



Áiseanna Tacaíochta
Annual Report
2016

**This Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of Martin Naughton,
1954 - 2016.**





Mission Statement of Áiseanna Tacaíochta (ÁT)

*“To provide leadership and support in
Ireland to empower those of us who
have disabilities to direct our own lives
and enjoy the same equality and
freedoms as non-disabled citizens”*

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Chapter One: Introduction

Chairperson's Address



2016 brought with it both success and sadness.

In October, Martin Naughton, one of ÁT's founders, passed away after a short illness. This was a huge loss to ÁT and to disability activists across Ireland. Martin was the driving force in ÁT, with a vision to not only increase its membership but to develop the organisation to be an effective voice for people with disabilities. He had the ability to source funding for projects, including research into the ÁT model of direct payments, as well as growing the organisation. His passing has left a huge hole in the organisation and all of us struggled for a while to know what to do. The ÁT Board met frequently and determined to carry on with the pioneering work.

At the end of 2016, we were able to obtain the services of Anthony Carrick as Interim CEO and he provided leadership and a steady hand through this difficult period. The research into the ÁT model will be completed in 2017 and will be offered to the Government Task Force on Direct Payments. During the year, ÁT also increased its membership and hopes to be in a position to add further members in 2017. The HSE acknowledged the role of ÁT as a demonstration project and generously funded ÁT to continue its development.

During the year, Marian Brosnan and Niall O'Baoill left ÁT and we recruited Sarah Johnston. Emma Caparangca continues in her role as Finance Manager, Aisling Whelan as Member Relations Manager and Maggie Woods as Member Support – Ireland West. I want to thank all the staff who, during the year, and particularly around Martin's illness and passing, provided the members of ÁT with an efficient and sensitive service.

2016 was my last year as Chairperson of ÁT. It has been a privilege to work with the Board, members, Leaders and staff. I know that the new Chairperson will take the organisation further forward to fulfil Martin Naughton's aspirations to encourage more people with disabilities to take more control of their lives.

Geoff Day, Chairperson, ÁT

Interim CEO's Report

I arrived at ÁT in November 2016, following the tragic death of Martin Naughton. I had worked with Martin for many years at the Disability Federation of Ireland and, though reluctant to try to step into his shoes, I was honoured to be asked and have tried to work to safeguard and fulfil his legacy.

In my short time in ÁT, I have already met so many people whose lives have been dramatically impacted for the good by Martin's interventions and by the work of ÁT.

Even apocryphally, it is obvious that ÁT's flagship model of Direct Payments works.

As well as trying to provide leadership and a measure of stability, I have tried to implement and consolidate the many infrastructural initiatives and reforms that Martin had been contemplating, in order to strengthen the structure of ÁT and to provide a more robust service to both existing Leaders and prospective Leaders.

A measure of ÁT success is that we currently, and unfortunately, have a waiting list of approximately 15 prospective ÁT Leaders, despite never having advertised our services.

In addition, I have worked with ÁT staff to try to develop a model of membership fees and support charges, which aims to make ÁT relatively self-sustaining in a number of years.

Notwithstanding this, ÁT, like many other Community and Voluntary organisations, struggles for funding and continues to be wholly dependant, in the short-term, on the HSE for its survival.

ÁT continues as a HSE Value for Money Demonstration Project and, to validate the ÁT model, has commissioned a research project with NUIG, to provide a Cost Benefit Analysis of the ÁT model. This project will be completed in 2017, and will be offered to the Government Task Force on Direct Payments as well as to the HSE.

My task at ÁT would have been impossible without the support, sheer hard work and dedication of the ÁT staff, who have worked above and beyond the call of duty, in this very difficult and tragic time.

I also want to thank the ÁT Board for their support during an eventful and challenging time.

Thank you, also, to the ÁT Leaders who continue to leap into unknown territory and who continue to challenge ÁT. Amid the daily barriers to inclusion and participation, and a

historical cycle of dependency on providers, it has been a privilege to hear the stories of the ongoing fight for change.

