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About Us

Mission

The Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF) is an independent Foundation focused on improving the lives of young children and their families. The Foundation's work is underpinned by a commitment to equality and overcoming disadvantage and to promoting equality of opportunity for all children.

The Foundation's approach involves working with others in identifying needs, building on existing programmes, making grants and sharing the learning. KHF aims to contribute to the development of policy and practice, particularly in the early years and family support sectors.

Trustees:

David Kingston (Chairperson)

Joan O' Flynn

Kieran Bristow

Dermot McCarthy

Maura Murphy

Willie Holmes

Legal and Financial:

Crawford Tipping F.C.A. – Auditor

Tilman Brewin Dolphin – Investment Managers

Staff:

Director - Noelle Spring

Administrator - Gina Allen

Finance Officer – Jane Tracey

Programme Manager - Francis Chance

Strategic Planning Support – Marguerite Hanratty

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KHF Trustees:



David Kingston (Chairperson)

David Kingston has spent his working life in insurance, investment and pensions. Originally from Co. Derry, he went to university in England and qualified as an actuary in Scotland before moving to Dublin in 1968. He has a special interest in equality, particularly equality of opportunity. He has been a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation since 1998 and holds the position of Chairperson since 2004. He is also a member of the Human Resources sub-committee.



Joan O'Flynn

Joan O'Flynn has wide ranging experience in social inclusion research, policy and practice gained through working in the community sector in Britain and in the civil and public service and voluntary sector in Ireland. Joan is currently the Ard Stiúthóir of the Camogie Association. Joan's former roles include Director of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs, Head of Communications and Public Education with the Combat Poverty Agency and National President of the Camogie Association. Joan became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in May 2012. She is also a member of both the Implementation Support sub-committee and the Human Resources sub-committee.



Kieran Bristow

Kieran Bristow has worked his entire career in Financial Services including General Insurance, Life Assurance, Investment Management and as a Bank Treasurer. He has been a Trustee representative on a school board with specific responsibility for Finance. Kieran became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in May 2012. He is also a member of the Finance and Investment sub-committee.



Dermot McCarthy

Dermot McCarthy is a former civil servant who worked in a range of government departments and was involved in a variety of areas of policy development and coordination, including anti-poverty strategy and local development. He has long been involved in voluntary and community organisations and serves on the boards of a number of voluntary and charitable bodies. Dermot became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in February 2013. He is also a member of the Implementation Support sub-committee.



Maura Murphy

Maura is from Co. Wexford and trained as a nurse in the Mater Hospital, Dublin. She has worked for the Health Service Executive and Tusla (Child and Family Agency) for the past 36 years (she retired from Tusla at the end of 2015). She was employed as a Public Health Nurse in New Ross Health Centre for 10 years and was appointed as Preschool Services Officer in 1995. During the past number of years, Maura has

completed a BSc. Honours in Psychology and an MA (Ed) in Lifelong Learning. She has been involved with many voluntary and statutory agencies in the development of Preschool services in county Wexford and was a former board member of Wexford County Childcare Committee. She is passionate about the needs and rights of children and their families and the promotion of excellent standards of care and education for preschool children.



Willie Holmes

Willie Holmes, an Actuary by profession, has spent his working life in insurance, investment and pensions. He is a recent Past President of the LIA, which provides training to the financial services industry; and is currently a Director of the Financial Planning Standards Board Ireland.

He is a former chairman of Celbridge GAA Club; joint founder of the Fr. John Nevin Scholarship Fund for Pakistan; and is currently chairman of the Maynooth Parish Finance Committee. He became a Trustee of the Katharine Howard Foundation in 2017. He is also a member of the Finance and Investment sub-committee.

KHF Team:



Noelle Spring, Director

Noelle has worked with KHF as Director since 1999; her work with the Foundation has included designing, implementing and managing special grant initiatives including general grant schemes, demonstration programmes and research projects. Prior to working with KHF, Noelle worked as a Project Officer with the Combat Poverty Agency and a Community Development Worker and Social Worker with the HSE (formerly the Eastern Health Board). A graduate of Social Work from Trinity College Dublin, Noelle was conferred in 2011 with a Doctorate in Education by St Patrick's College of Education in Dublin. Her doctoral thesis focused on absenteeism at Primary School Level in an area designated as disadvantaged. Noelle was appointed Chairperson to the National Steering Group of the Children and Young People's Services Committee in November 2016.



Gina Allen, Foundation Administrator

Gina joined the KHF in 2014 to manage operational administration and programme support for the Foundation. She is an honours graduate of UCD with a degree in French and Spanish, spending her summers in Spain during her academic life. After completing college, she joined the Department of An Taoiseach for 3 years. Following a period of travel, she returned to Ireland in 2000, joining Accenture European Service Centre, before moving to The Coca-Cola Company in 2004 where she got involved in the company's corporate citizenship programme. Gina returned to Sydney in 2007 but a desire to work in the not for profit area in Ireland brought her back to Dublin in 2010 where she started volunteering initially, before joining the team at Suas Educational Development fulltime from 2010-2014.



