



**Rainbows Ireland**

Supporting Children with Bereavement  
and Parental Separation

# Annual Report 2017



Images from new programmes

## Table of Contents

Mission .....	2
Vision.....	2
Aim .....	2
Guiding Principles of the Rainbows Service.....	3
Core Values of the Rainbows Service.....	5
Rainbows 2016-2017 Statistics-Limited Service Delivery .....	6
Executive Summary.....	8
Key activities carried out as part of the Review.....	10
Current Core Activities .....	11
New Pilot Service delivery Model under way for 2017- 2018 .....	12
Rainbows Programmes – Pilot Phase only: 2017 – 2018.....	13
Towards the future in 2017 – 2018.....	13
Financial Report .....	15
Company Directors: .....	16
Thank You.....	19

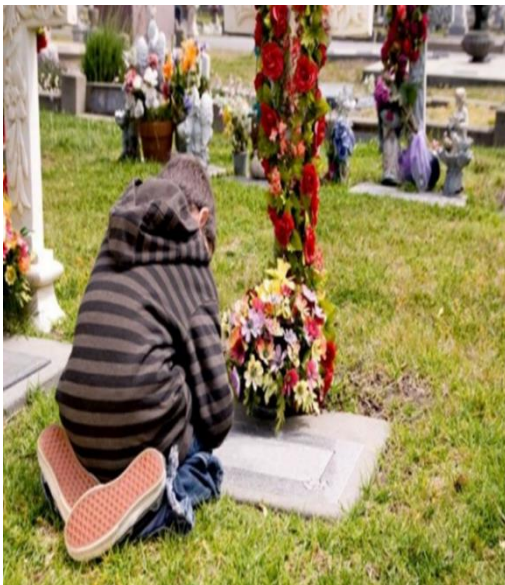


## Mission

Rainbows Ireland works to enable children and young people who have experienced a significant loss to access peer support. This support happens within their local communities as they seek to come to terms with their grief and loss.

## Vision

Our vision is that the grief experienced by children and young people in Ireland, following a significant loss in their lives from bereavement or loss through parental separation, divorce and relationship breakdown, is recognised and that they are offered the understanding and support necessary to foster emotional well-being.



## Aim

We aim to fulfil our mission by establishing, maintaining and supporting a national network of accredited Rainbow Centres, where trained facilitators are recruited by each Centre Management Body to support participants through the various Rainbows peer support group based programmes.

## Guiding Principles of the Rainbows Service

- Ensure that all children or young people accessing the service of the Rainbows Programme are safe and that Rainbows will do no harm.
- Ensure that the needs of children or young people experiencing a significant loss through the death of someone close and/or through the impact of separation and divorce/relationship breakdown are central to all practices and procedures.
- It is free of charge.
- The service is a needs led service that seeks to act as an intervention or prevention in a child or young person's life at a time of significant loss.
- It is a Level Two service of facilitation and support offered in local communities.
- Rainbows objectives are focused on effective outcomes and impact that is the healthy adaptation and integration of significant loss in a child or young person's life.
- All Rainbows Programmes will be delivered as set out in the policies, procedures and protocols of the Rainbows organisation, by trained Volunteers, providing a warm, welcoming, trusting environment.
- Rainbows Ireland is committed to inclusivity, equality and operating procedures that are non-judgmental and non-directive.
- Rainbows Ireland is committed to Best Practice guidelines, policies and procedures in all aspects of service delivery benchmarked by international and national standards.
- Rainbows Ireland has a commitment as a national voluntary organisation to deliver and sustain consistent and continuous support to children and young people experiencing significant loss through death, separation and divorce.
- Rainbows Ireland recognises its Duty of Care and has protocols in place for the efficient and appropriate referral pathways for those who present with more specific needs, or at risk.
- Central to the delivery of the Rainbows service is the specific boundaries of the service.