I also want to express my thanks to the many HSE Disability Managers, HSE Care Managers and HSE staff who have shown a willingness to put people with disabilities to the fore of their thinking. The burden of reporting to the HSE remains a challenge for such a small organization and this is something that ÁT will hope to address in 2017.

Finally, I would like to express appreciation for all the volunteers and supporters associated with ÁT, who are always willing to give their time and a helping hand. In particular, I would like to thank all those on the Circles of Support, who play a crucial role in the lives of Leaders, providing confidence and support to individuals and promoting their inclusion and equality in local communities.

Peace.

Anthony Carrick

Interim CEO, Áiseanna Tacaíochta



Newly Appointed CEO

The Board is delighted to announce the appointment of Paul McBride as Chief Executive Officer of Áiseanna Tacaíochta. Paul has over 20 years' experience in senior management positions in both the commercial and not-for-profit sector. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant with exceptional financial, commercial and governance experience, and a proven track in effective organisational management.

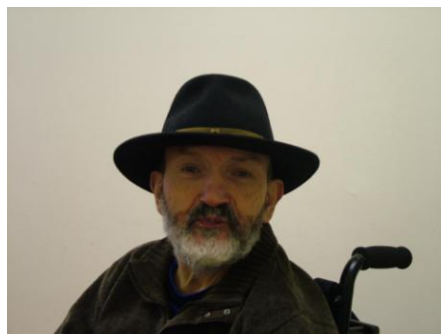
A graduate of NUIG and UCD Paul qualified as a chartered accountant whilst with PWC in Dublin. Following PWC he worked for many years in the food sector both in Ireland and the UK gaining extensive experience in all aspects of organisational management.

In recent years Paul held the position of Chief Executive Officer with Cycle Against Suicide, an organisation focused on raising awareness of suicide and challenging stigma in the area of mental health.

During his tenure with Cycle Against Suicide Paul led multiple teams and hundreds of volunteers towards meeting the goals of the organisation. He oversaw the growth and development of many awareness raising events, including the organisation's annual signature event which involved up to 10,000 cyclists taking to the roads over a two week period; the growth of the annual schools' congress to a 6,000 student event over a two day period. He also developed/secured several formal partnership arrangements with related agencies; and a new pilot programme in the area of sustained community engagement in the area of mental health awareness.

Under Paul's direction, ÁT is committed in continuing to deliver Martin's vision of empowering people with disabilities to lead independent lives.

Members Testimonials about Martin Naughton and ÁT



Peter Moore

I first met Martin in 1973 when we both entered the newly built Cara Cheshire Home in Phoenix Park. Within a year we both had left the Cheshire Home, Martin, because he was given employment, and I think private accommodation, in Baldoyle Hospital where he had grown up since the age of 7 or 8. I left because, although I wanted to become independent of my family, I realized that an institution in splendid isolation was not for me.

From the hospital in Baldoyle Martin became very involved in the local community. He was instrumental in the founding of Baldoyle United soccer club, and the building of the youth club. He moved out into a flat of his own with a team of assistants. Around this time I started to visit him more regularly. I was impressed by how the younger generation reacted to Martin. To me it was obvious that they saw him as a father figure. He taught and coached them in many skills.

Then in 1990 a group people with significant physical disabilities came together, and this led to the establishment of the first Centre of Independent Living in Ireland two years later. Without doubt Martin was the driving force behind it.

Martin was not interested in creating an organization that would be dominant in independent living. When I joined ÁT one of the first things he said to me was that if I proved myself capable in managing my service to the HSE I could leave ÁT. He believed that everybody with a disability has the right to control their own life.

Anna Keane

I had only known Martin for eighteen months before his untimely death. At our first meeting (to discuss me becoming a member of ÁT), I was struck by his sheer energy and

tenacity. He had a plan but he realised that to get it implemented sometimes you had to lose a few battles to win the war.