Francis Chance, Programme Manager

Francis joined KHF as Programme Manager of The Nurture Programme – Infant Health and Wellbeing in July 2015. Francis is a Professionally Qualified Social Worker with 40 years of experience of working with children in Ireland in both the statutory and voluntary sectors. From 1983 to 2000, he worked in Children and Family Services within the Eastern Health Board and, latterly, the Northern Area Health Board. He held several roles including that of a Community Care Social Worker, a Community Development Worker, a Social Work Team Leader and Principal Social Worker for the North Inner City and Ballymun areas of Dublin. In 2000, Francis joined Barnardos as a Regional Manager and was appointed to the post of Assistant Director of Children's Services in 2004. In this capacity he was responsible for the planning, development and delivery of services in one of Barnardos five regions and participated in the national governance and development of the organisation.

Francis has considerable experience in working strategically on committees and working groups at national, regional and local levels including the HSE Expert Group on Children (2006-2009), the Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative, the South Dublin Children's Services Committee and the National

Steering Group for Children's Services Committees. From 2013 to 2015 Francis was a member of KHF's Advisory Group for the Parenting Support Initiative.



Jane Treacy, Finance Officer

Jane joined KHF as Finance Officer in January 2016, having worked with KHF on their financial systems for the previous four years on a sessional basis.

Jane's background is in IT and she worked previously with Irish software consultancy Prose (now part of Version 1) for twenty years. Her role as Software Development Manager involved working on a variety of financial and bespoke projects for a number of government departments, RTE and private business.

Jane joined the not for profit sector in 2007 working with Irish Charities Tax Research Ltd, who provide leadership and support for the Irish charity sector, managing their membership and financial systems. In 2012 she moved to the Insurance Institute of Ireland, a not for profit educational body, to work as a Systems Development Specialist on their student/member interface.



Marguerite Hanratty, Strategic Planning Support

Marguerite has worked KHF over many years in a strategic planning/programme consultancy role. Marguerite is a professionally qualified Social Worker and worked with the Health Service Executive (HSE) for 17 years, as a Social Worker and subsequently as a Community Development Worker in the Clondalkin area of Dublin. Over the past 15 years she has worked as an independent consultant providing a range of supports and services to community, voluntary and statutory organisations with a particular focus on the planning and development of new projects, programmes and initiatives.

In her role with KHF, Marguerite has supported the Director in relation to the overall strategic planning of the Foundation's work and in particular the planning and development of a number of new programmes/initiatives including the Tallaght West Small Grants Programme (2004-2006), the Parent and Toddler Group Initiative (2006-2008) and more recently with the Parenting Support Initiative (PSI) (2013-2016) and the Nurture Programme - Infant Health and Wellbeing (2015-2019).

Chairperson's Report



I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report and Financial Statement for the Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF). This report outlines our main activities and learning during 2017 while also

building on the work that took place over the previous years.

The Foundation, as an independent Irish grant-making Foundation, has a particular emphasis on working with children and families by supporting community projects and initiatives in areas that are socio-economically disadvantaged. Building on this work KHF aims to influence policy and practice so that they are informed by relevant evidence, and ultimately achieve better outcomes for children, young people, families and communities.

KHF has implemented a number of strategic grant programmes since 2001 and through this work, developed a positive track record of working in partnership with statutory, community and voluntary organisations and other funders. This partnership approach has proved successful over the years and helped the Foundation to meet its objectives.

In early 2017, KHF completed a process of reviewing its strategic plan (2013-2016) and agreed a new plan for (2017-2020). It was clear from the review and planning process that the Foundation should continue to operate its developmental approach to grant making within its primary area of expertise (early intervention through supporting children and families) and to continue to work with other partners, where possible.

KHF continued to work closely with other Foundations such as The Atlantic Philanthropies (Atlantic) and the Community Foundation for Ireland whereby co-funding

arrangements were in place towards specific grant programmes. In addition, KHF networked with other organisations in the Philanthropic sector.

During 2017, the Foundation also provided a number of strategic grants to meet with the objectives of its strategic plan and to progress and enhance the work in the sector supporting children and families.

Priority was given in 2017 to completing the final phase of the Parenting Support Initiative (PSI), a three year (2013-2016) strategic grants initiative with a focus on children from birth to three years and their parents, with a particular emphasis on supporting parents in their parenting role. This was a collaborative partnership between the Katharine Howard Foundation and The Community Foundation for Ireland.

A second key priority for the Foundation in 2017 was the implementation of the Nurture Programme: Infant Health and Wellbeing in partnership with Atlantic, the Health Service Executive and the Centre for Effective Services. The Grant for the Programme is managed by KHF and the Programme aims to support the strategic reform of universal health and wellbeing services provided by the Health Service Executive for infants and their families.

KHF established the Infant Development Fund in collaboration with the Community Foundation for Ireland to offer continuity to the work carried out by both the Parenting Support Initiative and the Nurture Programme.

During 2017 the Foundation has embraced the challenges of completing the Parenting Support Initiative and supporting the ongoing implementation of the Nurture Programme which are both based on positive collaborative working and funding relationships with key partners. The ongoing commitment to a range of strategic grants has also been maintained

and enhanced by the Foundation. KHF welcomes the opportunity to continue its approach to responding to the needs of children and families in a flexible and creative manner with a view to ensuring best outcomes for children and families.