- Rainbows Ireland is committed to continually developing and improving all aspects of service delivery and organisational practice – governance, training, continuous professional development, supervision, care, support and welfare of volunteers and staff, evaluation/measurement/monitoring, reflective practices and reviews, finance and financial recording.
- Rainbows, at all times aims to be a learning organisation where people, systems and processes are continually improving to enhance the service.
- The Rainbows organisation recognises a collective responsibility in supporting children experiencing grief and loss at the various levels of the Bereavement Care Pyramid in Ireland. Rainbows Ireland is committed to collaboration and linking with peer organisations and services.



## Core Values of the Rainbows Service

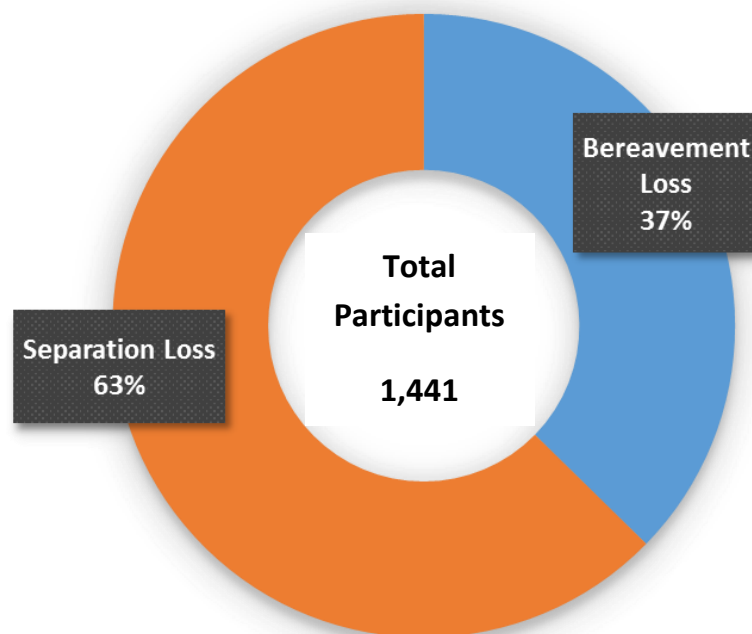
- Grief and loss are normal and natural
- Grief and loss – a personal, individual journey for every child and young person
- The dignity of each individual's grief journey is at all times respected
- Participants are not approached directly to avail of the service – the service is offered in local communities
- The emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people is fundamental to their future mental health and well being
- Children and young people are active, resilient participants in their own lives
- Grief and loss can have a profound impact
- Grief needs to be acknowledged and supported, not denied, buried or ignored
- Rainbows Ireland recognises the value of group support for children and young people, providing a process of normalisation and engagement with peers of a similar age and similar loss experience



## Rainbows 2016-2017 Statistics-Limited Service Delivery

The data below is based on limited Programme Accreditation Reports by publishing date of this report.