My service being funded by the direct payments model has created new opportunities for me which have been life changing and I owe it all to Martin. I hope that I, and the other members of ÁT will keep his vision going, as Martin, would have wanted us to do.



Gordon Ryan

The first time I met Martin was way back in 1993. I was about to start college and I needed a PA to assist me there. You have to understand there was no PA's available at the time. I was living in Kilbarrack and was a neighbour of Minister Michael Woods I knew his daughter Sinead as I went to Greendale School with her. I had a path worn up to his house as I was always asking him for something. I had been in contact with Michael regarding some support for college. He told me of a company called Centre for Independent Living which was looking for funding from him to do exactly what I was looking for.

A few days later I got a call from a guy called Martin Naughton looking to meet with me. When he arrived to meet me we had a discussion on what I needed and I then had a PA.

A few years later while I was a member of IWA Leader consultative group. I learnt a lot about negotiations from him. At that time I was very unhappy with my service and had a discussion with my LHO and while she said they couldn't fund me directly she also said that if we set up an organisation they could. I had a sleep on what she said and spoke to Martin about it. Over the next 18 months we setup ÁT, learning a lot as we went along, Martin took the lead with the negotiations with the HSE and IWA and my job was to work behind the scenes to get all the work done. While everyone was supportive of what we were doing no one really thought we would get very far, but we kept slogging away and got to a point of no return. Martin was instrumental in getting €60,000 from Genio which helped us greatly as we were able to employ someone to do the work that needed to be done. Up to then Martin and I were doing it at evenings and weekends.

When it came to talks with IWA Martins experience showed through and he got the best deal possible for us.

Over the years I was involved in the hatching of many plans with him and got to experience firsthand how hard he worked, often taking phone calls at 10.30 at night and constantly checking his emails. I will always be grateful to Martin for giving me the confidence to speak out and for showing me how to engage with politicians. He was one of a kind.

Owen Collumb



Most of us know Martin Naughton as the disability activist and pioneer of the Independent Living movement. He has led the disability movement from an era of institutionalisation and dependence to a country where people with disabilities can have the aspiration to live a life of their own choosing.

Martin constantly supported people with disabilities to become their own advocates and encouraged them to be leaders of their own service and not passively receiving services and taking for granted that these very services were constant and could not be changed.

Before ÁT was setup in 2011 Martin had planted the concept of direct payments in many peoples' heads.

Martin believed that people taking ownership of the budgets that have allowed them to live independently would offer them more choice and control in their decision making process and this would lead to them having a better quality of life.

Martin's skill of making a concept a reality allowed him to work tirelessly to bring a number of people together to establish the ÁT Network, which was the first organisation to deliver direct payments in Ireland.

During his work Martin never took No for an answer and took the word maybe to mean yes on many occasions.

Martin demanded that people with disabilities would be treated with respect and that they would respect themselves as equal participants in society.

Martin's vision for Áiseanna Tacaíochta was as a user led organisation that empowered people to take ownership of their own lives, grow their own individual talents and use those talents to inspire others. It was a vision that people with disabilities need to work together in order to achieve their civic rights.

Martin leaves a huge vacuum within Áiseanna Tacaíochta and the disability sector in general that is unlikely to be filled by any one of his stature. However the best we can achieve in honouring his memory, is to continue the ground breaking work to ensure that all people in society are treated as equal citizens.

The campaign will continue without Martin but his presence will be greatly missed.

Chapter Two: 2016 in Review

Organisational Review

The ÁT Organisational Review undertaken in the third quarter of 2015 was published and presented to the Board in January 2016. It included a detailed set of recommendations organised under 7 headings, that set out a particular vision for the evolution and development of ÁT.

The Report was adopted by the Board and actioned.