I am very grateful to my fellow Trustees for their unwavering commitment to the governance of the Foundation. In late 2017 one of our Trustees, Joan O' Flynn retired from the Board. Joan had been with the Board since 2012 and was also a member of the Trustee Implementation Sub-committee and the Human Resources Sub-committee. Joan will be missed and we thank her for giving such great support and commitment over the years. We are glad, however to welcome one new

Trustee, Willie Holmes. Thanks are also due to the numerous individuals and organisations that assisted KHF, formally and informally, during 2017. We are very grateful for all the support and the willingness to work together and share learning so that we might improve outcomes for children and families.

All the Trustees appreciate the inspiration, great work and dedication which the Director, Noelle Spring brings to the Foundation. Thanks are also due to our other staff for their hard work and commitment - Gina Allen, Foundation Administrator; Jane Treacy, Finance Officer; Francis Chance, Programme Manager for the Nurture Programme and Marguerite Hanratty, Strategy Implementation Consultant.



David Kingston, Chairman, May 2018

Background Information

The Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF) was established in 1979 by Katharine Howard, who was the last survivor of the Earls of Wicklow and resided most of her adult life in Co. Wexford. She set up the Foundation with assistance from friends who agreed to support her by becoming Trustees. Her



intention was to support locally based projects and community activities. She was a founder member of the Gorey Girl Guides and was involved in other voluntary organisations such as the Camphill Community that assisted people with disabilities and others, involving environmental projects.

Initially she allocated £20,000 to her fund and gradually added more modest funds to the Foundation which continued distributing small amounts of funds until her death in 1990. Subsequently her estate and that of her American grandmother was then added to her endowment funds and this greatly increased the funding that was available. These funds were then carefully invested by the Trustees who also expanded the organisation and sought advice to become strategic and focused about its grant making.

Key Principles

The key principles that underpin KHF's work are:

- A belief that KHF can make a difference through focused interventions based on collaboration, reflective learning, adding value and flexibility.
- A commitment to equality and overcoming disadvantage, in particular, to promote equality of opportunity for all children.
- A commitment to apply respect, integrity and empathy in all aspects of KHF's work.
- A commitment to transparency and accountability throughout all KHF's work.

Work of the Foundation

Since the early 1990s the Foundation has operated as an independent all-Ireland grant-making Foundation with a particular emphasis on supporting community projects and initiatives in areas that are socially disadvantaged, particularly those with a focus on families and young children.

The work of the Foundation includes:

- Advocacy and development work;
- Providing funding through strategic grants;
- Developing and implementing collaborative innovative programmes/initiatives.

KHF places great emphasis on working in partnership with statutory, community and voluntary organisations and other funders. This partnership approach has proved successful over the years and has affirmed the Foundation's developmental approach to its work in engaging in special projects especially in the area of young children and family support. KHF has built in a support role accompanying grants where possible. This support role includes an emphasis on designing and planning activities and delivering activities through a considered and reflective approach to project work. The impact of providing funding along with implementation support has strengthened the partnerships made by KHF within the sector in which it operates. Collaborative initiatives developed by KHF include:



Director Noelle Spring and the KHF Board of Trustees, December 2017.

- ☐ **Community Playgroup Initiative (2001-2004)** in partnership with the South Eastern Health Board;
- ☐ **Tallaght West Small Grants Programme (2004-2006)** in partnership with The Atlantic Philanthropies;
- ☐ **Parent and Toddler Group Initiative (2006-2009)** in partnership with the Office of the Minister for Children;
- ☐ **Parenting Support Initiative (2013-2016)** in partnership with The Community Foundation for Ireland;
- ☐ **Nurture Programme: Infant Health and Wellbeing (2015-2019)** in partnership with The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Health Service Executive, the Centre for Effective Services and the Community Foundation for Ireland.

KHF's Programme of Work 2017

2017 was another busy year for KHF and one that provided many challenges and opportunities. Central to the work was the continued development and implementation of the Foundation's two core programmes, the Parenting Support Initiative (PSI) and the Nurture Programme: Infant Health and Wellbeing. KHF also continued to support projects and initiatives through its strategic grants that linked with its overall focus of supporting children and families in areas of socio-economic disadvantage.

Parenting Support Initiative (PSI)

The three-year (2013-2016) Parenting Support Initiative (PSI) was developed based on consultations with key stakeholders and on research of the Early Year's Sector, where the gap for support for parents of children from pre-birth to three years was identified. The Parenting Support Initiative is a collaborative Initiative developed in partnership with [The Community Foundation for Ireland](#) (CFI), which allowed for the pooling of resources to increase the level of funds available for grants. PSI supported a number of projects working in socio-economically disadvantaged areas or specific socially disadvantaged (target) groups engaged in collaborative approaches to working with parents of children from birth to three years.



Objectives of PSI

The objectives of the PSI included:

- Strengthening prevention and early intervention supports for children and families to achieve better health, wellbeing and learning outcomes for their children;
- Reinforcing the developmental role of the Children and Young People Services Committees, City/County Childcare Committees, National Childcare Voluntary Organisations, Family Resource Centres and other community based services working directly with children from birth to 3 years and their parents;
- Strengthening the links between existing health and community based services to support a holistic approach to meeting infants' and young children's needs;
- Building on the learning from initiatives such as, the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) and the National Early Years Access Programme (NEYAI).