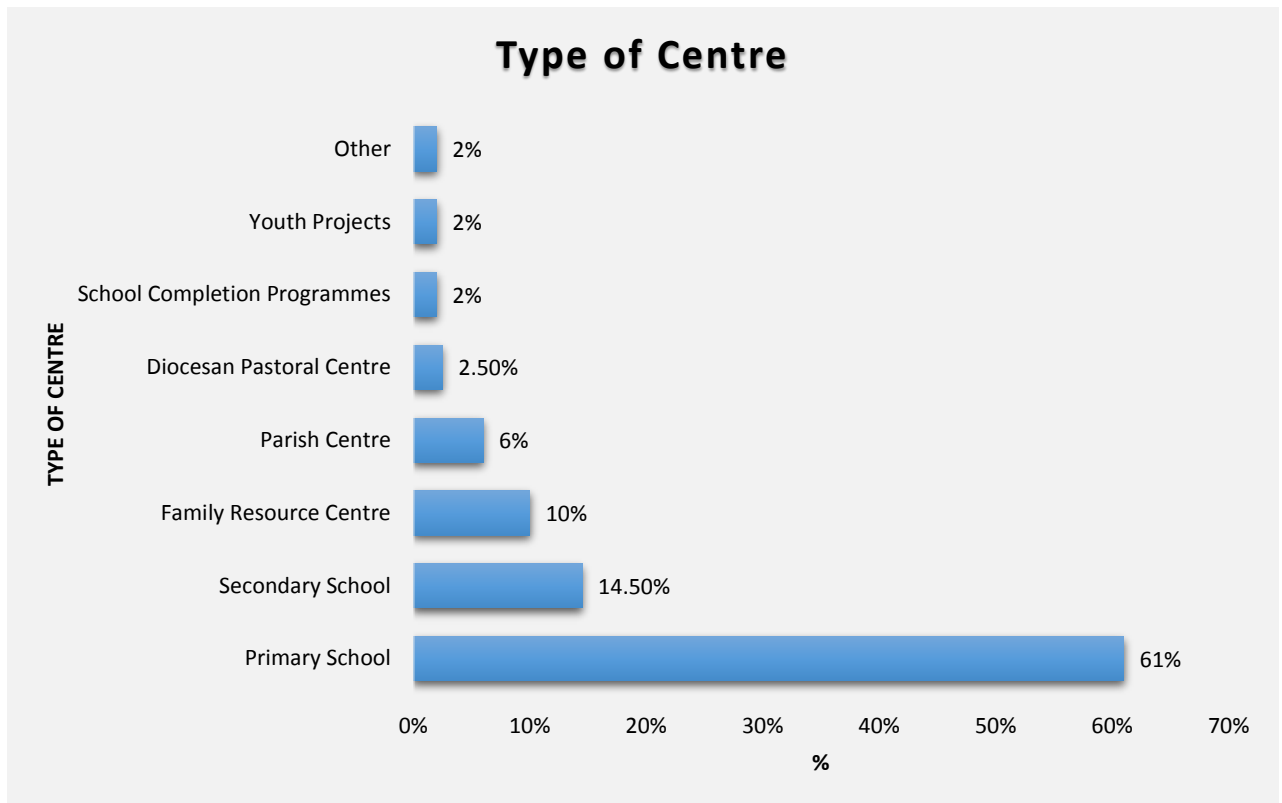
### Particiapants by Loss



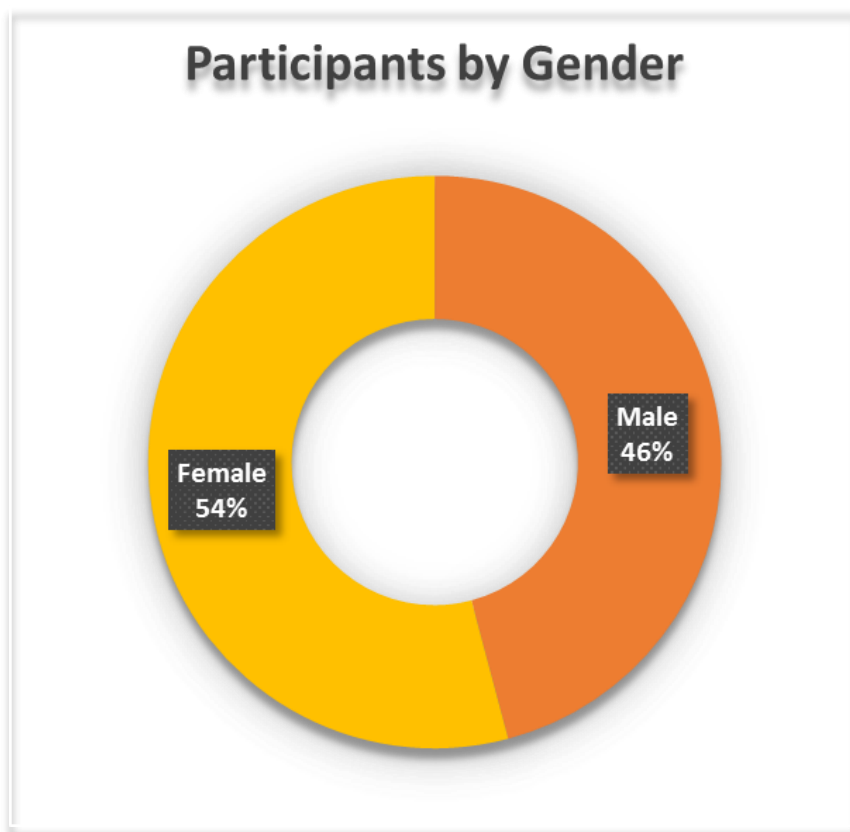
**Figure1:** 538 participants received bereavement support, while 903 received separation support in 289 Rainbows groups nationwide

250 participants were turned down from Programme Centres for a variety of reasons.