Placement – Joanna Chester

ÁT continued its tradition of providing work placements for third level students with an established interest in Human Rights and Equality matters. Joanne Chester, studying in both UCD and Maynooth / NUIG was engaged and undertook key action-research practices over a 6 month period Jan – June 2016 and received the highest marking / grade for same. Now Chairperson of the National Deaf Youth Association Joanne continues to be an excellent public advocate.

Disable Inequality Campaign

ÁT connected directly with the Disability Federation of Ireland Disable Inequality campaign in the lead into the 2016 General Election. ÁT hosted events, monitored and responded to political party manifestos, connected with members / social media, produced a campaign video and assisted in the campaign evaluation process.

ÁT Leaders Seminar – Shamrock Hotel / Athlone, 5th March 2016

ÁT convened its member / leaders on a daylong seminar, organised over two major thematics:

Firstly, a retrospective review of the role / efficacy of AT since its foundation 5 years prior, with particular reference to future developmental needs, not least the cultivation

of a more direct, engaged form of leadership by and for people with disabilities.

Secondly, an in-depth set of presentations on the ÁT / Cost Benefit Analysis Project being undertaken with the Centre from Disability Law and Policy in UCG throughout 2016 and the negotiation of ÁT Leaders participation in the process.

The Seminar, attended by ÁT Chair, Director, staff and a majority of ÁT Leaders concluded on a very positive and proactive footing.

North Dublin Disability Forum – Clayton Hotel Tuesday 29th March 2016

ÁT convened a meeting of all Dáil / Senate and Local Authority representatives from a set of adjoining constituencies in North Dublin with a view to engaging on the nature of the UNCRPD and means of planning, implementing and monitor progressive disability specific actions in the region.

ÁT organised this event on a pan disability basis and was successful in establishing broad agreement on a set of action lines.

SEI – Social Entrepreneurs Ireland

ÁT made application for a major €100,000 award to Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, was shortlisted, attended a series of related workshops, following formal interviews were then selected for the second phase of the Awards process and ultimately – following submission of a formal organisational development programme – then reached the Final – in which AT was a runner up. The final stage coincided with Martin Naughton's illness and his inability to engage at that point was an unfortunate, unforeseen factor that mitigated against ÁT.

By Us / With Us

ÁT – with full Board approval and a positive HSE disposition – was active in the first 6 month of 2016 in looking to create a new DPO (Disability Persons Organsation). This initiative – following from the First Assembly Event in 2015, was scoped out in conjunction with the CCIL (Carmichael Centre for Independent Living) and involved a merger proposition, through which a common programme of work (including direct payments) would be advance.

ÁT conducted a full diligence process with CCIL and had had joint meetings with the HSE with a view to effecting such an outcome. Again, tragically Martin Naughton's death and

the subsequent readjustments necessary at the time were such that ÁT determined in November 2016 not to proceed with the then branded By Us / With Us initiative.

Martin Naughton

Much has been written about Martin in the months since his death and much more will be said in times ahead – his biography is due to be published by the end of the year. In September 2017 an event is scheduled in the Mansion House, Dublin. Entitled '*In Their Name / In Our Time*', this landmark, national and international event aims to celebrate the origin of the Independent Living Movement in Ireland and the great contribution made by the founders in advancing the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. The event is being organised under the banner of By Us /With Us and should be a fitting testament to the life, ingenuity and unwavering work of Martin and his equally dedicated peers.

Direct Payments and Membership

In 2015, ÁT became a HSE demonstration project, which included the provision of core funding for three years (2015-2017). For us, this represented a demonstration of trust and confidence in our work and informed a period in which we sought to expand our scope and our impact.

Our highest year of growth in terms of membership occurred in 2016. We continued to work in new counties and engage with new HSE Managers; ÁT now spans nine Community Health Organisation (CHO) areas.

ÁT enjoyed exceptional growth in membership, enabling us to share the benefits of Direct Payments – such as flexibility, personal growth and development, value for money and social entrepreneurship – and roll out the model to more people.

