



Rainbows Ireland Limited
15th Annual Report

15th November 2014

**Rainbows Ireland supporting children and young people
with grief and loss resulting from bereavement, parental
separation and divorce.**



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Registered Charity No: 12507

The Board – Limited by Guarantee

Company Directors:

Paul Kenny, Chairperson

Ray Watson, Vice Chairperson

Simon Blanckensee, Honorary Secretary

Anne Patterson, Director

Teresa Nagle, rsm, Director

Rhoda Curran, rsm, Director

Company Members:

Maureen Casey

Joan Conlan

Jennifer McGuinness

Deirdre Burke

Jean O'Neill

Staff at National Office:

Anne Staunton, National Director

Patricia Jones, Part-time Office Administrator

Jennifer McGuinness, Full time Office Administrator

Auditors

HSOC Consultants Limited,
Chartered Accountants,
Registered Auditors,
Adelaide House,
90 Upper George's Street,
Dun Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin.

Forward

Rainbows Ireland celebrates 25 years in 2014.

The Rainbows programme was brought to Ireland by the Presentation sisters in 1988.

The programme has spread throughout the country through the work of dedicated volunteers to be part of the main framework of services for children on the ground in Ireland today.

The office of the President marked and celebrated the work done by Rainbows Ireland with an official invitation to the Arus an Uachtaráin.

598 Volunteers who expressed an interest and availability to go were entered into a lottery to pick 50 volunteers to represent Rainbows Ireland.



Successes and Challenges 2014

Successes

Core work

- Rainbows Ireland following an intensive review, remained one of the multi annual funded services brought forward into the new Child and Family Agency - Tusla in 2014
- Rainbows Ireland took over the role and responsibility of the Tusla grant on line grant application system ,it's allocation and distribution to Rainbows sites in 2014
- Greater awareness of the profile of Rainbows has developed nationally
- Increase demand for Rainbows service by key stakeholders
- Children and young people continue to access the service
- Increase in number of site registrations
- Increase in the number of site re registrations
- All policies and procedures underpinning the service delivery have been renewed in line with international and national best practice guidelines
- An evaluation system/process is now in place to facilitate a reflective practice of the service
- A robust and active collaboration has developed with other services for children in Ireland
- Rainbows Ireland is a founding and active member representing the voluntary sector of the Irish Childhood Bereavement Network launched in 2013



*Launch of the Irish Childhood Bereavement Network,
Bereavement Care Pyramid Oct 4th 2014 with Minister James Reilly.*

Training

- Demand for Facilitator training continues around the country
- Demand for re training is growing and being made available separate to initial training
- A simulated group session has been recently filmed to become central to Facilitator training and re training – re writing of current training will take place in 2015 to make full use of the simulated session – to have this available now fulfils one of the most frequent comments on training evaluations
- Increased attendance at CPD sessions by volunteers
- New Trainee Registered Directors team under way
- Dedicated training and registration processes have been developed for the implementation of Sunbeams
- A new national Designated Liaison Person team for the role and responsibility for Child Protection to cover designated aspects of the Rainbows service was sanctioned by Tusla – training took place in early September 2014

Administration

- The office administration has been considerably up graded to meet the demands of a very busy service in all its aspects
- Efficiencies of operation as a National office have been introduced through the installation of new and upgraded computer systems, key databases, online systems of engagement
- Accurate records of all aspects of the service are now available through improved systems of administration

Technology/IT

- A new and revised website has been developed with a members only section
- The social media presence of Rainbows has grown and developed and is a key aspect of service communication and networking
- Internal communication with volunteers are hugely improved and become more cohesive with internet/social media/newsletters/bulletins/ increased CPD
- New systems have increased the levels of accountability, transparency and monitoring re quality service delivery
- Increase in services being donated to Rainbows Ireland – financial analysis, data bases (costs subsidised by provider)

Challenges

Funding and Finance:

- Ongoing funding cuts are increasingly impacting on the running of the national office and the maintenance and delivery of the programmes at Rainbows sites
- Funding – Rainbows Ireland in the last three years has experienced an annual operational deficit at National Office as funding cuts of 40% have been experienced at a national level
- Fundraising attempts to date have not produced significant amounts
- It is very difficult to identify funding streams and fundraising activities
- Attracting Fundraisers from within Rainbows is very difficult – to date one key Board member has given this task considerable energy and commitment
- Volunteers will fundraise for their sites but it is very difficult on a national level
- National Grant Applications generally are unsuccessful as they require a focus on specific projects
- The new Charities Regulation Authority is expected to put increased demands on limited resources and capacity
- The responsibility of the on line grant applications, the allocation and distribution of the Tusla grant has greatly stretched the limited resources and capacity of the national office

