BRAIN INJURY MATTERS

IMPACT REPORT 2020/2021

LIVING BEYOND ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

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BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

LIVING BEYOND ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

SUPPORTING

PROMOTING

EMPOWERING

ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

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CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS "NEVER MISSED A BEAT"

Gordon Gough
Chairman,
Brain Injury Matters

Our work and achievements throughout this year have to be set against the backdrop of the devastating and unexpected impacts of Covid 19. Our primary concern was for our beneficiaries, many of whom live with underlying health conditions and were increasingly socially isolated and vulnerable.

Very quickly our staff team, with the co-operation of our clients, rapidly adapted our service delivery model from face-to-face to remote delivery.
Our Children and Youth service continued to offer therapeutic support either by telephone, online, or providing additional resources via post. Within our Adult services the Wellbeing service was transformed as we offered regular weekly telephone support, a new Wellbeing Facebook group, a range of activities online, including; quizzes, challenges, creative arts and drama facilitated via Zoom or Skype calls. Similarly, our Counselling service was delivered via telephone or online via Skype.

The response from clients and families was extremely positive and reflected the professionalism and relationships developed by the Staff Team, listening and responding to the needs of clients, families and friends by providing a flexible response during a very challenging and demanding period. As described by one of our parents, "we never missed a beat".

I would like to thank and acknowledge the great work achieved by the Staff Team, The Board and our families and friends who collectively responded in a supportive and positive manner working as part of the wider Brain injury Matters team. This encouraging response was also evident in the accommodating attitude demonstrated by our Funders and supporters which ensured we could plan, deliver and support our beneficiaries with confidence.

While this year has been very challenging, we believe that we have strengthened our relationships, worked collectively and successfully to deliver our services and look forward with confidence to the coming years continuing to support those individuals and families living with acquired brain injury.

G Gough

Gordon Gough
Chairman, Brain Injury Matters

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 20/21

In 20/21 we introduced a new scorecard to capture the outcomes and impact of our work in 4 areas; **Accessibility**, **Acceptability**, **Effectiveness** and **Partnership working** summarised as follows:

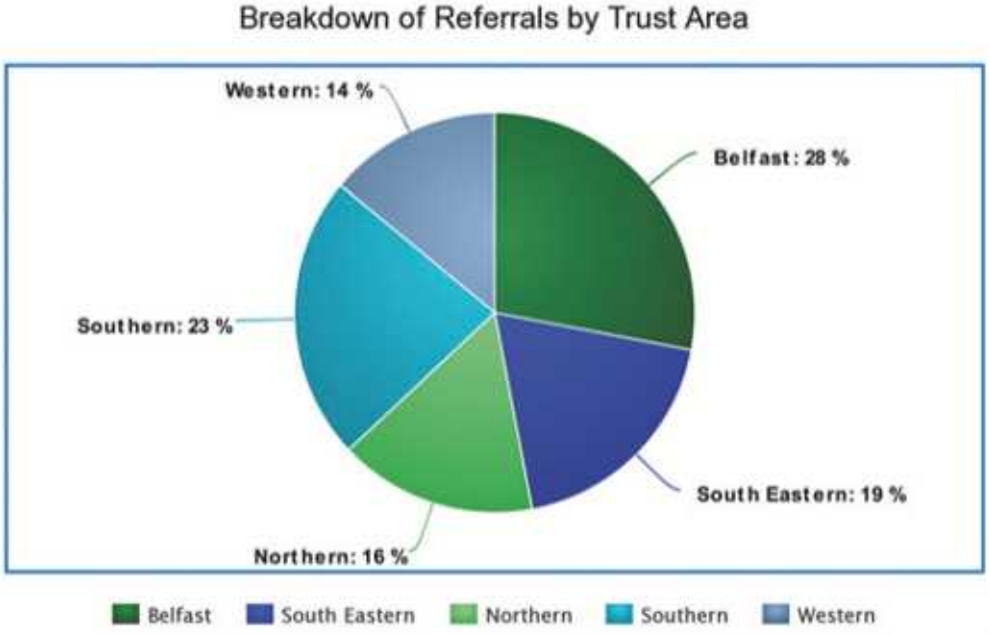
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICE

Brain Injury Matters Children and Youth Service (Family First and Youth Empowerment Programmes) supports children and young people 0-18 years and their families with ABI. The Service has 4 main elements; Family based support, Social activities/peer support, online support via the Family First Portal and the Mentoring programme.

ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES

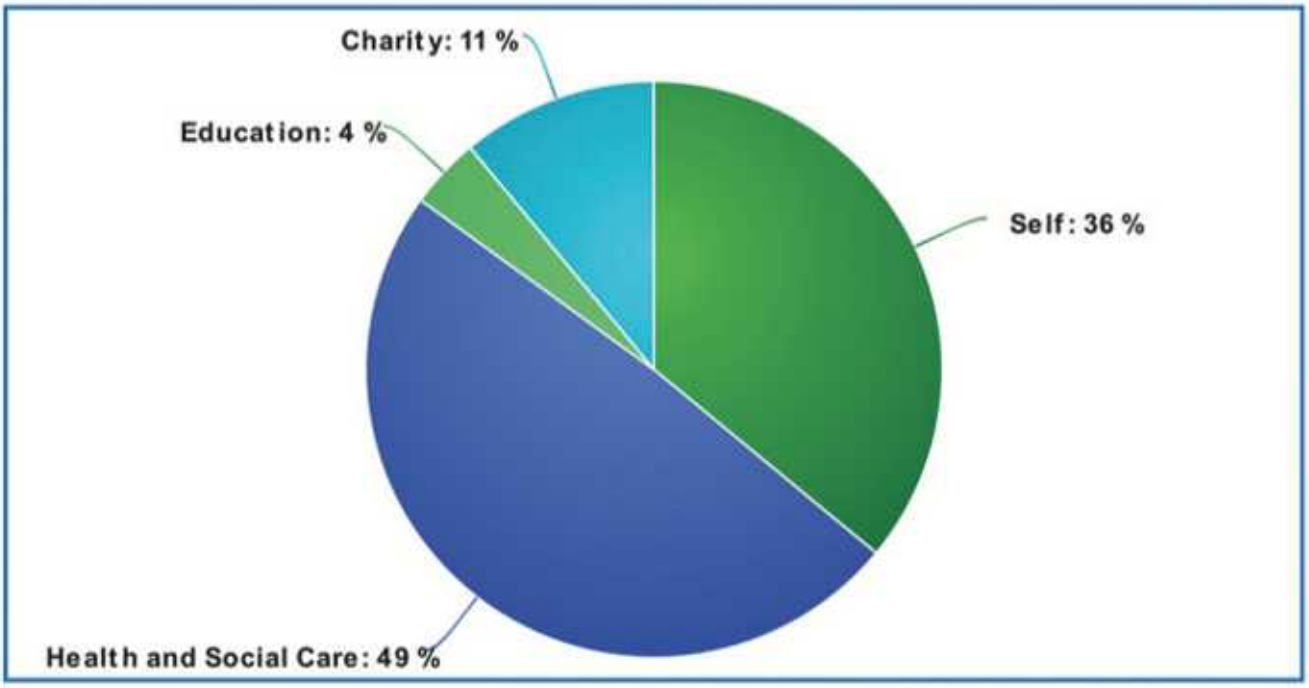
During 20/21 we provided support for **172 people**, individuals, family members and siblings.