- Bad timing – (the programme had already started)
- Participants required professional support or where already in a professional support system
- Groups full
- Not enough applications to form a group - these applications are held to form a waiting list.
- Parents disagreeing on attendance



**Figure 2:** Bar chart of Programme Centre Types nationwide. There are 680 registered Programme Centres.



**Figure 3:** Service users by gender: 661 males and 780 females



## Executive Summary

Rainbows is just one year away from a significant milestone – 30 years in Ireland. The early days saw the programme spreading by word of mouth from school to school, agency to agency, volunteer to volunteer, all working frontline with children.



Today, the Rainbows service has evolved and developed into a national service and become part of a framework of services for children.

The Rainbows programme is embedded as a Level 2 service on the national Bereavement Care Pyramid (ICBN 2015) – providing peer group support for children of a similar age and loss experience – bereavement, parent separation and relationship/family breakdown.

In September 2015 The Board of Rainbows Ireland decided to undertake a process of robust and systematic review and reflection of all aspects of the service – to ensure quality and good practice bench marked and responding to current research and developments nationally and internationally.

The focus of the review has been on key aspects of the service including:

- Governance, management structures and processes
- Identify and map current strengths, weaknesses
- Stakeholders – quality of engagement and service
- Review all structures, standards, policies and procedures
- Programmes
- Identify and manage risk
- Quality control and assurance
- Openness, Transparency and Accountable
- Outcomes and impacts
- Finance, funding and reserves
- National and Local model of service delivery
- Future growth and service delivery model and pathways

While the programmes continued to be delivered where there was sufficient capacity, a pause button was pressed on key aspects of the service.

As we start into the academic year of 2017 - 2018 a momentum of anticipation has been building so that the service can resume on full capacity with new renewed energy and focus.

We are pleased to announce that the revised service is now under way and being rolled out. The process of scoping, planning, review and reflection has now moved to a stage of implementation.

Rainbows today stands at this exciting and demanding juncture - moving forward with renewed motivation, energy, vigour and commitment to build on current capacity and develop the service on the ground in local communities.

At this point, I have to hugely acknowledge the support, advice and engagement of so many individuals, peer services and professionals that helped and guided the process in so many ways.

Their commitment, support, energy and vision has been invaluable and has helped to shape and guide Rainbows towards a positive future providing support for children experiencing grief and loss

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Staunton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

***Anne Staunton***

**CEO Rainbows Ireland**

## Key activities carried out as part of the Review

- Scoping of new separation and a totally new bereavement programme
- Writing of the two programmes under clinical and professional guidance and support
- Production process of both programmes including design, illustration, editing and printing
- Robust exploration of research on all key aspects of the service
- Robust, critical review of all current standards and practices, policies, procedures and all the structures and systems underpinning those.
- Critical review of current training content for volunteers and bench marking against national and international standards
- Development of revised training content including all content materials
- Recruitment of new volunteer training team
- Development of content of training for new training team
- Training of new training team – over four residential weekends
- Pilot of training content and delivery – three pilot @ 4 days of training with additional reading
- Re - development of Database



*Rainbows new National Training Team attending 4 residential weekends training at the Priory Retreat Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24*

## Current Core Activities:



- Building and embedding a system of pre-registration meetings for programme centre management – a requirement of registration
- Content and roll out of Service Level Agreements
- Documentation, and roll out of Parent Information loop – the requirement for a parent to attend an information meeting in order for their child to be enrolled in the programme
- Arranging Facilitator Training by trainers over 4 days in different locations – printing of all training material
- Development of Training Manuals and PowerPoints and delivery of same
- Allocation and distribution of 2017/2018 grant
- Supervision and mentoring of all training sessions
- Develop and provide Coordinator Training
- Final production/editing stage of Bereavement Programme
- Re design, writing content and re- building of website
- Design of revised leaflets and banners
- Training team - ongoing training meetings
- Significant increase re office administration as revised and additional systems being put in place
- Provision of regular communications/updates volunteers to organise and build the implementation of the revised service
- Development of a Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020 to encompass and action all decisions from the review process.