Core Work of Rainbows

- A key challenge as an evolving/reflective service is to meet and encompass best practise standards as they are researched internationally and nationally and yet keep the core ethos central to the vision and mission.
- New/revised policies and procedures can be very difficult in an organisation to implement and particularly with the scale of service in Rainbows – the difficulty of change management and the resistance to change is common in all workplaces and services – yet it is crucial and fundamental to adhere to new and developing codes of best practice so that it is a safe and respected service and central is *We do no Harm* – if research demonstrates the need for revised procedures
- New resources are in demand from volunteers to underpin the programme – most games are seen as out dated and tired
- There is a demand that journals/manuals need to be separated into each loss experience – bereavement – parental separation/divorce
- The Ireland that existed when Rainbows started 25 years ago is very different from the Ireland of today – thus old systems of operation are now coming under pressure and being challenged as policies and procedures nationally are transformed for children's services within different partner agencies as they too introduce reforms and revisions
- Mixed losses and other best practice guidelines are in reality prohibiting some children and young people accessing services or being denied access particularly where groups do not have sufficient numbers to form specific groups according to age and loss experience

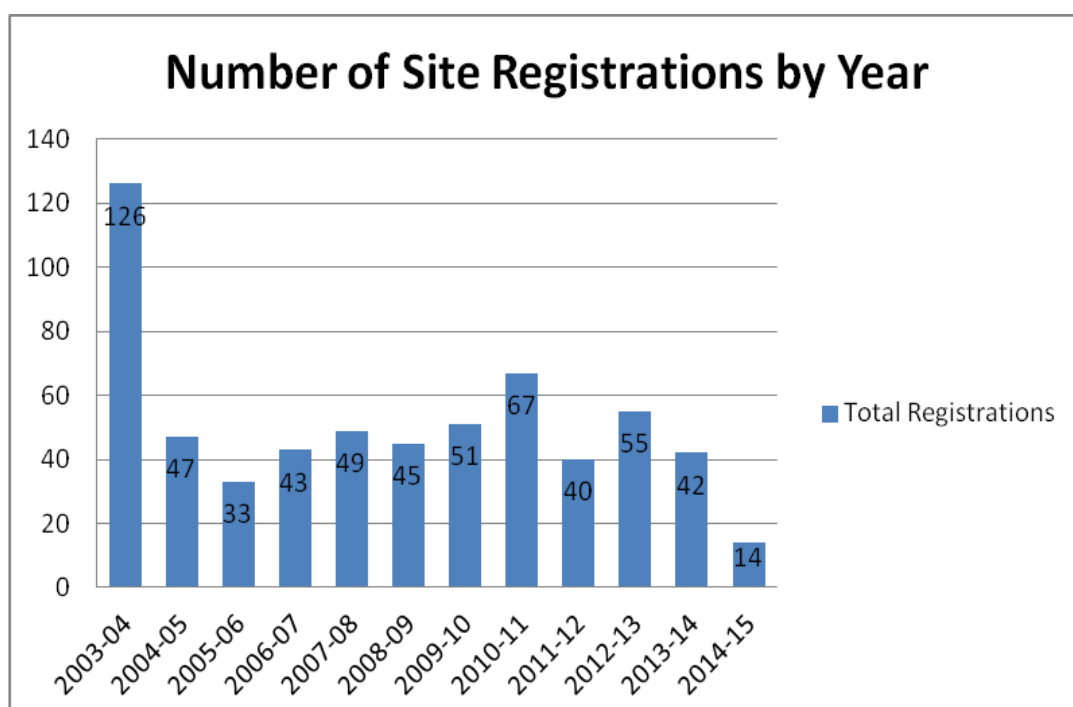
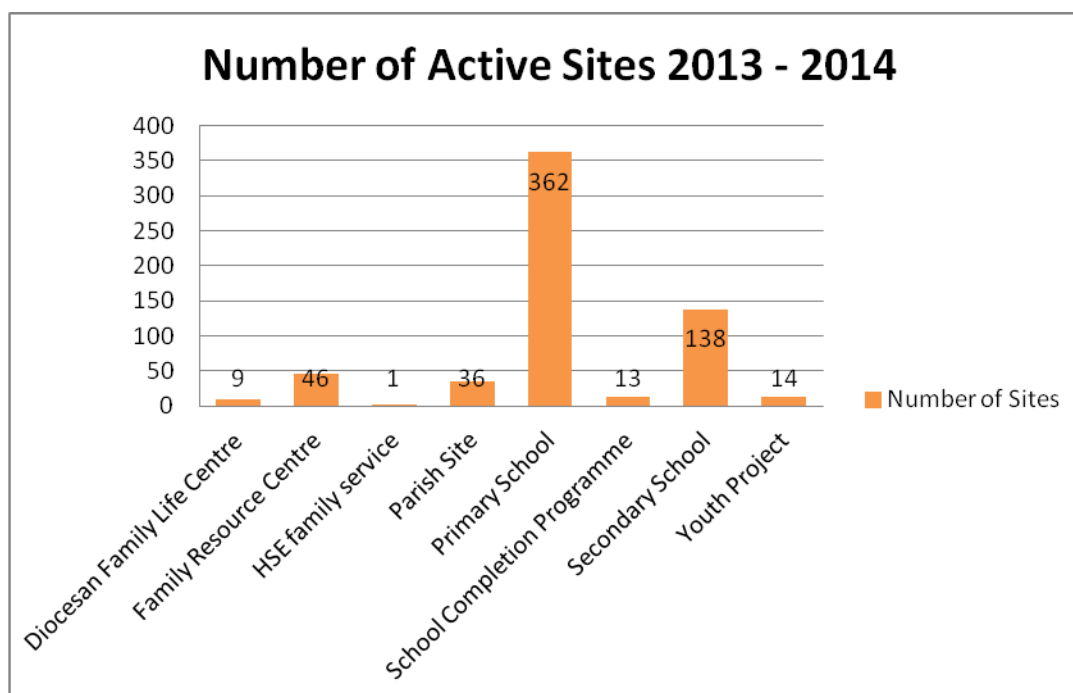
- In a national environment where services have been cut ,the Rainbows programme and group formations re loss are seen as a *one size fits all* /that *it is better than nothing* – the constant challenge is to communicate to key stakeholders of what Rainbows can do and more importantly not do
- Demand for service has increased nationally by key stakeholders – parents ,families and those people supporting children and families both from within families and within other services – yet the Rainbows service is limited particularly in sites that have open access to the public – demand is exceeding capacity
- Demand on the resources of the national office have become greater – capacity and resources with three staff members is a constant challenge and problem
- The Rainbows phone line while not a help line now represents a key aspect of the work of the office - both internally for volunteers /sites /coordinators /facilitators and externally for the general public as they seek relevant services, guidance and sign posting
- Rainbows by its nature/structure is an interagency service and this can lead to operational difficulties/challenges



