

BALLYTIVNAN GARDENS REPORT PILOT PROJECT 2022

REPORT ISSUED MARCH 2023



WHO WE ARE

The Charity (Havin' a Laugh 20107710) started in 2012 as a group of friends seeking to support each other following the loss of a number of friends and family to suicide. We soon realised that the support we found in each other may not be available to those still struggling in our community. In 2017 having developed a charitable service The Charity was registered with the Charities Regulator Authority (CRA).

WHAT WE DO

The mission of the Havin' a Laugh Charity is to promote positive mental health through life-enhancing activities. The primary service of The charity is the provision of life-enhancing activity vouchers to people in mental health recovery. In addition the charity creates and promotes events that showcase the life-enhancing activities available in our locality.

LIFE-ENHANCING ACTIVITY VOUCHERS

Mental Health professionals, both public and private request vouchers from us to give to their clients.


LIFE-ENHANCING EVENTS

We engage with local adventure, wellness and entertainment providers to create events and activities that lift peoples spirits.

LIFE-ENHANCING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We endeavour to contribute to and support any community projects that align with our mission and ethos that our experience and skillset can be of benefit to.

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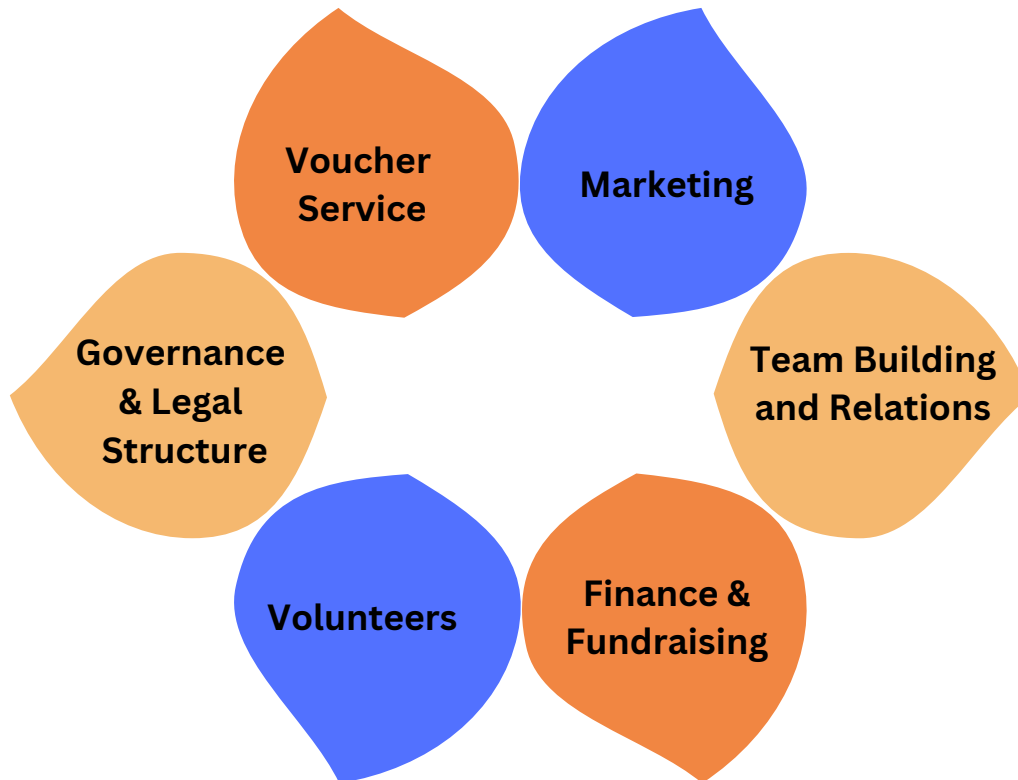
OVERVIEW

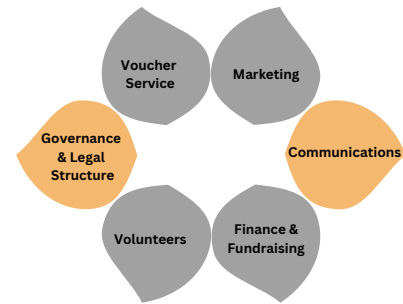
A Pilot Project was launched in February 2022 with the aim of developing the HSE site at Ballytivnan to be a welcoming front door for mental health services. As a project that would have great benefits to the community, the Havin' a Laugh Charity agreed to enter into contract with the HSE to facilitate the community aspects of the project.

The project was paused by the HSE in August 2022 with all fundraising and expenditure in relation to the project put on hold.

While awaiting further direction from the HSE this interim report serves to provide clarity on The Charity's contribution to the project to date.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CHARITY





GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL STRUCTURE

The Charity continued to evolve whilst meeting all of the regulatory requirements it must work within. Where necessary, additions to the service and alterations to documentation were implemented prior - and subsequent to - the upgrade of The Charity's status. Insurance policy adapted assisting necessary alterations to insurance requirements. The ongoing process of Incorporation was deemed necessary for The Charity to combat its increasingly complex nature. The Charity has pivoted slightly and is now in a better position to utilise the service it offers. The board learned of, and applied, the necessary new approaches and are happy The Charity can continue confident that all legal and regulatory requirements continue to be met.