## New Pilot Service delivery Model under way for 2017- 2018

Part of the review process focused on identifying a new strategic model of service delivery

To date, agencies identified the Rainbows programme as suitable to meet needs in their local communities. Those agencies selected and recruited their own volunteers to train in the programme delivery for their agency - Schools, Family Resource Centres, Family Life Centres, Pastoral Centres, and Youth Projects etc.

In other words the relationship with Rainbows Ireland is as an inter-agency model of service delivery

While this has significant benefits, it also has particular limitations.

A standalone Rainbows – that is a programme centre under the Governance of Rainbows Ireland will be piloted and evaluated.

Mullingar and Galway have been identified as the venues for the pilot model.

There is a significant annual insurance additional cost for this model of delivery which will have to be taken into consideration in the future considerations.



This model if positively piloted and proven to be effective, will allow Rainbows to ensure a more comprehensive and cohesive service availability in key areas.

This model of service delivery will potentially allow a more strategic development of the bereavement section of the Rainbows service – agencies at times find it difficult to provide bereavement groups with sufficient numbers of children of a similar age.

Having a centralised model of service delivery will allow a more targeted bereavement service availability.





## Rainbows Programmes – Pilot Phase only: 2017 – 2018



A programme for Separation has been developed

A programme for Bereavement has been developed

Both programmes are in a Pilot phase and robust feedback will be taken in 2017 and 2018.

Both programmes are developed in line with children's stages of development.

Both programmes are developed in accordance with current research and best practice for a Level 2 service delivery.

Both programmes aim to support children with grief and loss resulting from loss as a result of bereavement and/or parental separation.

Both programmes focus on meaningful support and active listening and are not to be considered as a therapeutic intervention or professional counselling.

The Rainbows service is an early intervention and prevention programme.

The Rainbows Service is a free service in local communities.

## Towards the future in 2017 – 2018



Further key actions that have been agreed in the process of review, growth and development include:

- Developing and implementing a system of **external supervision and mentoring** to ensure a process of quality assurance
- Identify funding revenues and build capacity to revise and develop the **Rainbows programme at second level** as a matter of urgency

Continue to build partnerships with peer services and organisations in order to:

- Advocate for children and young people experiencing grief and loss
- Share Best Practice
- Map out services nationally for sign posting at the different levels of the bereavement care pyramid
- Make best use of limited resources



## Financial Report

I am pleased to present our Audited Accounts for the year 2016. I would like to sincerely thank all our Office Staff for the care which they take with Rainbows finances, especially Patricia Jones, whose attention to detail ensures that every cent is accounted for. I would like to thank our Auditors, Hamill Spence O'Connell, under the direction of Mr Paul Spence, for once again preparing the accounts to such a high standard on behalf of Rainbows Ireland.

Under the continuing stewardship of our CEO and backed by the Board of Directors we have worked hard to once again meet all the expectations of TUSLA. We have endeavoured to put ourselves in a position to increase our core funding and grant funding to meet the expected requirements of our revised programme, training and other structures.

Rainbows Ireland once again successfully processed the grant system to our national network of centres. This task involves the annual process of accreditation to enable fully compliant centres to benefit from grants each year. We are grateful for the efforts of Ms Jennifer Rafter in processing all the applications and ensuring each grant recipient centre meets all the accreditation requirements. Our CEO, Ms Anne Staunton deserves huge thanks for her detailed analysis of each application so that every centre receives a suitable share of the grant funding. Rainbows Ireland coordinating the distribution of grants has been crucial to our understanding of how centres operate and the future needs of the organisation. As our long-term relationship with TUSLA becomes more defined, this knowledge will be very valuable in assessing the needs of Rainbows centres across the country.