REGIONAL REACH

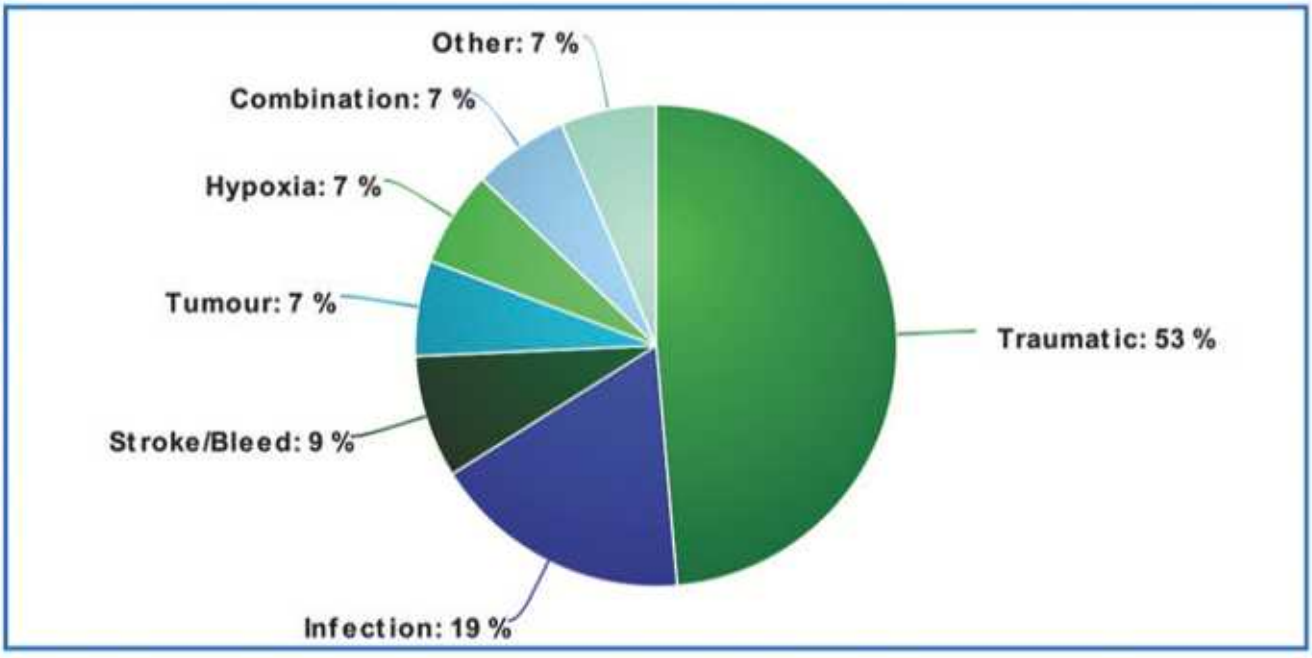


OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 20/21

Source of Referral

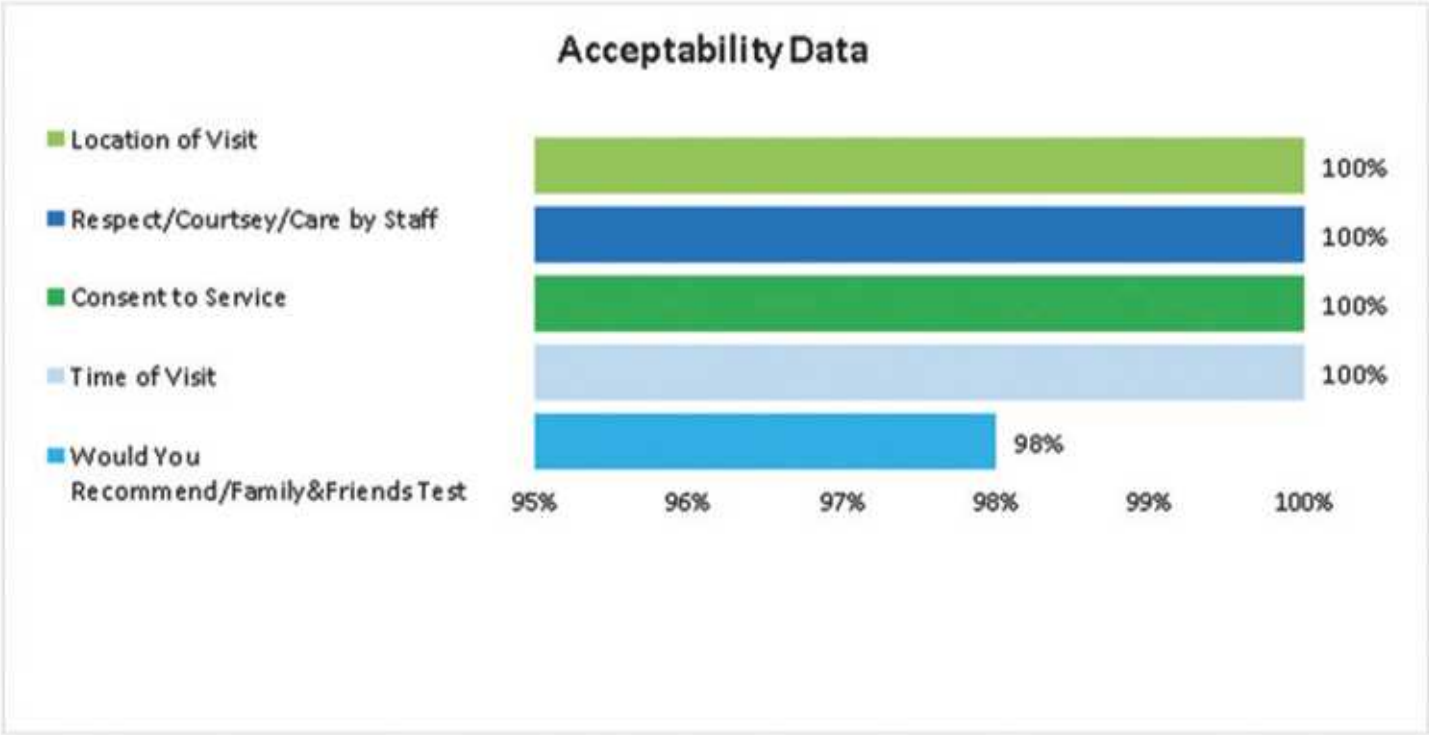


Cause of Injury

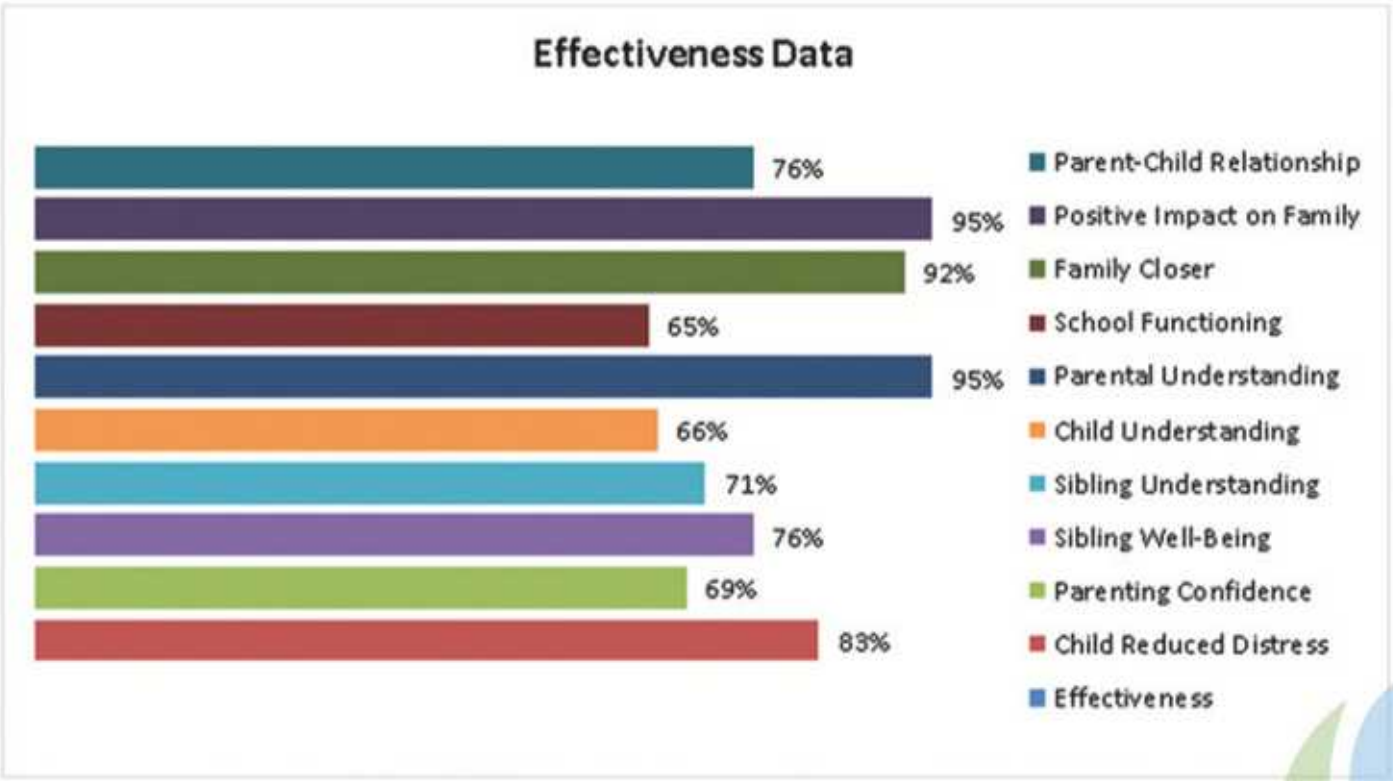


OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 20/21

ACCEPTABILITY OF SERVICES OFFERED



EFFECTIVENESS OF SERVICES



OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 20/21

IMPACT OF SERVICES

98% of families would recommend the Children and Youth Service to friends/family

92% of families reported positive impact on the family