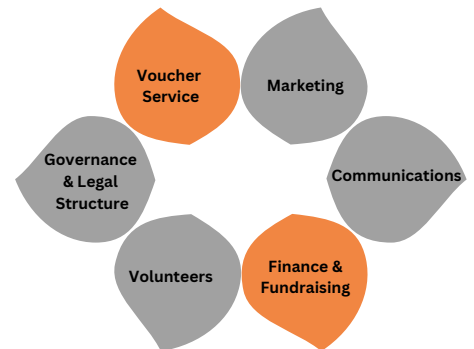
- The Charity's governing body is the Charities Regulator of Ireland. In accordance with CRA definition The Charity met the governance requirements for a Simple Charity. I.e. a charity that had no employees or premises.
- In addition to the documentation required for a Simple Charity, to align with HSE governance standards The Charity added a Volunteer Handbook to the existing compliance documentation.
- Additional review and upgrading of all compliance documentation continued throughout 2022 to align with the upgrade of The Charity from Simple charity to Complex charity. Upgrade of charitable status to complex charity is required if/when a charity creates an employed position.
- The Charity insurance policy was adapted to cover the activity of volunteers at the HSE Ballytivanan site.
- The Charity changed insurance provider to facilitate change in cover.
- The Charity is better positioned and fully covered for current and future activities.
- To prepare for and safely govern the increased complexities of The Charity's activities in relation to this and potential future projects, Havin' a Laugh CLG was incorporated in June 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Charity maintained a presence on-site when possible responding and remaining open to all proposed communication channels.

- The Charity was present at all team meetings held to facilitate project progression.
- It contributed at all times to actions related to the on-going progress of the project.
- Where it could not attend the attendance of a charity representative was offered.

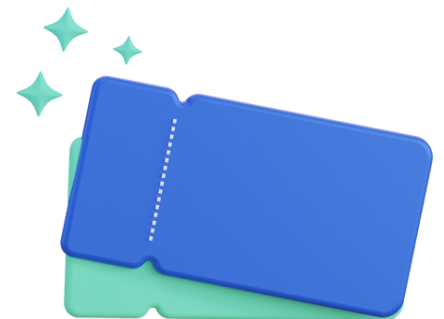




FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

Funds were raised and accounted for successfully. The application of a careful and thorough approach provided transparency when required.

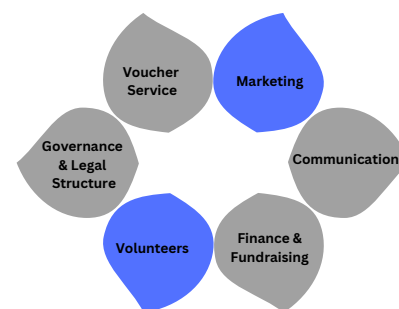
- The Charity provided the legal structure through which funds could be raised for the project.
- The Charity created a GoFundMe campaign to allow funds to be raised for the project while detailing the designation of those funds.
- The Charity opened a designated account specific for funds raised in the name of the project.
- All funds are secure within this account and awaiting HSE direction.



VOUCHER SERVICE

The voucher service was listed as a community service that would be available at the Ballytivnan site as part of the project. The charities annual fundraising efforts for the voucher service were amalgamated within the pilot project fundraising. Whilst the project was evolving, the core service offered by The Charity was maintained and enhanced.

- For the duration of the project The Charity continued to deliver it's voucher service.
- The voucher service is available to over 15 HSE departments and more than 40 additional public and private services in the Sligo/Letrim area.
- With a view to future possibilities, focus was kept on vital ongoing services.



MARKETING

Throughout 2022, the coordination, promotion, marketing and reach was enhanced inline with best practice. This has facilitated a more effective structure and strategy for future growth.

- The Charity recruited a social media coordinator for promotion of the project.
- It provided social media channels through which the project could be promoted.
- In addition to this, a social media and marketing and development plan was formulated by The Charity applying input obtained from the HSE.

VOLUNTEERS

The Charity assisted with establishing volunteers and utilisation of their skills.

- The Charity provided the legal structure through which volunteers could be Garda Vetted.
- Volunteers were recruited to carry out activities in the gardens, to contribute to the team management of the project and to create and deliver a marketing plan for the project.

A Garden Volunteer spoke about her participation in Garden Preparations at the Ballytivnan site:

'Participating at the Gardens was a lifeline for those who were attending. The key aspect was that it was something you could contribute to and see the outcome. Each person only had a small task to complete but the combined effort bore such positive results. Many in the volunteers saw other areas of their lives improve as a reflection of the positive outcome of working as a community in the gardens. I am disappointment that the project had been paused and that there has been no update yet from the HSE as to the status of the project. Any similar projects that The Charity could facilitate in the future would have great benefit to the community.'

IN CONCLUSION

The Charity and it's volunteers await final report and future plans from the HSE. This project is being managed under the HSE's General Managers Office. For any further enquiries the acting General Manager can be contacted via email GMMHSCHO1@hse.ie.