Rainbows 2014 Statistics

Registered Sites:

- 653 registered in total
- 556 of these are active

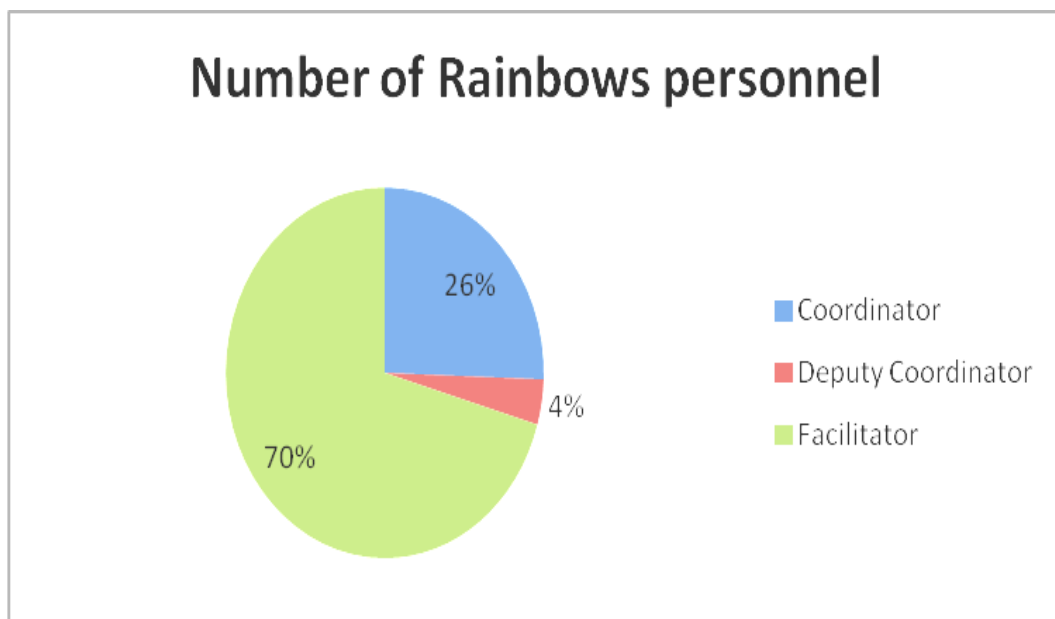


Number of Volunteers:



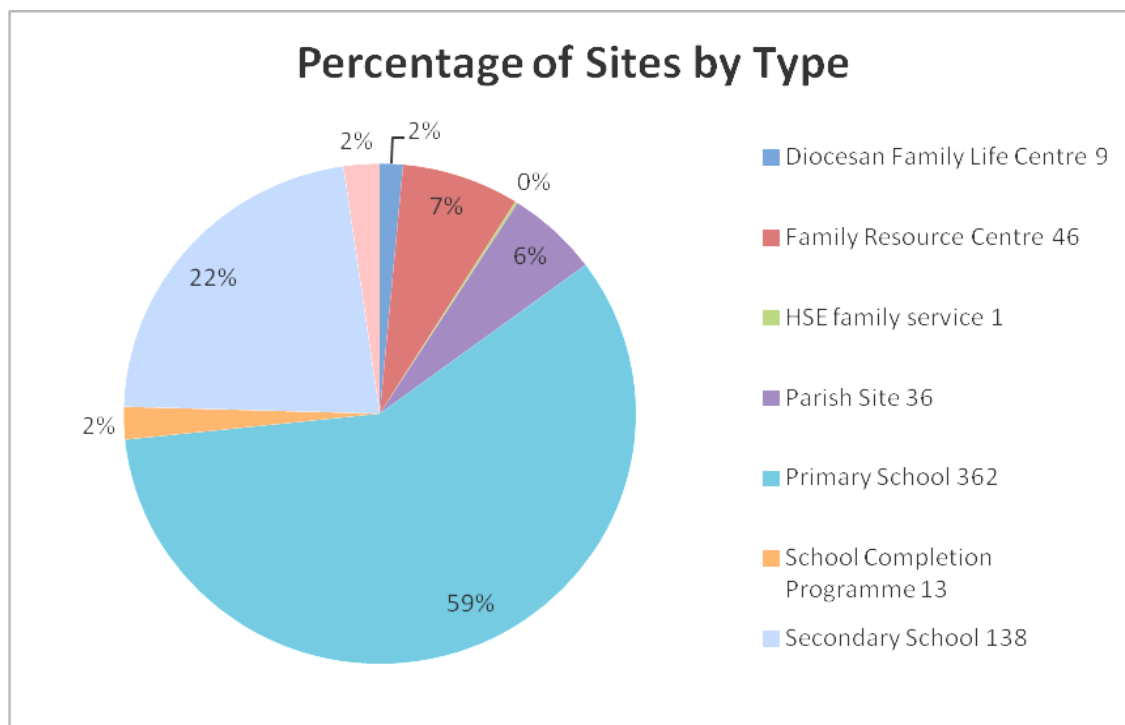
The total number of Rainbows volunteers is 3999 not all of which are currently active.

- 2819 registered facilitators – 70%
- 1022 coordinators – 26%
- 158 deputy coordinators- 4%



Types of Service:

- 9 Diocesan Family Life Centre - 2%
- 46 Family Resource Centre- 7%
- 1 HSE Family Service- 0%
- 36 Parish Sites – 6%
- 365 Primary Schools- 59%
- 13 School Completion projects-2%
- 138 Secondary Schools- 22%
- 14 Youth Projects - 2%



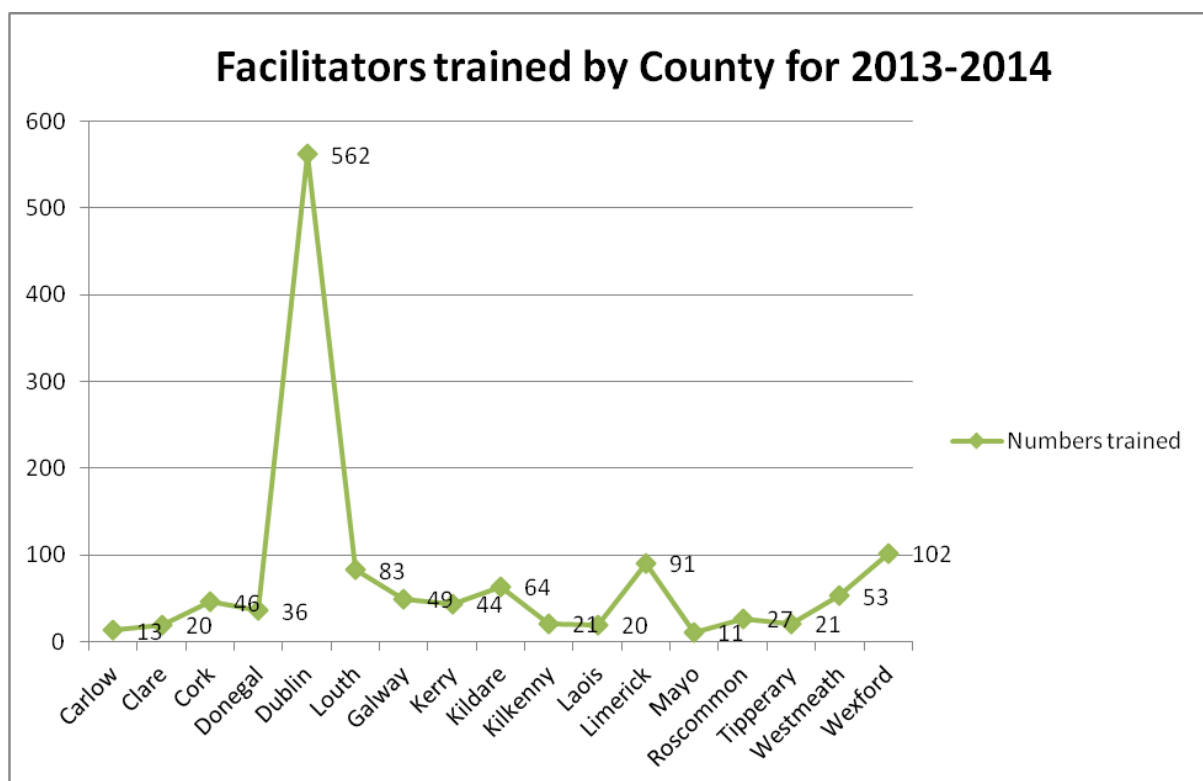
Training statistics:

There has been a huge growth in the number of requests for training around the country. Below are records of trainings for 2013- 2014 on training across the country.

Total number trained was 1263

Facilitator training:

• Carlow	13	• Laois	20
• Clare	20	• Limerick	91
• Cork	46	• Louth	83
• Donegal	36	• Mayo	11
• Dublin	562	• Roscommon	27
• Galway	49	• Tipperary	21
• Kerry	44	• Westmeath	53
• Kildare	64	• Wexford	102
• Kilkenny	21		

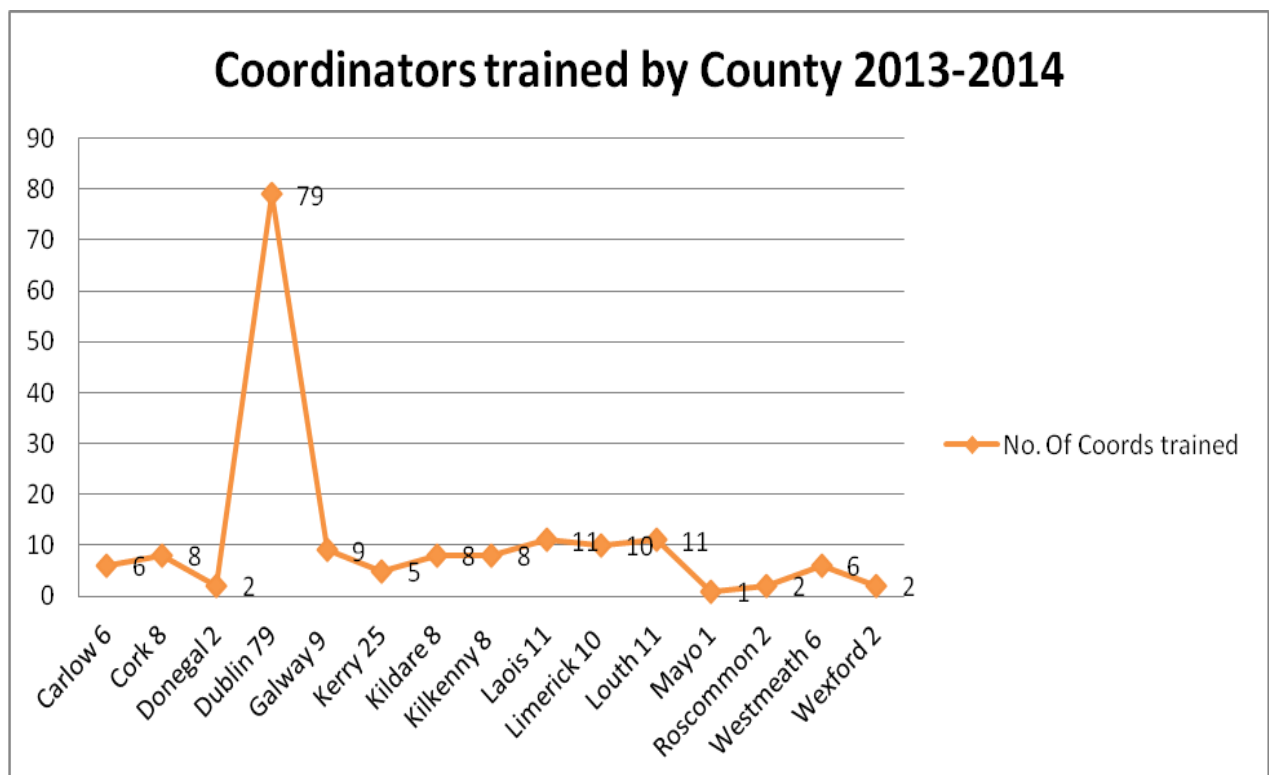


Coordinator training:

Numbers of Coordinators attending training across the country for the year 2013 - 2014

Total number of coordinators trained was 188

- Carlow 6
- Cork 8
- Donegal 2
- Dublin 79
- Galway 9
- Kerry 25
- Kildare 8
- Kilkenney 8
- Laois 11
- Limerick 10
- Louth 11
- Mayo 1
- Roscommon 2
- Westmeath 6
- Wexford 2



Rainbows Participants 2014

Data based on 119 Site Accreditation Reports, submitted to date.