71% of families reported an increase in sibling well-being

83% of families reported an increase in child school functioning

95% of families reported an increase in parenting confidence

95% of families reported an increase in parental understanding

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 20/21

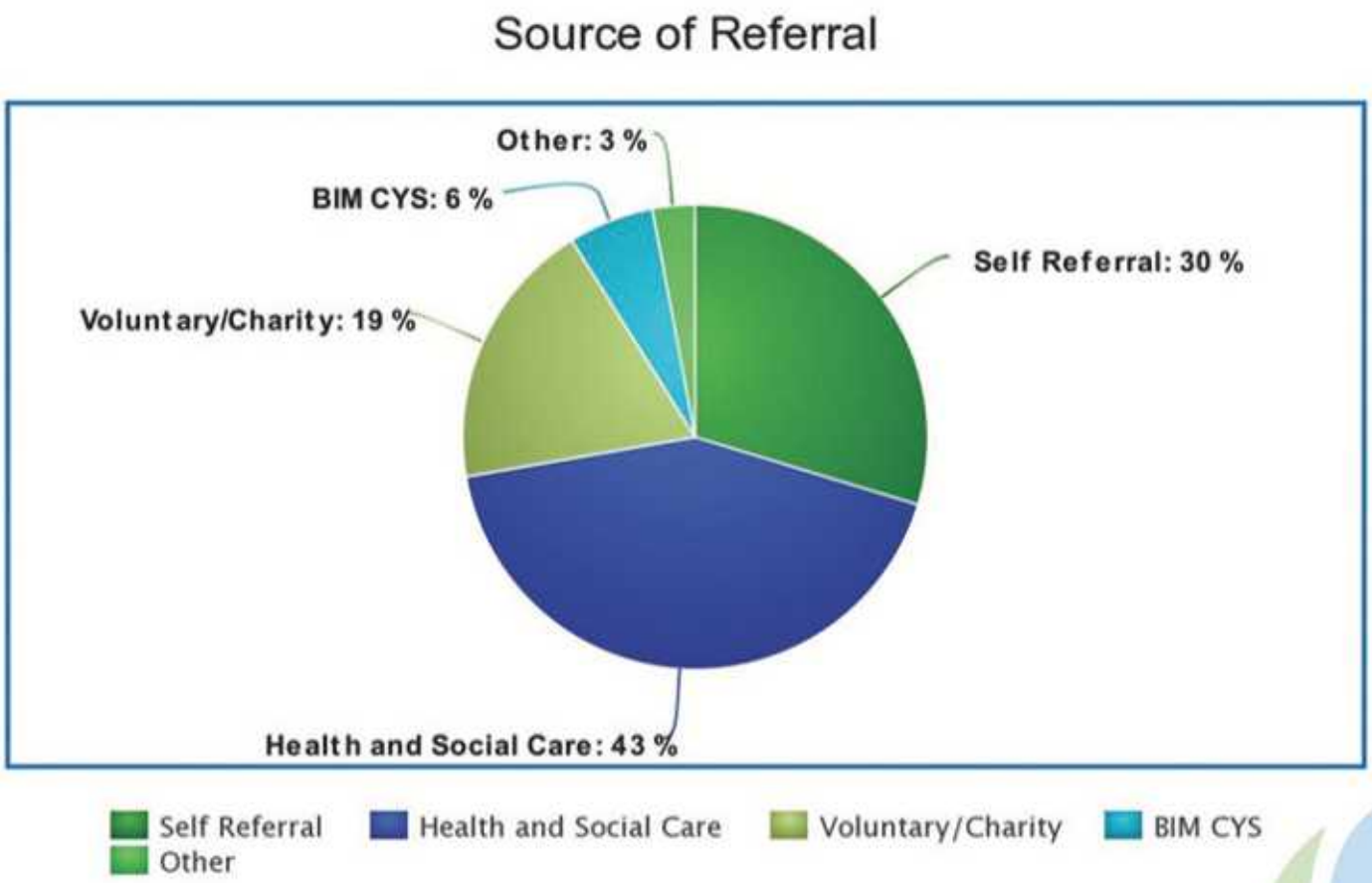
ADULT SERVICES

ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES

The Wellbeing service – offering long term rehabilitation / support through a holistic programme including: Creative Arts; Physical Activity & Sports; Leisure; &, Self-care/management.