In 2016 membership grew from 20 members to 30. This includes fully established and incoming members. **Sadly, we also lost a very valuable member, Martin Naughton.**

Tribute to Martin



This year's ÁT annual report has an inevitable gap – no message from Martin with his latest hopes and plans. Without Martin, Áiseanna Tacaíochta (ÁT) would not exist, so this is by way of a tribute to his drive, imagination - and occasional guile. All of us in the organisation learned a great deal from Martin and his death has left us bereft – even as we resolve to carry forward his work of independent living and user-control of services.

I first remember meeting Martin around 1994– I was the harried mother of a daughter with significant disabilities and was mainly concerned with holding on to the services we had. At this juncture there was a window of progress – the Department of Equality and Law Reform had been set up, followed by the Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities. I met Martin when I became rapporteur for the Commission's Working Group on Transport. He was an angry young(ish) man at the time, trying to prod CIE towards accessible transport, which he saw as one of the keys to participation for people with disabilities. I remember a rather fraught exchange with a visiting executive who appeared to believe all disabled people travelled by ambulance! Transport today is still imperfect but Strategy for Equality and mandatory European standards for vehicles have led to considerable improvements on a situation where the words 'ramps' and 'level access' were practically unknown.

Over the following years I came across Martin in many other contexts – in the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) and on the Board of the Citizens Information Board. I became aware of his back-story – a Gaeltacht child transplanted to Baldoyle Hospital, a disabled adult who had his Eureka moment when he visited the first Centres for Independent Living in the USA, a free spirit who was determined to leave institutional care, at a time when for most Irish people the term "PA" meant the boss's secretary. Martin never seemed daunted by his physical limitations and I came to admire how much information he kept in his head and how adept he was at making friends and influencing people. Sometimes he ventured off the beaten track with an initiative – telling supporters he would ask for forgiveness rather than permission! I think he came to realise that the best way of working for the rights of people with disabilities was not just demonstrating in front of the Dáil (though he was a dab hand at that!) but showing how successfully a person with disabilities could live in the community with a funding package. Just doing it trumped any rhetoric.

Martin's disability and perhaps his Galway roots brought him early to the realisation that no-one can go it alone. In Baldoyle and elsewhere he created community in the groups and organisations, friends, employees and PAs, whom he both supported and drew sustenance from. One of the mainstays of the ÁT model is the Circle of Support which the person managing his/her own funding sets up. Martin sought to take on new challenges and provide the research evidence of the enhanced lives that direct payments brought to the members of ÁT. People with disabilities had a right not just to survive but to flourish and Martin himself seemed to enjoy the work he took on.

I never saw Martin depressed over the funding lows that are the lot of an Irish voluntary organisation. He was an encourager and an enabler and had faith – even in the HSE. Last autumn he slipped away from us faster than we ever expected, after touching our lives in a way that very few people do. ÁT is his legacy.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

Maíride Woods

Chapter Three : Our Board

We are hugely grateful to our Board – composed entirely of volunteers – who bring with them a huge weight of experience and expertise, which has helped to guide everything that we do.

Geoffrey Day | Chairperson

Geoff is an Independent Health and Social Care Consultant, with expertise based on over thirty years working in the health sector in Ireland and the United Kingdom (UK). He has particular experience in primary care, community care, health promotion, mental health and suicide prevention. Geoffrey has managed the implementation of *Reach Out*, the National Strategy for Action on Suicide Prevention, and acted as a spokesperson for the HSE on suicide prevention matters. Geoffrey also sits on a panel of investigators for the Irish Prison Service.



Owen Collumb

As a founding member of ÁT and a person with lived experience of disability, Owen brings first-hand knowledge and understanding to the Board. Owen works full time in Muscular Dystrophy Ireland (MDI); he is also a trained instructor in manual handling. He is an active board member for a number of organisations, including Greater Dublin Independent Living (GDIL), Cheshire Ireland and Lucan Disability Action Group.



