

Annual Report

Annual Report & Financial
Statements
1st January - 31st December
2022
—



Drogheda Women's & Children's
Refuge Centre C.L.G.

*All women and children
have a home and are free
from domestic, sexual and
gender based violence*

Our vision

Core Organisation Information

Drogheda Women's and Children's
Refuge Centre Company Limited by
Guarantee (CLG) and Registered Charity.

Directors

Chairperson
Antoinette Rourke (from Sept. 2022)

Company Secretary

Anna Shakespeare

Treasurer

Elaine McGinty

David McKeown

Renata Matanovic (Appointed Sept. 2022)

Myles Hackett (Appointed Sept. 2022)

Lorna Coleman (Appointed Sept. 2022)

Valerie Kennedy (Appointed Nov. 2022)

Pauric Grennan (Resigned Sept. 2022)

Brenda Finnegan

General Manager

Susan Keogh

Company Number: 306682

Revenue Charity Number:12665

Charity Registration Number:20037581

Business address:

St Anthony's
Priestlane
Drogheda
Co Louth
A92 N90P

Auditors

Matthews Walsh & Associates
Ferris House
Constitution Hill
Drogheda

Bankers

AIB Ireland
Dyer street
Drogheda
Co Louth

Solicitors

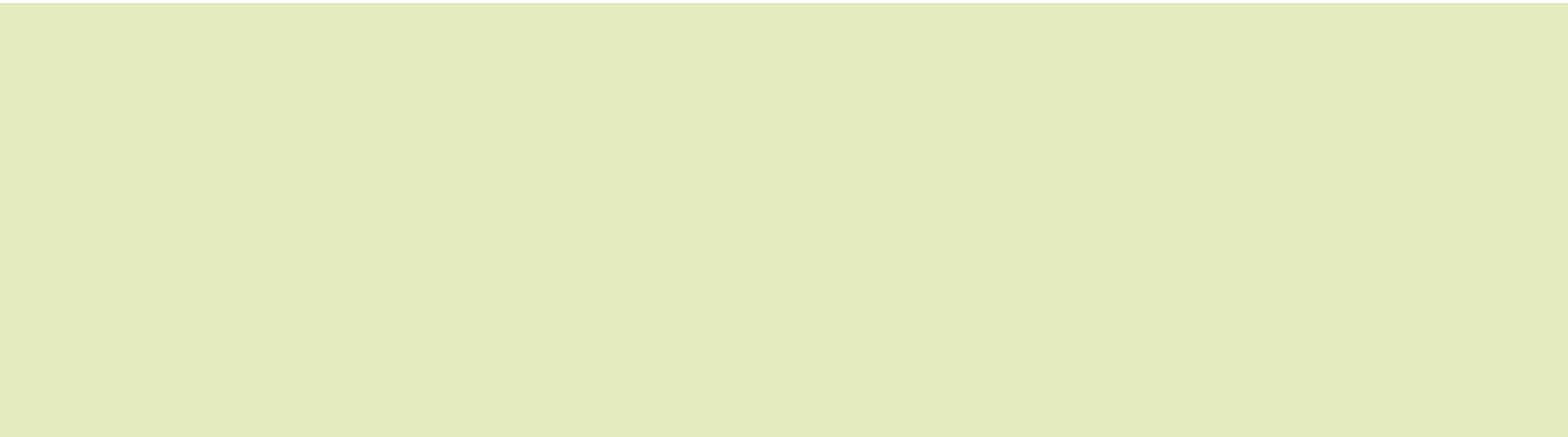
BV Hoey & Co Solicitors
Law Chambers
Fair St
Drogheda
Co Louth



Contents



Core Organisation Information	3
Contents	5
Purpose & Activities	7
Chairperson’s Address	8
2022 Snapshots Part1	9
Manager’s Report	10
2022 Snapshots Part2	11
Structure, Governance and Management	16
Our Support Services	31
Types of Interventions	36
Breakdown of Advocacy Calls	36
Transitional House	37
Case Studies	37
Our Children’s Services	39
Our Community Employment Scheme	45
Future Strategic Plans	48
Accounts 2022	50



Purpose & Activities

Our vision: **“All women and children have a home and are free from domestic, sexual and gender-based violence”**



Our Mission

Drogheda Women and Children’s Refuge (DWCR) empowers women and children experiencing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and homelessness by providing support, a range of support services. Our services include: 24-hour helpline, safe emergency accommodation, emotional support, information, Therapeutic supports, Advocacy, Safety planning, Court support and accompaniment, transition house, education & awareness raising. Child specific supports such as: Registered Early Years service which offers pre-school and drop-in sessional services, 1:1 therapeutic supports and group programmes.