In 2020 /21 we provided 18 different activities with over 237 sessions, to on average 30 to 45 participants per week.

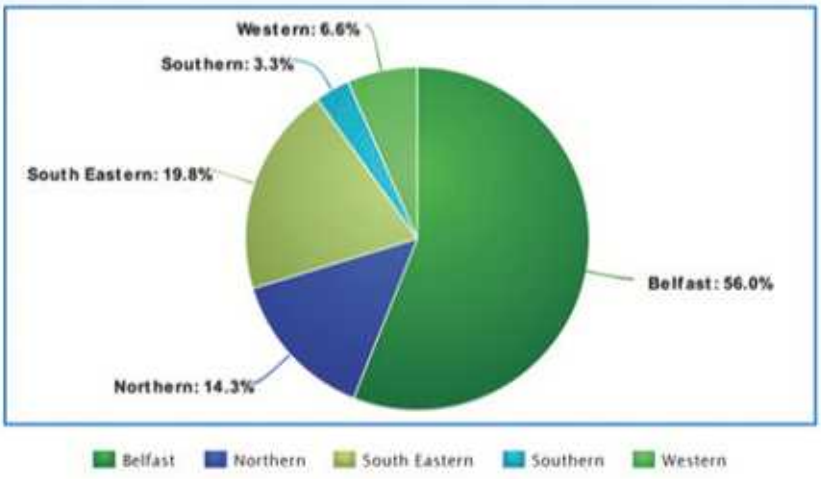
The Sports 4 U Service – includes an adapted cycling programme using a side-by-side bike & physical activity programmes. **We have further funding in place to continue the Pedal Power project for a further 3 years in partnership with Sustrans.**

The Counselling Service – delivers face-to-face & telephone / video counselling service.
In 2020-21 we offered 274 clients counselling sessions to 37 clients.