- Of the 119 sites that completed the site accreditation, there are 1,395 participants accessing the programme.
- Combined, 18 sites have reported that 30 bereavements were reported as suicide.
- 26 sites are running lunchtime programmes.
- 6 Facilitators are reported to have attended the Rainbows programme as a child and are now trained facilitators.

Statistics based on data from the 119 submitted reports

Total Male and Female totals

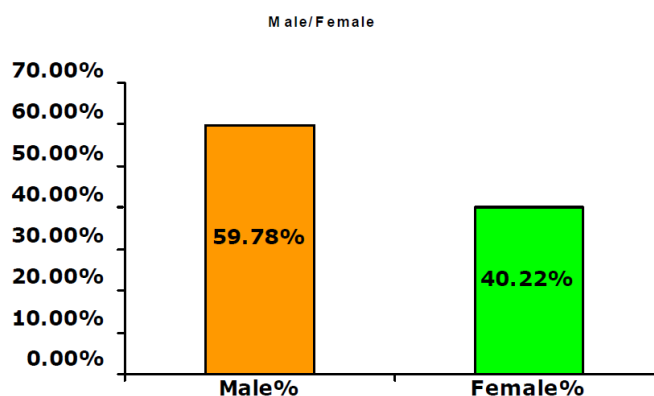
How many females
attended the programme(s)?

561

How many males attended
the programme(s)?

834

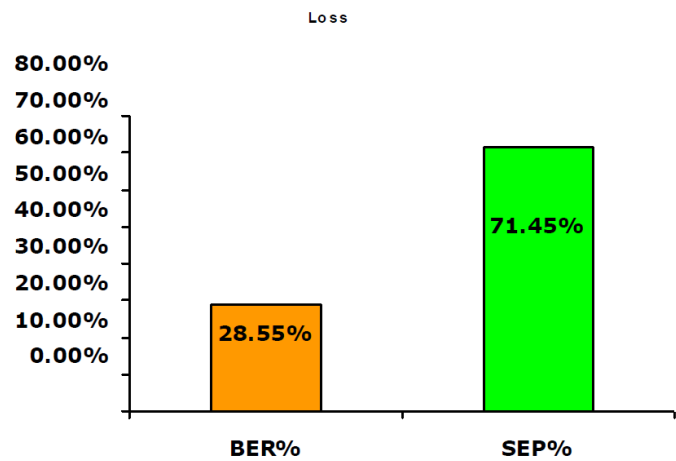
1395



Summary of Loss

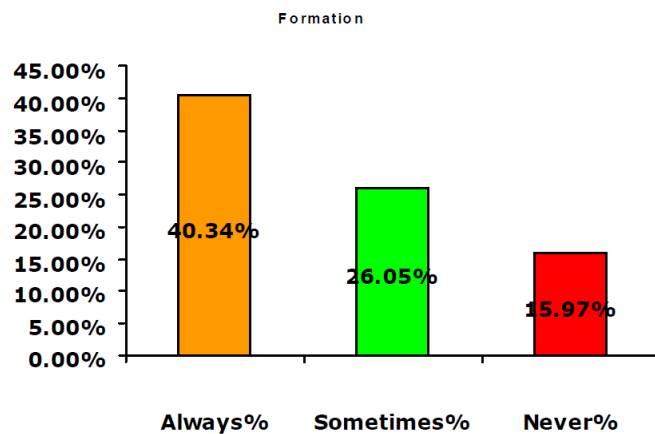
How many participants were in the following programmes?

Bereavement	<input type="text" value="561"/>
Separation/Divorce	<input type="text" value="834"/>
	<input type="text" value="1395"/>



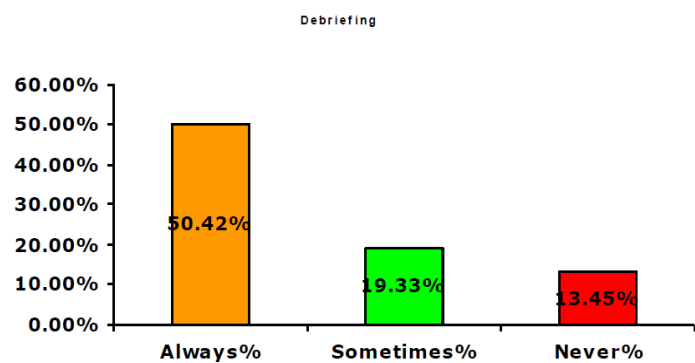
How frequently was a Formation Session held?

Always	<input type="text" value="48"/>
Sometimes	<input type="text" value="31"/>
Never	<input type="text" value="19"/>
	<input type="text" value="119"/>



How frequently was a Debriefing Session held?