The Board has faced financial challenges in the re-development of the revised programmes and structures. We have incurred additional costs and the new systems will require a greater budget than we have operated on in previous years. The Board will be taking a proactive approach to our financial governance, through regularly reviewed spending estimates and projected budgets.

We have a dynamic and professional staff and team who continue to guide and lead this organisation into the future.

We are grateful for the continuing support of our thousands of dedicated Rainbows volunteers whose commitment has always been quite extraordinary.

Many significant financial challenges remain in the coming year and beyond, but we are committed, ready to face them and determined to continue to grow and develop the Rainbows Service.

***Simon Blanckensee***

*Treasurer*

## **Company Directors:**

Paul Kenny, Chairperson

Ray Watson, Vice Chairperson

Simon Blanckensee, Honorary Secretary - Acting Treasurer

Teresa Nagle, rsm, Director

## **Company Members:**

Rhoda Curran, rsm

Maureen Casey

Joan Conlan

Deirdre Burke

## **Staff at National Office:**

Anne Staunton, CEO

Patricia Jones, Part-time Office Administrator

Jennifer Rafter, Full time Office Administrator

## **Registered Charity No. 12507**

CRO: 262410

CRA: 20036768

Revenue: 8262410

## **Auditors**

HSOC Consultants Limited, Chartered Accountants,

Registered Auditors, Adelaide House, 90 Upper George's Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

## **Bank**

Bank of Ireland, Walkinstown, Dublin 12

## **Solicitors**

KOD Lyons, 31-33 Usher's Quay, Merchants Quay, Dublin

## **Funding**

Rainbows is mainly funded by Tusla, fund raising and donations

**RAINBOWS FOR ALL GODS CHILDREN OF IRELAND COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2016 €</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2016 €</b>	<b>Total funds 2016 €</b>	<b>Total funds 2015 €</b>
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	134,781	122,500	257,281	238,057
Charitable activities	4	19,303	-	19,303	37,408
Investments	3	1,252	-	1,252	1,772
<b>Total income</b>		<b>155,336</b>	<b>122,500</b>	<b>277,836</b>	<b>277,237</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	5	217,446	79,348	296,794	291,652
<b>Total expenditure</b>	7	<b>217,446</b>	<b>79,348</b>	<b>296,794</b>	<b>291,652</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>(62,110)</b>	<b>43,152</b>	<b>(18,958)</b>	<b>(14,415)</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(62,110)</b>	<b>43,152</b>	<b>(18,958)</b>	<b>(14,415)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		357,189	23,800	380,989	395,404
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>295,079</b>	<b>66,952</b>	<b>362,031</b>	<b>380,989</b>

All activities relate to continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2016 and 2015 other than those disclosed in the statement of financial activities.

The notes on pages 13 to 23 form part of these financial statements.



**RAINBOWS FOR ALL GODS CHILDREN OF IRELAND COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 262410**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>2016 €</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>2015 €</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		<b>3,061</b>		1,265
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	<b>1,431</b>		567	
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>373,978</b>		392,886	
		<b>375,409</b>		393,453	
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	14	<b>(16,439)</b>		(13,729)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<b>358,970</b>		379,724
<b>Net assets</b>			<b>362,031</b>		380,989
<b>Charity Funds</b>					
Restricted reserves	16		<b>66,952</b>		23,800
Unrestricted funds	16		<b>295,079</b>		357,189
<b>Total funds</b>			<b>362,031</b>		380,989

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 9 March 2017 and signed on their behalf, by:

Paul Kenny, Chairman  
**Trustee**

Raymond Watson, Vice Chairman  
**Trustee**

(The notes on pages 13 to 23 form part of these financial statements.)

## Thank You

We are very grateful to so many.

To the Rainbows volunteers who are so committed and work to make a difference in a child's life

Tusla –The Child and Family Agency - our main funders for their continuing support

To the individuals, peer services and professionals that worked with Rainbows Ireland and guided the redevelopment process in so many ways.

To the Loreto centre 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

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

As the service continues, we pledge our support through the delivery of Rainbows to every child and young person experiencing grief and loss.