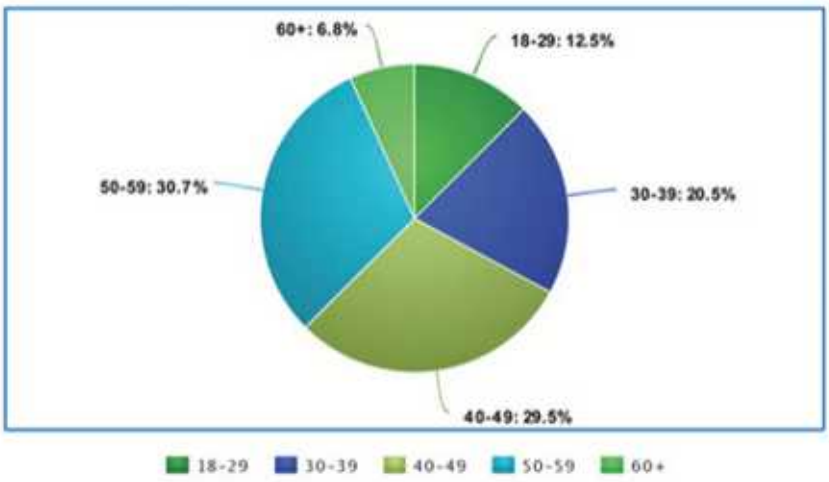


OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 20/21

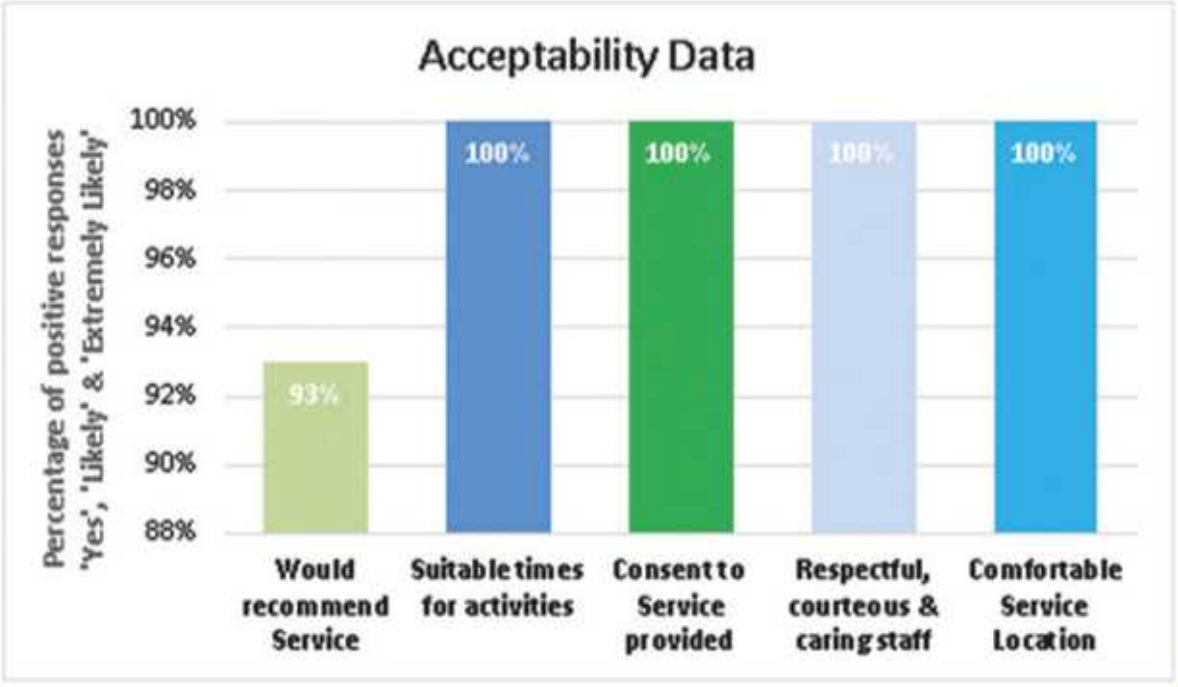
Regional Spread by Trust



Age of Referrals

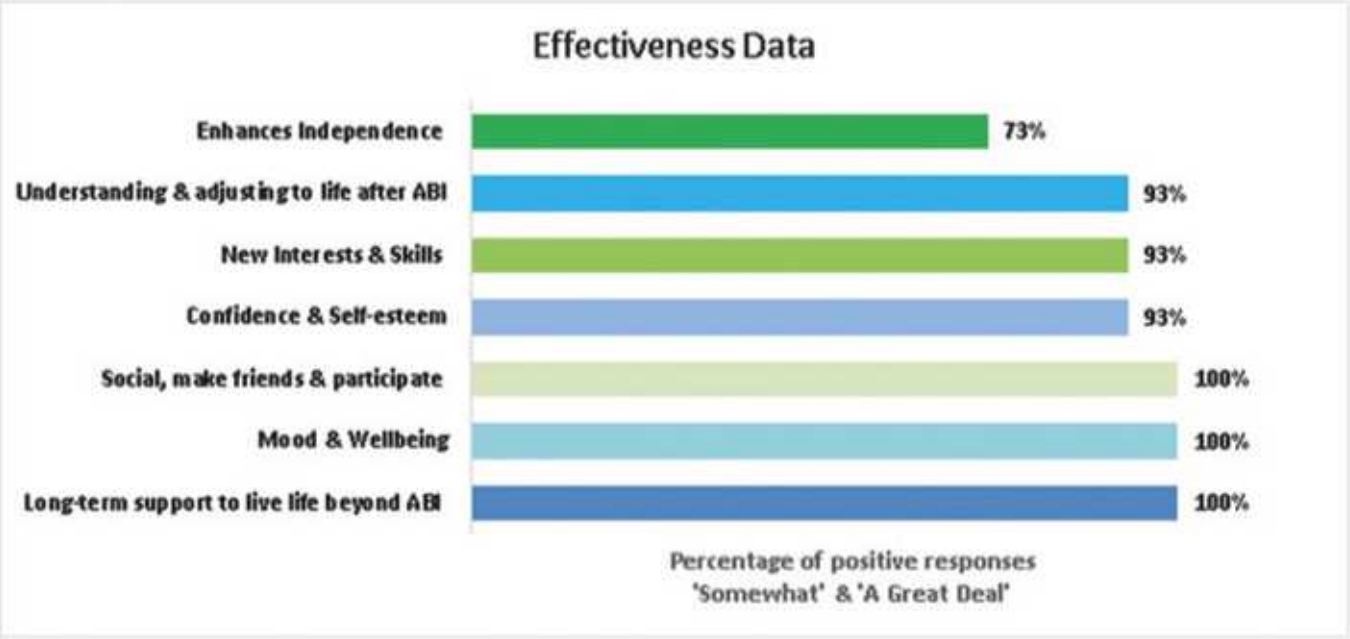


ACCEPTABILITY OF SERVICES OFFERED



OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 20/21

EFFECTIVENESS OF SERVICES



PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The Brain Injury Matters (NI) Staff Team proactively engaged in local and regional partnerships to raise awareness of acquired brain injury and support the sharing of information and services to the general public and family and friends. The staff team have also actively engaged with the HSC Board and the respective Trusts and Community Brain Injury Teams, Belfast HSCT Physical Disability Team, the Community Stroke Teams and Stroke Units to build an understanding of the services available and to ensure BIM services are recognised and accessible to those living with acquired brain injury and their families. Similarly, the Team continued to work closely with agencies including; Headway ,the Cedar Foundation, the Brain Injury Foundation, the Child Brain Injury Trust, the Stroke Association , Action Mental Health, Belfast Exposed, Groundwork, Wheelworks, Eastside Arts, the Nerve Centre, the Ulster Museum, Disability Sport NI, Leonard Cheshire's ARBI, Drake Music, Sustrans NI, Arts care, University of Atypical, Una McCann Music, Ormeau Community Choir, Arts for All, as well as the Northern Ireland Mental Health Arts Festival & Eastside Arts Festival.