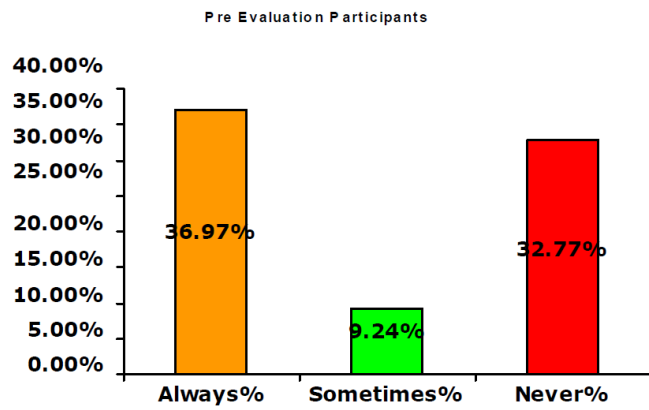
Always	<input type="text" value="60"/>
Sometimes	<input type="text" value="23"/>
Never	<input type="text" value="16"/>
	<input type="text" value="119"/>



How frequently were the following documents completed?

Pre Evaluation Participants

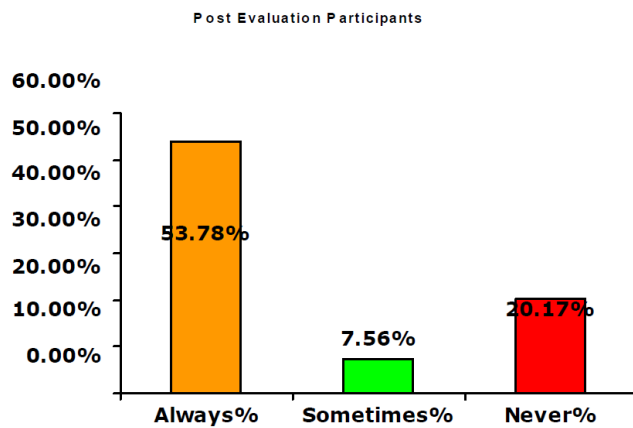
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Sometimes	<input type="text" value="11"/>
Never	<input type="text" value="39"/>
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How frequently were the following documents completed?

Post Evaluation Participants

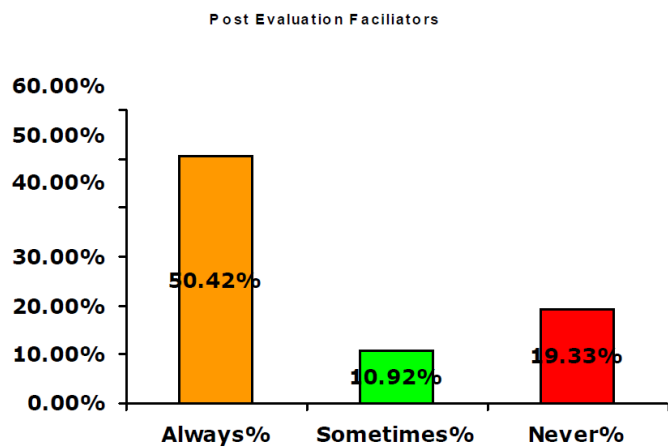
Always	<input type="text" value="64"/>
Sometimes	<input type="text" value="9"/>
Never	<input type="text" value="24"/>
	<input type="text" value="119"/>



How frequently were the following documents completed?

Post Evaluation Facilitators

Always	<input type="text" value="60"/>
Sometimes	<input type="text" value="13"/>
Never	<input type="text" value="23"/>
	<input type="text" value="119"/>



Rainbows Testimonials



It helped you to understand how your family changes.
It helped me how to talk to more people and express my feelings -Sam, 12

Rainbows helped me a lot, not feel left out. I have more people to talk to. -Adam, 12

Rainbows has helped me realised that other people are in the same situation as me. -Elaine, 11

Rainbows helped me to express my feelings that I always kept to myself and to say stuff I never said and talk about things I never say - Sarah, 11

I think rainbows helped me get through the pain and how to solve the problem - Tom, 11

I understand me feelings better and I'm not the only one with changes in my family - Fiona, 10





We had one child that was completely closed at the start; it was wonderful to see him opening up and taking part by the end of the programme - Rainbows Facilitator

It was wonderful to see the Children communicate with each other and make friends – Rainbows Facilitator

Spectrum helped me to trust my family and people and it helped me to cope and to speak more about my feelings - John, 15

I know now, having separated parents is nothing to be ashamed off – Declan, 14

Spectrum gave me a space that made me feel I wasn't alone and I wasn't the only one – Fiona, 16



National Directors Report 2012 – 2014

Rainbows can look back on the last two years growth and development with a sense of achievement and progress. But all achievement is relative to the challenges and work that is needed to build and go forward in a landscape that is changing and developing nationally.