Brian Duncan

Brian is a native of Galway. He worked for many years as a solicitor with Irish Life Assurance PLC and Legal Aid Board. Since his retirement, he is currently working as volunteer solicitor with the Irish Refugee Council. He was involved with the National Council for the Blind in Ireland (NCBI) as a fundraiser. He is also involved with a charity which supports deprived children in Thailand. He used to lecture on family law as a citizen advice volunteer.



Jacinta Fortune

Jacinta is the parent of an ÁT Leader; she manages her son's Direct Payment and directs his services on his behalf. Jacinta spends her time advocating for improved services, learning how to better support her son and promoting peer support and solidarity among other parents of children with disabilities.



Jacinta has volunteered with Dyspraxia Ireland for the past five years facilitating a monthly support group for parents of children with Dyspraxia in her community. She has previously been a long-term volunteer with Irish Autism Action. At present, she is studying for a degree in Integrative Counselling.

Ann Kennelly

As an Occupational Therapist (OT), Ann's role has seen her provide a range of assessment and therapeutic OT services to people with physical and sensory disabilities. Ann worked in both the hospital and community public services



in Ireland, the UK and Canada, and in the voluntary sector as an OT and a Regional Manager with the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA). She joined the South Eastern Health Board in 1994, moving to a number of different positions within the health service until 2010, when her final year working with the HSE was spent in the role of Interim National Assistant Director for Disability Services. Ann now works in a private capacity as an OT and is involved with many voluntary groups and individuals with disabilities.

Morgan McKnight

Morgan is a civil servant who works at Department of Justice. He was appointed as CEO for People with Disabilities in Ireland (PwDI) on "secondment" during the period 2008 to 2011.

Máiríde Woods



Máiríde is a writer and researcher, and has been involved with disability matters for many years. She had a daughter with disabilities who attended St Michael's House day services, and she has been on the Board of St Michael's House for some years. In recent years, she worked as an Advocacy Executive with CIB, and she was closely involved with the setting up of the National

Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities (NAS) and with advocacy services in the Citizens Information Services (CIS). As well as holding a Diploma in Sociology and Social Research and a Masters in Equality Studies from UCD, Máiríde has published two collections of poetry, seen several stories broadcast and included in several anthologies, and received a number of prizes for her writing.

Newly Appointed Board Members



Dr. Kevin Mc Coy / ÁT new Chairperson from February 2017

Dr Kevin McCoy began his social work career as a social work assistant in Co. Down, Northern Ireland. Trained in Social Work at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow and the College of Deaf Welfare, London. He has a degree in Economics and Social Policy and a masters and doctorate in Public Policy. Employed by Down County Welfare Committee in various posts from 1963 – 1972. Joined the Department of Health and Social Services in 1972 as a Social Work Adviser. Appointed Senior Social Work Adviser in 1973 and Assistant Chief Inspector in 1985. Appointed Chief Inspector, Social Services Inspectorate in 1989 and retired from this position in November 2000.

Appointed by the Government in the Republic of Ireland as a Commissioner on the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse in December 2000. He left the Commission in May 2003. Since then he has provided consultancy services to a wide range of statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations in Ireland, the UK and Europe.



Peter Moore from February 2017

Peter says he was greatly influenced by Liam Maguire, the disability rights activist he met through the Irish Wheelchair Association. When Maguire died in 1983 Peter employed his first personal assistant (financed mainly through funds Peter received as compensation for a minor road accident) in order to research and write Liam Maguire's biography. This book was published in 1990 by Poolbeg under the title *Rebel on Wheels*.

During the 1980s, as well as working on his book, Peter also got involved in his local community in Donaghmede. He joined the committee of the local soccer club Donaghmede Celtic, and helped found Grange Kildonagh Integration, a group of mainly parents of children with disabilities whose aim was to bring children with and without disabilities together. This group ran a summer playgroup for children with disabilities and their siblings, and also got some children with disabilities into local groups, such as the girl guides and boy scouts.