PSI was focused on supporting prevention and early intervention evidence informed or evidenced-based programmes, practices and approaches that:

- ☐ Support parents in meeting their children's developmental needs – physical, social, emotional and cognitive;
- ☐ Support parents as their children's primary educators in creating a positive home learning environment;
- ☐ Support informal learning of parents with a particular emphasis on parent literacy;
- ☐ Increase parental self-efficacy and confidence in their parenting role;
- ☐ Increase parenting skills and capacity;
- ☐ Reduce parental stress;
- ☐ Promote positive parent child interaction and attachments.

PSI was designed to support a specific number of projects that were likely to have the greatest impact in terms of improving outcomes for children through support for parents and projects that would provide good learning opportunities in the area of prevention and early intervention. The total amount of funding available through the programme was €600,000.

A total of 59 organisations from across the country were selected to receive grants under the Initiative; 16 organisations received core grants while 43 organisations received small once-off grants. The amount of the grant allocated ranged from €1,000 - €15,000 (per year for the Core Projects), depending on the category and the focus of the proposed projects. The funded projects come from all the 26 counties and included a wide range of organisations within the community and voluntary sector.

Sharing the Learning from PSI:

In 2017 KHF was pleased with the development of the final year of PSI. The support and advice of the Advisory Group continued to be very important and helpful in keeping the Initiative on track and in ensuring that as much impact is obtained from the Initiative as possible.

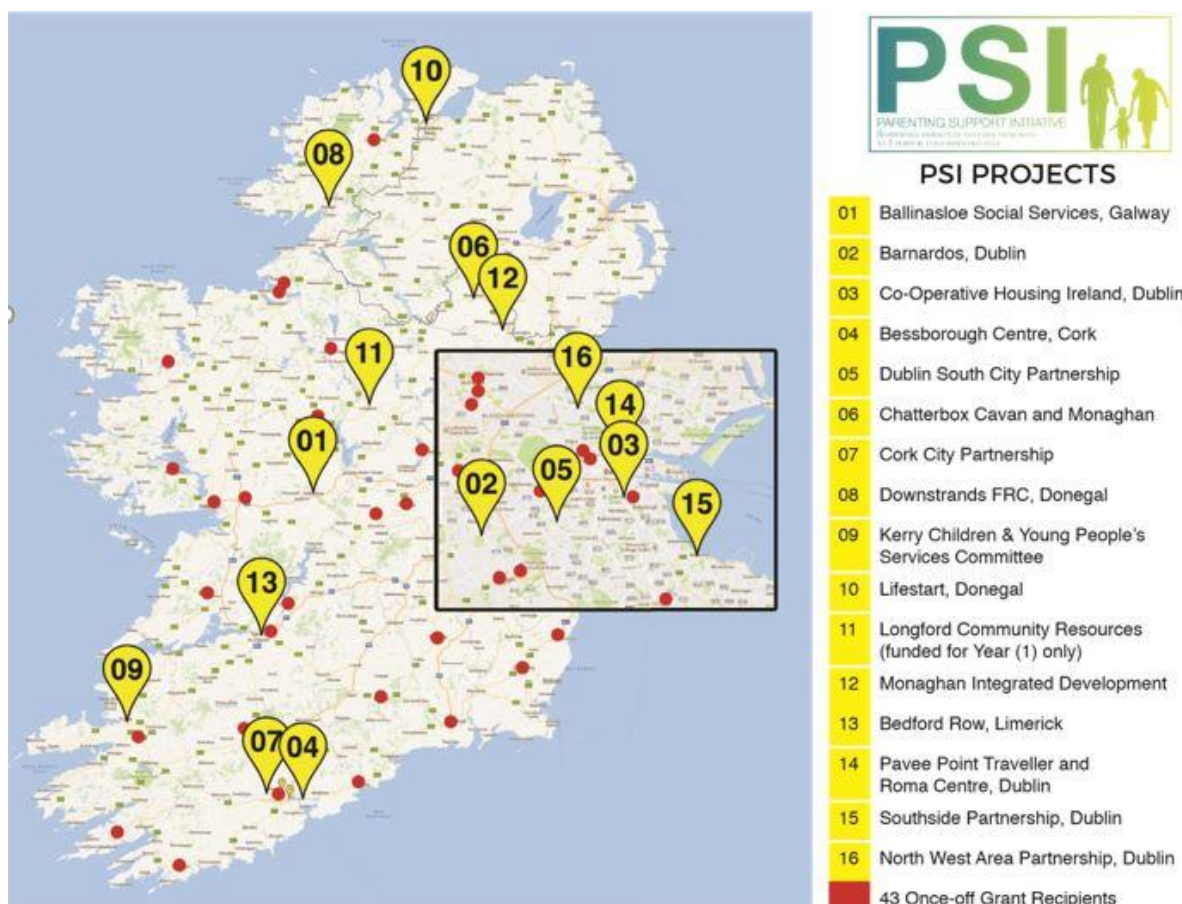
PSI Review Process

As part of the final year of PSI, KHF considered the most effective way to capture the learning from each of the 15 PSI projects and decided to develop a facilitated Review Process rather than request projects to complete a progress report for Year (3).