No one organisation/service can make a total difference in a child's life. There is recognition that the needs of children and young people in today's society have become more complex. It takes a whole system response at every level. The new framework of children's bereavement services in Ireland sets out a pathway for positive mental health and development for children and young people affected by grief and loss in this country.

The service that Rainbows provides is embedded in that national framework as a Level two service. This will require vigilance on the part of Rainbows to bench mark its service delivery against key standards of best practice at this level.

At the heart of Rainbows is creating a safe space to support the inner voice of a child or young person struggling with significant change in their family to be heard.

That will always be at the core of Rainbows. Any changes, growth or development will be focussed on continuing this is the safest way possible for the level of support we deliver.

The most significant and immediate challenge to be addressed is to develop a robust approach and strategy to fundraising. This is vital in the light of core reductions from our statutory funder. The importance of this cannot be under estimated as central reserves are being infringed. It is a matter of grave concern that needs immediate and targeted action.

We are very grateful to so many –

- Tusla – our main funders for their continuing support
- To other organisations/services/businesses/individuals that give Rainbows so much support in so many different ways, Paul Spence of Hamill Spence, many thanks for all the ongoing advice and support
- To Brian Meehan of Carambola Kidz, Claire Cummins of Study Focus and Gordon Green of Access Expert for the support way beyond the call of duty
- To the Loreto centre and sisters in Crumlin for their continued support
- To the Board of Rainbows Ireland who consistently work on behalf of the support we offer to children and young people
- To the staff in the National Office – always going beyond the normal – a great team that knows no limits
- To the volunteers who are so committed and work to make a difference in a child's life
- Most importantly so many thanks to the children, young people and families who come into the Rainbows service –we are privileged to support you all – you are central to the work we do in Rainbows - it is a responsibility and trust that we take with great seriousness and dedication

Financial Report November 2014

The audited accounts for 2012 and 2013 are to hand and we wish to thank our auditors HSOC under the direction of Mr. Paul Spence for their work on behalf of Rainbows. Our thanks also to all the office staff for their input and I would especially like to thank Ms Patricia Jones in the Rainbows National Office for her invaluable input into the day to day running of the finances of Rainbows Ireland and for providing up to date account details for each board meeting.

Much has changed this year with regard to our funding from the Family Support Agency which has now become TULSA. The biggest change has been that from this year, 2014 on, the grant that originally was distributed among the Rainbows sites around the country from FSA is now being forwarded to the Rainbows Ireland National Office for distribution by ourselves to all the various sites who have applied for and been granted a sum of money. We have been fortunate in that our grant to Rainbows Ireland National office has remained the same for 2012 and 2013 and hopefully we can maintain this level of funding from TULSA next year. However the amount granted for the running of the sites has reduced and yet again we have to rely on fundraising at national level and at the sites themselves to help with running costs. We must remind the sites of how important it is to keep detailed accurate accounts throughout the year and, at this stage, we thank the Registered Directors for submission of their accounts also.

A further change this year has been the upgrading of our computer system and the setup of all the sites information and contact details –an essential element for ongoing work in Rainbows. We are also fine-tuning our bank accounting system to enable us to administer the grants to sites by online payments next year. We had hoped to have had this in place for this year's grants but there have been a number of teething problems in this regard, some yet to be sorted, and as a result the grants were paid by cheque in September.

Yours sincerely

Jean O Neill

Treasurer

RAINBOWS FOR ALL GODS CHILDREN OF IRELAND LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

	Notes	2013 €	€	2012 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	5		254		308
Current assets					
Debtors	6	2,247		4,384	
Cash at bank and in hand		460,972		518,478	
		<u>463,219</u>		<u>522,862</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(14,295)</u>		<u>(9,027)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>448,924</u>		<u>513,835</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u><u>449,178</u></u>		<u><u>514,143</u></u>
Represented by					
Other reserves	9	10,090		10,090	
General reserve	9	439,088		504,053	
Cumulative funds	10		<u><u>449,178</u></u>		<u><u>514,143</u></u>

Approved by the board and authorised for issue on

Signed on behalf of the board:

Paul Kenny
Director

Anne Patterson
Director

Date: 13th May 2014

RAINBOWS FOR ALL GODS CHILDREN OF IRELAND LIMITED

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

	Notes	2013 €	2012 €
Income	2	202,523	219,540
Cost of sales		(54,983)	(57,613)
Gross surplus		147,540	161,927
Administrative expenses		(222,540)	(209,259)
Operating deficit	3	(75,000)	(47,332)
Other interest receivable and similar income	4	10,035	12,473
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(64,965)	(34,859)

The income and expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

There are no recognised surplus and deficits other than those passing through the Income and Expenditure account.

Signed on behalf of the board:

Paul Kenny
Director

Anne Patterson
Director

Date: 13th May 2014

Rainbows Volunteers bag packing in Marks and Spencer
Newbridge, Co. Kildare recently.



RAINBOWS Ireland

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Find us on



RAINBOWS is a company
limited by guarantee.