In 1990 Peter was one of seven people with significant physical disabilities who came together, to move forward into the future, independent of their families without institutional care. This led to the establishment of the first Centre for Independent Living in Ireland in 1992. Peter says the years from 1992 to 1994 seem ideal. The policy of employing administrative staff who had no previous experience of working for established disability organisations ensured they fully bought into the philosophy of independent living.

In November 2015 Peter joined ÁT and established his company Eagle Free. He says he did so to take back control of his pa service.



Dr. Mary Keogh from May 2017

Mary has worked for over 10 years at an international level on disability rights and international development. Prior to that she worked with the disability movement in Ireland. Mary completed a PhD in 2014, prior to completing her PhD, she undertook a BA in Economics and an MA in International Economic Development. Mary currently works with CBM International as Senior Advisor on Disability and Gender Equality. Prior to this, she worked with CBM Australia as Inclusive Development Advisor and CBM Ireland. Mary also worked with the International Disability Rights Monitor (IDRM), where she was the coordinator of the IDRM European regional report and authored the Irish report. Mary has also written reports for the UN on inclusive development, contributed to the development of the CRPD committee general comment on women and girls with disabilities and she recently authored the CBM publication: How to make international development disability inclusive, and is a co-author of Inclusion Counts - The Economic Case for Disability-Inclusive Development

Mary is the former chair of the Dochas Working Group on Disability and International Development. The working group has been in existence for over 10 years and seeks to influence the Irish government and also Irish development and humanitarian organisations to ensure persons with disabilities are included in Ireland's overseas aid commitments. She has also been the co-chair of the International Disability and Development Consortium EU Taskgroup.

Mary's PhD research focus was a comparative analysis of how the US, Finland and Australia mainstream disability in their development aid programmes. Her research interests are intersectionality and gender and disability.

Chapter Four: Acknowledgments

ÁT would like to happily acknowledge core funding received from the HSE this year as a Value for Money demonstration project. We also appreciate the collaboration and cooperation of HSE staff in the following areas: Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin North, Galway, Kildare, Limerick, Louth, Meath, Roscommon, Sligo, Waterford and Wicklow.

ÁT gratefully recognises the receipt of a grant from Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) which have presented vital resources. DFI in particular has been a long-time supporter and a friend who is always willing to facilitate meetings and to provide any assistance required.

To the Centre for Disability, Law and Policy (CDLP) in NUI Galway, not only for its work on the Cost Benefit Analysis project, but for its ongoing input and collaboration, and continued professionalism, which includes providing office space for our staff in the West of Ireland.

ÁT greatly values the contribution of the ÁT Board and staff including their dedication, heart and talents.

We would like to thank ÁT Leaders, Circles of Support and all volunteers for going on this journey with us. We recognise and appreciate the contribution of everyone who has sat on a Circle of Support, supported the shift to Direct Payments and played a role in facilitating access to equal rights for people with disabilities.

We would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Geoffrey Day, who held the position as Chairman of the Board with ÁT for more than five years.

We would also like to thank Niall O'Baoill for his contribution towards this annual report.

It is also with great sadness that we have lost another valued leader in ÁT, Darren Jordan who passed away in March 2017.

Chapter Five: Financial Information

Áiseanna Tacaíochta CLG **(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)**

Directors Report **Year ended 31 December 2016**

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the company is the advancement of education and training, in the interest of community welfare and other charitable purposes of benefit to people with disabilities by developing a supportive and cost-effective user-led network that will enable the integration and promote the full participation in society of people with disabilities, and the promotion of volunteerism and charitable activities on behalf of people with disabilities.

Business review

Development and performance

The directors have reviewed the financial position and performance of the company in the context of its stage of development and they are satisfied that the business is operating and developing as planned.