The main purpose of the PSI review was to provide a space for individual projects to reflect on the experience of planning and implementing a PSI Project and to identify key learning. The Review Process also aimed to provide important learning for both KHF and CFI as funders of PSI and for others working in this area. KHF was also engaged in its own review process in 2017 with a view to developing a new Strategic Plan (2017-2020). Given the importance of PSI for the Foundation over the previous three years, KHF was keen to learn from the projects about their experiences and to think about how this work might be best supported into the future. A framework for a review process was developed by KHF in consultation with the Advisory Group and the projects. An independent facilitator was contracted to undertake the review. A template was developed by KHF to support projects in preparation for the review sessions. The review process began in December 2016 and was completed in April 2017.

PSI CORE PROJECTS

Lead Organisation	PSI Project Theme
1. Ballinasloe Social Services, Galway	Delivery of Incredible Years Parenting Programme; Individual and group sessions targeting parents and children with additional needs
2. Barnardos, Dublin	Delivery of a Parent Support Project in Crumlin, Dublin 12
3. Bedford Row, Limerick	Delivery of a Prison Support Project working with young women prisoners and ex-prisoners
4. Bessborough Centre, Cork	Support for Parent and Baby Group 'Babble Group' for vulnerable mothers/fathers and babies, resident in the Centre's family assessment unit
5. Chatterbox, Cavan & Monaghan	Delivery of Elklan Speech and Language Project targeting disadvantaged parents in Cavan and Monaghan
6. Co-operative Housing Ireland (formerly National Association of Building Co-operatives Society Ltd. (NABCO)), Dublin	Training of staff in the delivery of parenting support programmes- including Marte Meo and Parents Plus Programmes in 3 locations in Dublin
7. Cork City Partnership	Delivery of multi-faceted Parent and Baby Programmes targeting early years services in disadvantaged communities across Cork City
8. Downstrands Family Resource Centre, Donegal	Delivery of Child and Parent Programmes through Parent and Toddler Groups in 9 Family Resource Centres in Donegal, including targeting of vulnerable families
9. Dublin North West Area Partnership (formerly Tolka Partnership), Dublin 7 <i>(PSI funding for year (1) and (2))</i>	Delivery of Parenting Baby Support Programme
10. Dublin South City Partnership (formerly Canal Communities Partnership)	Delivery of Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP) to families in a newly expanded Partnership area
11. Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)	Delivery of a Language and Play Programme to Family Resource Centres and Parent and Toddler Groups, including targeting the more vulnerable families in County Kerry
12. Lifestart, Donegal	Delivery of a Train the Trainers 'Spirals' Parenting Programme- a Countywide Strategy and the development of Resource Materials for those working parents and babies 0-3
13. Longford Community Resources Limited <i>(PSI funding for year (1))</i>	Delivery of Filial Play Therapy Programme
14. Monaghan integrated Development (MID)	Delivery of Early Years Parents Plus training Programme to Early Years Services and establishment of a Network of 17 services working with children/young people in County Monaghan
15. Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, Dublin 1	Delivery of Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP) to traveller families in Blanchardstown and Finglas areas
16. Southside Partnership, Dublin	Delivery of an Integrated Early Intervention and Family Support Initiative targeting vulnerable parents in the Mounttown area



Sharing the Learning from PSI

KHF's planning and focus on the completion of PSI in 2017 was supported by advice and guidance of the PSI Advisory Group. Central to this work was the recognition of the importance of capturing and sharing the learning from PSI both with the projects involved and with other organisations, agencies and funders with a commitment to supporting parents and young children. The review process, which proved to be a very effective mechanism for engagement with the projects, provided individual reports for each of the 15 projects and also an overall summary report of the key learning. This Review Process summary report was then presented, shared and reviewed with the projects at a **Networking Event on the 31st May 2017**. The report was also disseminated to a number of key policy stakeholders.

KHF is also finalising an edition of its **'Community Matters'** series which will provide an overall summary snapshot of PSI.



Top table: Marguerite Hanratty, Marie Carroll and Noelle Spring at the Networking Event on 31 May 2017.

The Foundation remains committed to this area of work and is even more aware of the importance of prevention and early intervention strategies and approaches in supporting parents with a focus on improving outcomes for children. The work of the Nurture Programme has also taken on board the learning from PSI.



Katharine Howard Foundation Team at the PSI Networking Event, 31 May 2017.

The Nurture Programme: Infant Health and Wellbeing (2015-2019)

Nurture Programme: Infant Health and Wellbeing is a programme primarily focused on working with [the Health Service Executive's](#) (HSE), Health and Wellbeing and Primary Care Divisions, in the development of an integrated approach to service planning and delivery to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for infants and their families. KHF is contracted to manage the grant by Atlantic Philanthropies (Atlantic) and the work programme is delivered by the Health Service Executive (HSE) with technical and implementation support provided by the [Centre for Effective Services](#) (CES).

The Programme completes a long-term cycle of investment by Atlantic with the goal of creating evidence-based policy, services and practice in Ireland. It aligns with Atlantic's commitment to ensure that its final grants deliver impact at the level of long term, universal sustainable systemic change that makes a real difference to the lives of children and their families. One of the most significant findings from national and international research is that the first two years are the most critical time in a child's development and what happens in this developmental phase can influence the trajectory of a child's life positively or negatively throughout the lifespan of the child. Furthermore, early intervention and prevention can offer significant benefits in terms of delivering best outcomes for children and reducing the likelihood of long term dependency on a wide range of state services.

