to allied health professionals happen in our conference centre on campus and are open to our staff to attend. In 2018, this included the cortical visual impairment training day delivered by Professor Gordon Dutton, Emeritus Professor of Visual Science at Glasgow, Caledonian University and Patron of the CVI Society.
- A workshop day delivered by Dr Rita Honan, a chartered clinical and educational psychologist and behavioural analyst with over 20 years’ experience.
- A member of our social care team has been appointed by the Minister for Health to sit on the Social Care Worker’s Registration Board and on CORU’s governing body.
- A colleague also sits on the HIQA advisory body, representing the Disability Federation of Ireland.
- During 2018, ChildVision were chosen by The Potential Project as their not-for-profit partner for 2018, delivering on-site mindfulness training over six weeks for 22 of our staff. Their objective is, ‘focussed minds lead to organisational excellence’, and has been rolled out worldwide to corporate clients such as Accenture, Microsoft and Carlsberg.

Our Board of Directors

Directors

Shane Cowley, Chair

Monica Leech

Daniel Browne

Michael O'Shea

Christopher Cassidy

Joe O'Reilly

Michael Monaghan

Richard Ryan

Sr Marian Harte

Michael O'Keefe

Gareth Jones

CEO

Brian Allen

Company Secretary

L&P Canter Fitzgerald Services Limited

Sub-Committees of the Board

Audit Finance Committee

Christopher Cassidy

Shane Cowley

Daniel Browne

Governance Committee

Richard Ryan

Michael Monaghan

Michael O'Keefe

Development Committee

Monica Leech

Daniel Browne

Shane Cowley

Joseph O'Reilly

Quality & Safety Committee

Sr Marian Harte

Gareth Jones



"This is my ChildVision family" senior speech and language Therapist Sinead Fitzpatrick says with a smile. And her role is nothing like you might expect. "In the morning I could be under a table in the preschool, working with a child on farm animal concepts that develop language through play. In an hour's time, I could be in the primary school with an MDVI (multiply disabled and visually impaired) child looking at food consistencies and safe textures for them to eat." She pauses to explain how some children have disabilities that keep them from swallowing certain foods, and how textures are critically important. "By the afternoon, I could be with Lifelong Learning students working on role play and improvisations. I get to wear so many different hats, and I love that. We have great opportunities to trial new programmes," Sinead describes, as she outlines two exciting developments she did during 2018 with her students, "Our adaptation of the Royal Irish Academy of Music's speech and drama syllabus makes ChildVision the only organisation in Ireland to utilise this programme. It builds what we call pragmatic language development – language and social skills – but students use their creativity and imagination at the same time."

With a Masters from the University of Essex, Sinead is also helping change how students are diagnosed. Visually Impaired children can sometimes mimic the characteristics of autism, yet autism's gold standard diagnostic test, ADOS, relies on visual materials and eye contact. "With special permission from ADOS publishers," Sinead explains, "we are making adaptations for our children with little or no functional vision. This is a long-term project, and one I'm very passionate about."

Sinead Fitzpatrick, Senior Speech and Language Therapist
Staff Member

Financial Review of the Year

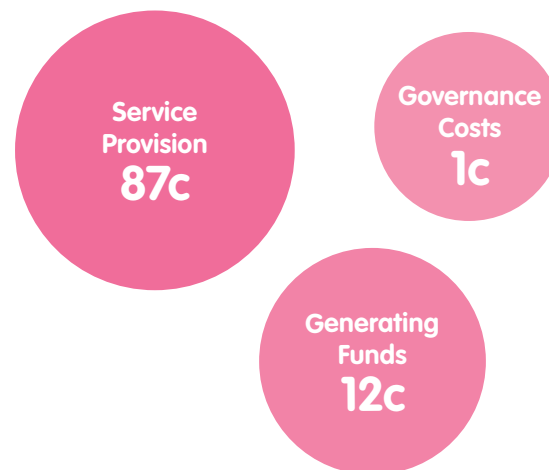
Income and Expenditure

ChildVision is financed by a mix of state and voluntary funding. We have one member of staff overseeing both the fundraising and communications functions of the organisation. In 2018, ChildVision raised a total income of €7.5m(2017 €6.9m) for charitable purposes, this is an increase of €680,664. The income was generated through various channels, with 80 per cent from Government funding, primarily allocated through the HSE and the Department of Education and Skills. The remainder came from our fundraising activity (€908k, up by 40% per cent on 2017) and the balance from on-campus social enterprises and rental income (€636k, down by 13 per cent on 2017). A deferred fundraising campaign and a reduction in commercial activity are the main causes for the reduction.

We are continually grateful and amazed by our donors for all their contributions. We would like to thank all for their continued support during the year.

Here's how our money was spent in 2018

For every €1 we spend



Donations

Thanks to the generosity and goodwill of the public and business community, in 2018 we raised to €907,956 to provide our children's services. This represents an increase of 40% on our 2017 fundraising income.

Here's where our fundraised income came from in 2018

