

# Information Booklet



St. Hilda's Services, a voluntary organisation in Athlone was established in 1964 by the community.

St. Hilda's Services provide a comprehensive quality service to people with mild, moderate and severe intellectual disabilities and our services benefit in excess of 120 services users and their families.

St. Hilda's Services unique governing structure (which is predominantly parents and families of service users) ensures that the care of people within the service always comes first and that the principle of person centred planning is embraced throughout the organisation.



# ST. HILDA'S SERVICES FOUNDED IN 1964

## Mission Statement

St. Hilda's Services are committed to the delivery of a quality individual service within the person's own community achieving the greatest possible health and social gain with the resources that are available in the context of regular evaluation.

## Aims

### **Our Person Centred Philosophy emphasises the dignity of each**

individual and states :-

All children and adults have the right to live in an environment that maximises their progress towards independent community living.

To cultivate an environment that encourages and supports staff.

The needs of the individual and their family are paramount in the overall Service Plan.

All services are managed with an overall goal of achieving the person's maximum potential within the resources available.



## **History of St Hilda's Services**

- 1964 St. Hilda's Services Founded.
- 1966 Initial Care Services (Bungalow on Retreat Road).
- 1967 First Class Commenced  
(Pre-Fab Buildings at Bower Day School).
- 1974 New School & Care Unit Opened.
- 1982 New Adult Training Centre Opened.
- 1983 McCormack House Adult High Support Day Opened.
- 1989 Roslevin Lawns – 7 Day Community Home Opened.
- 1991 Respite, In-Home and Family Support Services –  
Commenced in McCormack House (6 weekends a year).
- 1992 O'Dowd House – Resource Centre Opened.
- 1994 Pre-School, Clonros.  
Community Liaison Officer Appointed.
- 1995 Intensive Support Community Home Service – Part Time -  
McCormack House.
- 1997 Sli-an-Aifrinn House – Respite Service.  
Chestnut Lodge - Child High Support Day.  
Provision of Intensive Support Community Home.  
Work Therapy Centre Opened at Grace Park Road.



- 1999      Arcadia Court - 5 Day Community Home Opened.  
Irishtown Central – Nuala O’Brien Centre Service for Aged.
- 2000      Coosan Heath - 5 Day Community Home Opened.
- 2001      CoOrdinator of Services Appointed.  
Clonbrock Court - 2<sup>nd</sup> 7 Day Community Home.  
New Work Therapy Unit at Cornamagh.
- 2002      Supported Living Programme at Irishtown, Athlone.
- 2004      40th Anniversary Celebrations.
- 2005      Respite House Teach Saoire in Moate Opened.
- 2006      Leisure Buddies Programme.  
Summer Camp commenced.
- 2007      Outreach Programme.
- 2009      Respite House – Intensive Support Community Home  
Old Bog Road, Coosan - Opened.



## **Breakdown of Services**

### **Child Services**

**1. Special Pre-School (C.D.C):-**

Provides services to children over 2.5 years up to school going age. Specialised teaching and a higher staff ratio greatly facilitates the child's learning and each child has an individual programme focusing on language and social / personal development thus equipping the child for school placement.

The Pre-School is located at Clonros, Coosan Point Road, Athlone.

**2. Child-High Support Day Service (C.E.D.C):-**

This service caters for children over 2.5 years functioning in the severe and profound range of intellectual disability. The centre focuses on loco motor development, language development and social / personal development.

This service is located at Benbradagh, Westwood, Galway Road, Athlone.

**3. Special National School for Children with Moderate Learning Disability:-**

This service is provided, in the main, by the Department of Education under the curriculum as defined by the Department of Education.

This service is located at Grace Park Road, Athlone.



## **Adult Services**

### **4. Adult High Support Day Centre:-**

This Centre provides a suitable care and training programme for adults with a severe and profound intellectual disability and, in many instances, considerable physical disabilities.

Service location is at McCormack House, Baylough, Athlone.

### **5. Adult Training Centre:-**

This Programme is designed to provide for the emotional, intellectual, social and physical needs of the individual with a view to maximising the person's potential as a valued member of our society. The service is primarily for persons with a moderate degree of intellectual disability. Service location is at Grace Park Road, Athlone.

### **6. Resource Centre:-**

This Centre caters for young adults with a significant handicap, which would deem the person, misplaced in an Adult Training Centre. The Programme focuses on meaningful work activities, community services usage, craft and leisure activities and as broad a base of community interactions as feasible.

This service is located in the centre of Athlone Town in O'Dowd House, Court Devenish, Athlone.

### **7. Work Therapy Centre:-**

This service caters for adults who have completed their training in the Adult Training Centre and focuses on work activities with the primary focus on horticulture and agri-based activities.

The location of this service is at Cornamagh, Athlone

### **8. Service for the Aged:-**

This service is currently being developed within our Adult Care Programme in response to the changing client profile. The programme as developed gives due cognisance to the medical and social needs of the person.

Service location is at Arcadia Court, Athlone.

### **9. Work Experience:-**

We work in conjunction with the Athlone Institute of Technology in providing work experience and supports to their Nursing and Social Care Students.



## **Residential / Respite Services**

### **10. Medium Support Community Homes:-**

This service is available to a mixed client group on a 7-day full year basis. The service is located at 31 / 32 Roslevin Lawns, Athlone.

### **11. Intensive Support Community Home:-**

This service is available to persons functioning in the severe/profound range of intellectual disability. The service is based on 1:1 staffing with a night duty nurse. Resources allow this service to function 20 – 22 days per month and is shared by 14 children and adults. The service is located at the Old Bog Road in Coosan, Athlone.

### **12. 5-Day Community Home:-**

This service is available to a mixed client group on a Monday to Friday basis. The service is located in Bloomfield Drive, Coosan, Athlone.

### **13. 5-Day Community Home:-**

This service is available to a mixed client group on a Monday to Friday basis. The service is located in The Elms, Retreat Road, Athlone.

### **14. Medium Support Community Home:-**

This service is available to a mixed client group on a 7 day full year basis. The service is located at Clonbrock Court, Athlone. Attached to this service on a project basis is a Supported Living Programme.

### **15. Teach Saoire**

True to its translation into English, Teach Saoire is a holiday / respite home for the services within and outside of St. Hilda's services. The house can hold up to 4 guests and generally the average stays would be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 days, crisis respite is also available where appropriate. The home provides the dual service of respite to families and also short holidays/breaks away for the individual that stay there.



## **Family Support Services**

### **16. Share-a-Break Scheme:-**

On an individual basis we facilitate the usage of a local Share-a-Break Scheme, which resembles the scheme provided at Board level.

### **17. In-Home Care:-**

This is a specialised service available to families generally in a crisis situation. The usage of this service is increasing in line with the ageing profile of parents and clients.

### **18. Summer Camp Facilities:-**

Based on parental wishes we provide a Summer Camp Service to children on the basis of the length of holidays. This service is staffed by students on the Summer Employment Scheme.

## **Other Services Provided:**

### **19. Community Liaison Officer**

The responsibility of the community liaison officer is to ensure that the people who use our service are actively participating in their community, with the main focus being on community participation, involvement and the development of community networks e.g. summer camps, integration mainstream leisure activities.

### **20. Leisure Buddies Program**

The leisure buddies program was set up in 2006 as a pilot program. The program involves the recruitment of volunteers to become leisure buddies with individuals with the service who regularly meet to develop leisure interests. The main focus of the leisure buddies program is to integrate individuals into their own community while at the same time enhancing an individual's natural interests and skills. It also increases the awareness of the community to disabilities in a positive manner.

**St. Hilda's Services Central Administration Offices**  
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