Progress and Development 2017: KHF continued to focus on supporting an integrated approach to the development of the Nurture Programme working in collaboration with the other key Programme partners to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for infants and their families. The Programme planning, development and implementation was progressed in 2017 and was supported and overseen by the Programme Oversight Group and Steering Group structures.

Nurture Programme Implementation Plan (2016-2019): A central part of the work of the Nurture Programme was the implementation of the Programme Implementation Plan (2016-2018). The key structure for the delivery of the Programme is six Implementation Teams:

- **Training and Resources**
- **Antenatal to Postnatal**
- **Health and Wellbeing Promotion and Improvement**
- **Infant Mental Health and Parenting Supports**
- **Knowledge and Communication**
- **Standardised Child Health Records for Parents and Professionals**



CES continued to provide implementation advice and support to the Programme and the six Implementation Teams.

Membership of each Implementation Team includes expert HSE practitioners, Centre for Effective Services Implementation Support Staff as well as drawing on expertise from Academic institutions, Tusla and the Community and Voluntary Sector. Over the year, 14 Task Specific Groups were also established and over 100 key personnel (HSE and related agencies) were positively engaged with the Nurture Programme.

A number of workshops were held with Allison Metz, an international advisor on Implementation Science from the National Implementation Research Network (USA). These workshops were attended by Steering Group members and members of the Implementation Teams.

The Nurture Programme was invited to present a paper at the Global Implementation



Francis Chance presenting at the GIC conference, Toronto, with Nurture Programme colleagues Anne Pardy, HSE and Stella Owens, CES.

Conference, in Toronto Canada, in June 2017 under the title 'Building for Lasting Change: An Irish Case Study on Enabling Systems Change to improve population - level Infant Health and



Attendees at the workshop with Karen Thurston on 14 June 2017.

Wellbeing'. As part of the Nurture Programme ongoing learning, KHF hosted a workshop on 14th June 2017 with Karen Thurston, a Well

Child Nurse with the Plunkett Society in New Zealand. The workshop was attended by a



Maura Murphy, Trustee, Karen Thurston, Plunkett Society, New Zealand and Noelle Spring, Director.

wide cross-section of interested people and outlined how services are delivered to pregnant women and to families with young children in New Zealand.

A parent's consultation strategy also commenced in 2017 to consult with parents on key developments being planned under the Nurture Programme.

A key aspect of the Nurture Programme is to ensure the long-term sustainability of the developments. This will be achieved as part of the HSE's National Healthy Childhood Programme with the Nurture Programme supporting and enabling this development with its focus on the period from pregnancy to the child's third birthday. The process of recruitment of 9 Child Health Development

Officer Posts commenced in 2017. This is another key element of the Programme's sustainability plan.

Programme Evaluation: Quality Matters in association with the School of Nursing and Human Sciences at Dublin City University is undertaking the evaluation of the Nurture Programme under the guidance and oversight of an Evaluation Advisory Sub-committee. The first phase of the evaluation was completed in December 2017 and a report was produced which included key learning and recommendations to support the next phase of the implementation of the Programme.

Infant Development Fund: An important element of the Nurture Programme is the Infant Development Fund which has been established by KHF in collaboration with the Community Foundation for Ireland (CFI) to ensure continuity for the work undertaken through the Parenting Support Initiative (PSI) and The Nurture Programme: Infant Health and Wellbeing and other innovations. The Fund will be a ring fenced, permanent fund of €3m and up to €5m by 2020. The fund will be managed by the CFI. During 2017, the fund supported the commencement of a Strategic Review of the Community Mothers Programme which was managed by KHF.

Other Areas of Work

Children's Rights Alliance (Start Strong Early Years post): Start Strong evolved from the Irish Childcare Policy Network (ICPN) in 2009, with the aim of progressing the early care and education (Birth-6 years) agenda in Ireland and also advocating for increased investment in support services. KHF was a founder member of ICPN and funder since its start-up phase. The Foundation continued to provide funding to Start Strong along with The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Community Foundation for Ireland (multi-annual 2012-2015). As Start Strong planned its wind down as an organisation, KHF together with the other two Foundations remained committed to supporting this work and formalised an agreement with the Children's Rights Alliance (CRA) to continue key elements of the work of Start Strong for a three-year period (2016-2018). CRA appointed an Early Years Manager and established an Advisory Group to inform the work. Start Strong's Policy Officer was seconded to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) to work on childcare policy. KHF is a member of the Advisory Group within CRA and manages the grant on behalf of the three Foundations involved, meeting regularly with CRA to support and monitor the grant.

Parenting Network: KHF is a member of the Steering Group of the Parenting Network. The Network was established in 2010 by the Centre for Effective Services (CES) as an all-Ireland Group with a focus on supporting parents in their parenting role. The administrative support for the network's functioning, provided by CES, came to an end in late 2017. KHF undertook to provide administrative support on a short-term basis and began hosting the Parenting Network's website.