Dividends

During the year the directors have not paid any dividends or recommended payment of a final dividend.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at the company's registered office.

Relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

In accordance with Sections 380 to 385 of the Companies Act 2014, the auditors, Hunt & Company Accountants Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 20 June 2017 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Kevin McCoy
Director

Máiríde Woods
Director

Directors responsibilities statement Year ended 31 December 2016

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
Áiseanna Tacaíochta Limited
Year ended 31 December 2016**

We have audited the financial statements of Áiseanna Tacaíochta CLG for the year ended 31 December 2016 which comprise the income statement, statement of income and retained earnings, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed. Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the directors responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the directors report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or

materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2016 and of its profit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant reporting framework and, in particular the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the directors report is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

Raymond Hunt

For and on behalf of
Hunt & Company Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants & Statutory Auditors
52 Manor Street
Dublin 7

21 June 2017

Áiseanna Tacaíochta CLG
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)
Income statement (continued)
Year ended 31 December 2016

	Note	Before exceptional 2016 €	Exceptional 2016 €	2016 €	2015 €
Income / Funding		1,503,136	556,725	2,059,861	1,123,336
Gross surplus		1,503,136	556,725	2,059,861	1,123,336
Administrative expenses		(1,507,774)	(349,300)	(1,857,074)	(1,130,283)
Operating surplus/(deficit)		(4,638)	207,425	202,787	(6,947)
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities		(4,638)	207,425	202,787	(6,947)
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		(4,638)	207,425	202,787	(6,947)

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the year as set out above.

Note:

Income / Funding

The whole of the income / funding is attributable to the principal activity of the company wholly undertaken in Ireland.

***HSE Service Funding for individuals in relation to CHO areas.**

HSE Community Healthcare Organisations (CHO)	Received	Recognised	Deferred to
	2016	2016	2017
	€	€	€
CHO 1	35,387	32,735	2,652
CHO 2	232,312	232,312	
CHO 3	104,488	92,571	11,917
CHO 4	86,510	86,510	
CHO 5	74,646	70,492	4,154
CHO 6	556,725	556,725	
CHO 7	5,192	2,015	3,177
CHO 8	268,598	262,005	6,593
CHO 9	579,522	578,337	1,185
	_____	_____	_____
Total HSE Service Funding	1,943,380	1,913,701	29,679
	=====	=====	=====

*The HSE Service Funding is in respect of individual funding that ÁT received on behalf of and disbursed to individuals.

Áiseanna Tacaíochta CLG
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)
Statement of income and retained earnings (continued)
Year ended 31 December 2016

	2016 €	2015 €
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	202,787	(6,947)
Retained earnings at the start of the year	2,428	9,375
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Retained earnings at the end of the year	205,215	2,428
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Áiseanna Tacaíochta CLG
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)
Statement of financial position (continued)
31 December 2016

	2016	2015
Note	€	€
Current assets		
Debtors	279,415	45,710
Cash at bank and in hand	205,939	106,546
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	485,354	152,256
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(280,139)	(149,828)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets	205,215	2,428
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets less current liabilities	205,215	2,428
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets	205,215	2,428
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Capital and reserves		
Profit and loss account	205,215	2,428
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus funds	205,215	2,428
	<hr/>	<hr/>

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 20 June 2017 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Kevin McCoy
Director

Máiríde Woods
Director

Áiseanna Tacaíochta CLG
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)
Statement of cash flows (continued)
Year ended 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	202,787	(6,947)
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Accrued expenses/(income)	(1,754)	3,290
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	(233,705)	(19,640)
Trade and other creditors	132,065	82,318
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash generated from operations	99,393	59,021
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash from operating activities	99,393	59,021
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	99,393	59,021
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	106,546	47,525
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	205,939	106,546
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Áiseanna Tacaíochta 2016 Annual Report

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee
Charity Registration Number CHY 19324 (Ireland)
Company Registration Number 489250

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