WHAT OUR CLIENTS AND FAMILIES SAY

CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICE

"Brain Injury Matters has had a very **large and positive impact on our life**.

"I would just like to express my thanks that **the service exists to help families like mine**.

"An amazing service we were so lucky to have. **No-one else could have supported and helped at that time in the way BIM did**.

"Everything was fantastic and **tailored to my family circumstances**.

WELLBEING SERVICE

"I can meet and be with **people who are going through the same things** as I am.

"The only place I feel **I can be myself**.

"**We enjoy socialising with each other** and taking part in the variety of activities that the wellbeing project provides.

"I have **gained confidence, independence, learned new skills** & made friends in a group setting with adults and young people with similar needs to myself.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

FESTIVALS - FUNDRAISERS - CHOIRS - AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

'I Take a Journey'| Short Film

Northern Ireland Mental Health Arts Festival

A haunting and emotional video which inspires hope through the transformative and cathartic power of art. Facilitated and choreographed by dancer Helen Hall, this short but evocative film explores the personal journeys the participants have taken in the past, in memory and experience and which they have embarked upon since their ABI.

WATCH HERE

'Inside Our Heads'| Animation

Eastside Arts Festival

Showcased at the EastSide Arts Festival this short animation created by one of our younger wellbeing groups covers their experience of how their lives changed as a result of having an acquired brain injury.

WATCH HERE

'Displaced'| Photography

Northern Ireland Mental Health Arts Festival

A photographic exploration of displacement by a group of individuals who all have an ABI. Themes of loss and change are viewed from inner experience of ABI and how society now views both it and them. A deeply thoughtful reflection of who they once were and who they are now mixed with how they are viewed and how they would like to be perceived, drawing heavily upon personal, physical, psychological, emotional and social experience of an acquired brain injury.

VIEW HERE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

FESTIVALS - FUNDRAISERS - CHOIRS - AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Brain Injury Matters Choir

Christmas Cracker & Spring Celebration

Two online concerts took place, one in December 2020 with 50 people in attendance and February 2021 with 75 people in attendance. These events brought together participants, families, friends, staff, board members and supporters including politicians and funders for an evenings of song, poetry, stories and comedy. The EveryBODY Sings model seeks to encourage Community Choirs to be aware of their capacity to be more socially responsible and inclusive for people of different abilities. If a change can happen within choirs throughout Northern Ireland, the possibilities of inclusion will filter out into wider society.

Promoting Our People

Highlighting those who have come through our services

During 20/21 we worked with various media outlets and our service users to showcase their stories and highlight the impact of Acquired Brain Injury.

This year we highlighted the story of Andrea, who's son Gregg sustained a brain injury as a result of contracting encephalitis.

We also highlighted Rebekah, who sustained an ABI as a result of a car crash in 2016 but is hoping to walk down the aisle on her wedding day

Children In Need Appearance

"Brain Injury Matters have helped my whole family"

This year, Children In Need featured Roisin Quinn who has been receiving support for her brain injury from our staff through the Youth Matters Service.

WATCH HERE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

*FESTIVALS - **FUNDRAISERS** - CHOIRS - AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS*

Sinead Magee 'braved the shave' this year, raising over £7000!

"When our daughter was involved in a life-changing car accident everything changed. Brain Injury Matters offered us a lifeline after rehab . . . they are still there for us. There is no way a price could be paid for the services, advice and listening ear they provide."

A huge thank-you to Katie from Gaelcholáiste Dhoire for choosing to support Brain Injury Matters as part of their Easter Raffle with a donation of £250.

We were very grateful to all the members at Just Start Fitness who donated £5250 to Brain Injury Matters. One of their members was involved in a Road Traffic Accident and as a result sustained an acquired brain injury. The gym and its members decided to raise money for the family and a local charity.

After an array of postponements due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some brave, festive (and persistent!) souls abseiled down Belfast Castle in December 2020 helping raise over £10,000 in aid of Brain Injury Matters!

Rebekah talked to Brain Injury Matters about why she helped raise funds for the charity that "has been a great support to me."

An active member of our wellbeing group, Rebekah has helped support Brain Injury Matters through a Coffee Morning and by using her artistic talent.

WATCH HERE

Emma and Andy talked about their experience with Acquired Brain Injury and why they continue to support Brain Injury Matters.

A talented artist, Andy sells his drawings and donates a percentage of sales to the charity.

WATCH HERE

TREASURER'S REVIEW

"IN A POSITIVE FINANCIAL POSITION.."

Colette Kane
Treasurer,
Brain Injury Matters

At the beginning of 2020 the Board of Brain Injury Matters (NI) considered the budget for 20/21 with a greater emphasis on diversifying income. While it was clearly going to be a challenging year as we moved into March 2020 the potential negative impact of COVID 19 on our fundraising strategy for 20/21 was a major cause of concern.

The Board's response was to focus upon the risk reflected in BIM (NI)'s revised risk register from March onwards, and in the efforts of the Board, CEO and Staff Team to focus on fundraising.

This effort, combined with the proactive response of funding bodies such as the National Lottery Community Fund, Children in Need and statutory support from the Department for Communities ensured that Brain Injury Matters remained financially viable and in a positive financial position moving into the coming year 21/22. I would like to place on record my thanks to all those funding bodies and individual supporters who continued to support BIM (NI) through their fundraising efforts.