The Network includes organisation CEOs, including funders, professional bodies and practitioners engaged in direct work along with academics and professional researchers working in this sector. A number of Network meetings were held throughout 2017, culminating in an all-island meeting of policy makers, including commissioners, and the Network Steering Group members. This meeting took place in Belfast in October 2017 and was very useful in bringing parenting support to a more prominent place with key decision makers, and in providing Steering Group members with an update on the current views of people in decision-making positions in relation to parenting supports and services.

[The Prevention & Early Intervention Network \(PEIN\)](#) is a network of evidence-based practice, advocacy and research organisations across the Republic of Ireland that share a commitment to improving outcomes for children, young people, and their communities. The network was originally funded through The Atlantic Philanthropies Disadvantaged Children and Youth Programme and it first met in 2010. KHF became a member in 2016 as a way of networking with other organisations with a focus on the importance of Prevention and Early Intervention and its life-long positive effects on outcomes for children and young people, such as better mental health and reduced juvenile crime.

[Children and Young Peoples Services Committee \(CYPSC\)](#): In early 2017, the Director of KHF took on the role of chairperson of the CYPSC National Steering Committee on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The Foundation was pleased to accept this role as it involves supporting and guiding local CYPSCs in their work to achieve better outcomes for children and young people. The role also involves representing the CYPSC Initiative on the consortium of Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020).

Irish Healthcare Centre Awards: KHF through its work with the Nurture Programme decided to sponsor a new category of 'Child Health and Wellbeing' in the Irish Healthcare Centre

Awards 2017 to increase further the public profile of child health and wellbeing. There was such a high level of entry for the award that the new Child Health and Wellbeing Category was divided into two sections, Hospital/National Centres and Clinic/Specialised Centres. The awards ceremony will take place in March 2018.


Community Mothers Programme: The Katharine Howard Foundation and the Community Foundation for Ireland have both had a significant history of involvement with and have provided support to, the Community Mothers Programme (CMP) in many parts of the country. Based on this involvement, feedback received and on research evidence, both Foundations value the quality of the prevention and early intervention home based service that the CMP can offer to parents and their children. In 2017, arising from a number of discussions with various interested stakeholders, concerned about the future of the CMP, the two Foundations, with the involvement of the Health Service Executive and Tusla, commenced a review process. The objectives of the review included an update of the current status and potential of the Community Mothers Programme with a view to the development of a strategic plan for the future of the Programme. The Katharine Howard Foundation is managing the review process with an external consultant contracted to carry out the review. The review is due to be concluded in mid-2018. The review process is overseen and supported by an Oversight Group with representations from the Katharine Howard Foundation, the Health Service Executive and Tusla.

Universal Children's Day 2017: Organisations working directly with children came together with Ireland's leading children's rights institutions, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Tusla to celebrate Universal Children's Day on Monday 20th November 2017. KHF undertook two specific projects to mark this day, including:

- **Parental Online Consultation:** KHF conducted an online survey 'Giving Our Children the Best Start in Life' targeting parent's views about their experiences of pregnancy and early childhood. 481 parents (with a combined total of 888 children) completed the survey and a researcher was contracted to carry out data analysis and write up a report, to be disseminated in early 2018. The results will provide a rich source of information.
- **'Incy Wincy Spider, a play for babies:** The Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF) in conjunction with the Arts Office of Dublin City Council hosted "Incy Wincy Spider" - an interactive play for babies aged 0-12 months and their parents in The Lab, Foley Street, Dublin 1. The play takes the well-known nursery rhyme about the spider and the weather and creates a whole multi-sensory adventure of it. The production was created by baby theatre director Anna Newell with original music by award-winning composer David Goodall – a creative team whose work for babies has been seen on three continents. The event was free of charge and all five performances completely booked out. For more information, see the KHF [website](#).

Giving Our Children the Best Start in Life
Listening to the Views of Parents and Carers of Young Children

A Survey by the Katharine Howard Foundation



The Katharine Howard Foundation is conducting a survey to coincide with Universal Children's Day which takes place on 20 November 2017.

The aim is to get parents views on what helps parents most during pregnancy and the first three years of their child's life - and what else would help.

The Survey is open from 8th to 30th November and is available to access at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BMFKS97> or via KHF website, Facebook and Twitter.

The findings from this consultation will be analysed and written up in report which will be made available on the website and social media avenues.

Relevant agencies will be advised of the findings which relate to their services.

KHF KATHARINE HOWARD FOUNDATION

INCY WINCY 
A Play for Babies


Staged by the Katharine Howard Foundation for 5 performances
on Saturday 18th November 2017
as part of the Celebrations of Universal Children's Day 2017


KHF KATHARINE HOWARD FOUNDATION


KHF Strategic Grants 2017

The Foundation continued to fund a number of grants to support other organisations and groups involved in work linked to KHF's strategic plan and which provide great learning opportunities.

A small number of strategic grants were made to support work in the children and family support sector. Some of these grants assisted organisations that had been funded through the Parenting Support Initiative (PSI) to finalise the delivery of projects which had begun as part of the Initiative. A review process, involving individual facilitated sessions with the 15 Core PSI projects was also undertaken in 2017 as part of the completion of PSI. Reports were produced for each project together with an overall Review Process Report. A Networking Event was held in June 2017 to share the learning. KHF strategic grants funding often involved securing matching or co-funding from other Foundations and Trusts.

