

Annual Report 2007

The first open meeting of the Association was held in The Rochestown Park Hotel on 8th February 2007. This meeting was also the AGM. This was a very well attended and informative meeting where all outstanding business was discussed and prospective new committee members were nominated. Officers of the Association were elected. The committee now is comprised of

Chairman: Andrew O'Neill

Secretary: Oona O'Shaughnessy

Treasurer: Ber O'Neill

Committee members: Siobhán Corcoran, Bernice Twomey, Doreen Santry and Catherine O'Hara

One member of the committee carries the Association phone at all times so there is always somebody available to members. If the phone is unattended your call will be returned as soon as possible. Emails to us will be answered on a daily basis except during the holiday seasons when things might take a little longer.

Launch of website and 'Tips for Teens and Teachers'

The Association was delighted to have Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Micheál Martin TD to launch our second publication. Also present were Mr Dave Stanton TD, Mr John Dennehy TD, Mr Simon Coveney TD, MEP, Mr Dan Boyle TD and Ms Deirdre Clune. Key figures from the HSE and the Department of Education and Science were also present. It was very heartening for the committee to see all those involved in the education and care of adolescents and young adults with Dyspraxia/DCD engaging. Many thanks to Cara Webster and another young girl who represented all young people with DCD with style!

Tributes were also paid to Cara and her family as they had been the focus of an article that ran in the Feelgood section of The Irish Examiner newspaper on the morning of the launch. Such publicity surrounding young adults with the condition is rare so we were especially proud of their candour.

The website also went live on 20th April 2007. and it has proved to be a great success. Our booklet 'Practical Tips for Parents' is now available on several other websites as a download and it has even been translated into Spanish for the Spanish occupational Therapists website. We get emails from all over the world and the parent's forum continues to grow as parents become familiar with the forum.

Family Fun Day

We held another very successful event for families in the Kinsale Outdoor Education centre on 26th May. All participating children, and some parents, received medals at the end of an action-packed day of fun. The weather was kind to us and the Chairman filled his usual role as chief cook for the day. As the centre is very well staffed parents get an opportunity to sit and chat to each other at these days and it is always great to see the children try absailing and flying down a zip-line while being in safe hands.

Meetings with Health Service Executive

The last meeting with HSE management was held on 21st August. Four senior staff members of the HSE were in attendance to discuss the future of the DCD Unit and the current staffing levels. Our concern at this stage is that there is now only a medical doctor in the unit as half a post. There is no longer the half post that was filled by Dr Pat Henn as the director of the unit. That responsibility is being shared by staff members in the unit. We will keep lobbying the HSE to appoint a person to manage the day to day running and coordinating of the unit.

Mini Marathon

Although the committee did not run the marathon this year a big thank-you to those who did. Having funds in the kitty allows us to subsidise activities and to support the DCD Unit as necessary.

Whispy Sun Theatre Camp

This drama camp ran for six weeks in November and December 2007. The children who enrolled got to engage in drama and theatre skills in an atmosphere that was free of pressure. At the end of the 'term' they enacted a synopsis of 'Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory' with each child having a part. Well done all of them.

Beamish and Crawford

The Association got an unexpected Christmas present when Beamish and Crawford nominated us as one of their two charities to receive a donation of €2500. Two committee members and the chairman went to the brewery for the presentation of cheques. The Association are very grateful for the donation as it means that we can start to plan our next major project.

Signed _____

date _____

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date _____