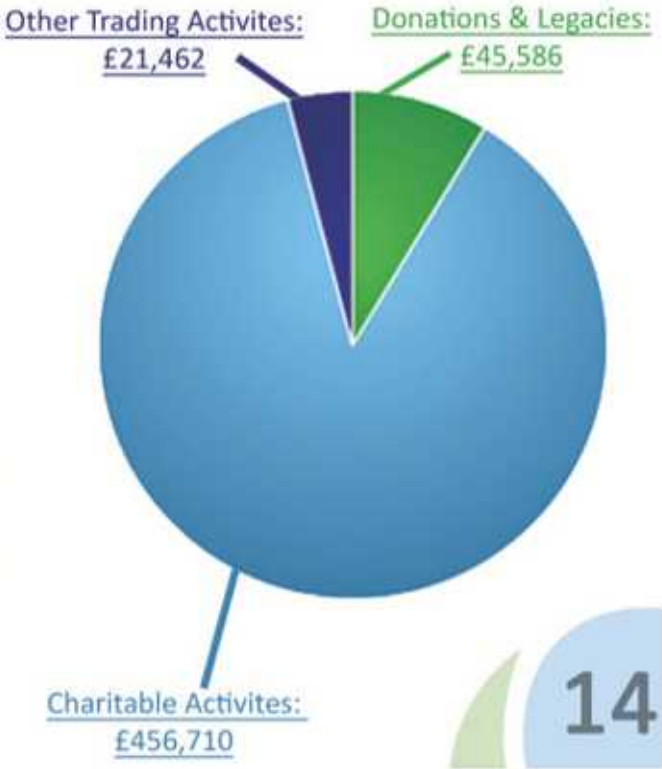
As Treasurer I would also like to thank the members of the Finance and Human Resources Sub -committee, the Chair and Board for their support and advice. Similarly I would like to thank our auditors PFKFPM for their expertise and guidance.

Colette Kane
Treasurer, Brain Injury Matters

Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)
Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income and endowments from:			
• Donations and legacies	45,586	-	45,586
• Charitable Activities	77,615	379,095	456,710
• Other trading activities	21,462	-	21,462
• Investments	15	-	15
Total Income and endowments	**144,678**	**379,095**	**523,773**
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities	(77,593)	(375,490)	(453,083)
Raising Funds		(686)	686)
Total Expenditure	**(77,593)**	**(376,176)**	**(453,769)**
Net income	**67,085**	**2,919**	**70,004**
Net movement in funds	**67,085**	**2,919**	**70,004**
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	130,880	-	130,880
Total Funds Carried Forward	**197,965**	**2,919**	**200,884**

Income Summary 20/21



LOOKING FORWARD - 21/22

"A RESILIENT, FLEXIBLE & CONFIDENT ORGANISATION"

Joe McVey
CEO, Brain Injury Matters

The environment in September 2021 is markedly different from that of 12 months ago. Society continues to wrestle with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, trying to make sense of the health, economic and societal changes.

The Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have long-term reaching effects not only our society but on the physical and mental wellbeing of our beneficiaries with many vulnerable individuals and their families struggling with isolation. In this environment the need for Brain Injury Matters (NI)'s services for children, young people and adults and their families will be even greater in the coming years.

The impact of Covid-19 on the organisation was seen in the short term as we refocused to working from home while ensuring that we continued to deliver against our purpose, values and operational plan to support our beneficiaries. The pandemic has also encouraged the organisation to consider how we deliver our services and organise ourselves. Feedback from staff and beneficiaries have highlighted the benefits of a blended flexible model of working, utilising technology and telephone support combined with face to face support where appropriate. It is likely that this approach will be a more evident feature of work and delivery in the coming year. Working remotely will require greater emphasis on reaching out and engaging beneficiaries, families, friends and funders through social media platforms and will require a greater emphasis on our I.T infrastructure, engagement and marketing.

One of the key lessons evident throughout the pandemic is the importance of resilience both personal and organisational. As we move out of the Covid environment we are keen to build on the lessons and learning from 20/21 and look to the future. To this end we are starting a process of developing a Brain Injury Matters 'Vision 2025', setting the foundations for a resilient, flexible and confident organisation that continues to focus on the needs of our beneficiaries and deliver on behalf of those individuals and their families living with an acquired brain injury offering confidence and renewed hope.

Joe McVey
Chief Executive Officer, Brain Injury Matters

Belfast City Council

COMMUNITY FUND

PRINCIPAL FUNDER arts council of Northern Ireland

LOTTERY FUNDED arts council of Northern Ireland

the Victoria Homes Trust

Victoria Homes Trust - improving the lives of children in Northern Ireland since 1882

Danske Bank

BBC Children in Need

HALIFAX FOUNDATION for Northern Ireland

Souter CHARITABLE TRUST

HDHWILLS

The Community Foundation Northern Ireland

HSF The Hospital Saturday Fund

LFT Charitable Trust

Energy for Children

QBE Foundation

Garfield Weston FOUNDATION

THE CLOTHWORKERS' FOUNDATION

THE IRELAND FUNDS AMERICA

HENDERSON GROUP

Peter Harrison FOUNDATION

Get in Touch

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