Organisation	Project Funded	Grant €
Children's Rights Alliance	Employment of Early Years Manager	€65,919 <i>(Co-funded with Atlantic Philanthropies & Community Foundation for Ireland)</i>
One Family	Fit out of a parent and child room in new premises	€5,000
Anam Cara	Funding towards Family Day Event	€5,000
Common Purpose	Bursary on Meridian Leadership Programme 2017/18	€3,000
Women's Aid Federation NI	Women's Aid Federation NI Conference in 2018	€3,314 (£3,000)
Parenting Network c/o Archways	Facilitation of The Parenting Network review session, August 2017, including report of the meeting	€750
Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre (PSI)	Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP)-Delivery and completion of year (2) of Programme	€11,235
Dublin South City Partnership (PSI)	Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP) Delivery and completion of year (2) of Programme	€7,560
Ballinasloe Social Services (PSI)	Provision of 2 Parenting Programmes	€7,500
Southside Partnership (PSI)	Delivery of PEEP Training Programme	€580
Review and Completion of PSI	Review PSI Process (including individual project reports and overall final review report) and PSI Networking Event	€15,581
TOTAL		€125,439

Structure, Governance and Risk Management

The Katharine Howard Foundation is a registered charity with the Charities Regulatory Authority: CRA Number 20010928. It also holds a Revenue Charity number: CHY 6255. The Foundation was established by a trust deed on the 14th June 1979 and amended by a deed of variation on the 25th November 1986.

The Trustees of the Foundation are those listed under the previous section. New Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees. A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibilities for the implementation of the current strategic plan rest with the Director assisted by three Trustee subcommittees: Finance and Investment; Implementation Support and Human Resources.

The Director has responsibility for the operational management of the Foundation, including staff supervision and team development, in line with best practice. Trustee meetings are held at least four times a year and include a review of what was achieved and the outcomes of the work over the past 12 months. This review helps to ensure that the objectives and activities remain focused on the stated aims of the Foundation. All grants are reviewed and approved by the Trustees. All Trustees give their time and expertise voluntarily, without any form of remuneration in cash or kind. The Foundation is an associate member of the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF), a support organisation for grant making trusts and foundations in the UK. KHF liaises with other foundations operating in Ireland on sectoral issues and joint grant making. KHF is also a member of the Prevention and Early Intervention Network (PEIN) and the Parenting Network. The Director and staff of the Foundation are assisted by establishing advisory groups for the various programmes and initiatives. In 2017 this included the Advisory Group for the Parenting Support Initiative and Steering and the Oversight Groups for the Nurture Programme-Infant Health and Wellbeing.

Risk Management

The Trustees are aware of the major risks to which the Foundation is exposed, in particular those related to the finances and operations of the organisation and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to manage exposure to the major risks. The principal risks faced by the Trustees lie in the performance of investments and the operational risks of ineffective grant making.

The Trustees consider variability of investment returns on its equities, fixed interest stocks and cash constitute the Foundation's major financial risk. This is mitigated by retaining expert investment managers, Tilman Brewin Dolphin and having a diversified investment portfolio. A medium risk level is deemed to be most suitable for the Foundation's investment and at least two meetings a year are held with the investment managers to oversee this approach. The Finance and Investment Subcommittee assists the Trustees with the oversight of the investments and reports at each Trustee meeting. In late 2017, the Trustees agreed to review formally the investment policies and contracted a consultancy firm to undertake this review.

The major operational risk is the extent to which the grants awarded make an impact on the intended beneficiaries. The review and reflection approach taken by the Foundation is informed by the reports received from grantees and/or programme partners. Recipients of strategic grants are required to provide a progress report within a year of the grant being allocated. This includes information on the grant purpose, project outline and information on what was achieved through the grant. Projects in receipt of multi-annual funding through a specific programme, such as the Parenting Support Initiative, also provide additional information obtained through individual project evaluations. This learning then informs KHF's approach to assessment for future funding.

Summarised Financial Statements 2017

Income and Expenditure Summary Balance Sheet

Katharine Howard Foundation (Established by Trust Deed in 1979)

Income & Expenditure			Summary Balance Sheet		
Income	2017 €	2016 €		2017 €	2016 €
Investment Income	229,800	226,015	Financial Assets	7,851,012	8,825,911
Restricted Programme Income:			Current Assets	5,440,354	3,289,547
PSI	10,000	100,000	Current Liabilities	-93,786	-116,110
Community Mothers Programme Review	20,000		Total Funds 31 December	13,197,580	11,999,348
Early Years Manager (Children's Rights Alliance)	50,919	48,744	<p>The financial information on this page has been extracted from the Katharine Howard Foundation's Audited Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2017 which were approved by the Trustees in May 2018.</p>		
Nurture Programme	3,500,000	2,500,000			
Total Income	3,810,719	2,874,759			
Expenditure	2017 €	2016 €			
Grants Allocated (PSI & Other)	125,439	235,618			
Nurture Programme	2,116,993	432,556			
Staff Costs	327,879	319,250			
Governance Costs	5,000	7,152			
Cost of Generating Funds	18,284	17,656			
Support Costs	58,384	87,702			
Total	2,651,979	1,099,934			



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