We carry out our support work from a trauma informed perspective, and we advocate with our clients, consistently listening to them throughout their journey with DWCR. While our primary focus is on the Dublin and Northeast region, we extend our services to women and children from other areas who reach out to us in times of need.

DWCR offer a dual support service. Our refuge accommodation provides 6 family units with a capacity for 5 children per unit and 5 single rooms, with one unit ring-fenced for homeless families. Our current staffing levels provide 6 full time Core staff to support a 24 hour rota.



Our Values

Our work and informed by the following approaches:

- A women and child centred approach that is non-judgemental and trauma informed - recognising, respecting and responding to individual circumstances and needs
- A holistic approach - Recognising the effect of DSGBV on all aspects of women and children’s lives
- A multi-agency approach - Working collaboratively to achieve successful outcomes for women and children.

Our work is guided and informed by our belief in and commitment to:

- The empowerment of women - Supporting women to have an awareness of and ability to exercise their human rights
- Autonomy - Supporting women as decision makers through informed choice
- The individual voice - Providing safe space for women and children to talk and be heard
- The possibility of change - Breaking the cycle of abuse for individuals and families
- Safety - Enhancing women and children’s safety through support and services
- Integrity - Working professionally with honesty, transparency and accountability

Chairperson's Address



Antoinette Rourke

Welcome to the 2022 Annual Report and consolidated accounts for Drogheda's Women's and Children's Refuge.

In 2022, as Ireland continued to leave the restrictions of the global pandemic behind and the masks were removed from our faces, unfortunately the stories behind those faces remain for those experiencing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in Ireland and beyond.

We witnessed a change in the level of public awareness of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence via a series of tragic events with the murder of 23-year-old Aisling Murphy in January and the deaths of a total of 15 women, including one in London.

The demand for the help and services of the refuge, the work to end violence against women and children and to shift societal attitudes remains as prescient as ever. However, like many organisations in the sector, we continue to push through the ever-increasing demands for the service whilst seeking the required funding and investment to continue this valuable work.

We prioritised the completion of our Strategic Plan this year. An externally facilitated and collaborative approach involving all stakeholders, staff, board members and others involved in the valuable work that the refuge does culminated in our 2023-2025 Strategic Plan. This strategic plan will serve as a road map, guiding us forward with our objectives, work plans and targets for the

future.

Thank you to our core funders, Tusla (Child & Family Agency) who continue to support us via our service level agreement. We would like to acknowledge their ongoing support for our work and their commitment to the issue of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Our thanks also to Louth Co Council, Pobal, the Dept. of Justice and Safe Ireland for continuing their support and funding over the last year. However, funding within the sector is still short of where it must be, if every woman and child who needs a refuge space or service is to have one, but we must welcome the announcement by government in November of an additional €6.8 million funding for this sector. Working collaboratively with our funders, management team and staff we are committed to ensuring that we are positioned to access this funding when it becomes available.

Thank you also to the amazing support from the local and wider communities. We humbly ask for you to continue to check in and support us on the next phase of our journey in alleviating the effects of domestic sexual and gender-based violence for many women and children who are being physically, emotionally, sexually or mentally abused.

I would like to thank the staff and management team for their dedication, time and energy which is required to operate the refuge on a 24/7, 365 basis. Reading through this report, I am in awe

of their work where in 2022, 915 helpline calls were answered, with almost half of those first-time callers, and hosted almost 200 residents with an average stay of almost one month.

Finally, I must sincerely thank my fellow board members, those who have joined in 2022, (Lorna, Renata, Valerie & Myles) and those who continue with us. I would especially like to thank the outgoing Chairperson, Pauric Grennan, who resigned from the board in September.

As a board we continue to look forward, to adapt and to respond to the ever demanding, new and complex ways that domestic violence presents itself. With this comes expanding definitions and a new vocabulary which we must learn to meet these demands. We will continue to do what we can to equip and resource the refuge to be effective in tackling domestic, sexual and gender-based violence for the women and children of Drogheda and the northeast region over the next year and beyond.

Coming to the end of 2022 we find ourselves planning for our 'Silver Anniversary' in 2023 and look forward to this with a sense of excitement and great achievement.



2022 Snapshots Part1

915

Crisis Calls received



12,461

Service Interventions carried out



1,131

Advocacy calls made

139

Outreach clients

994

Service Interventions carried out

74



Court accompaniments

Manager's Report



Susan
Keogh

As highlighted by our Chairperson, Antoinette, 2022 began with a tragic series of events involving women highlighting the complexities of domestic abuse and brought national attention to the issue.

The powerful response included the introduction of "Zero Tolerance," the third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV), alongside increased funding for services and a commitment to build new refuges under the Tusla Accommodation Plan. Despite these commitments and additional resources, we are still feeling the impact of the cuts and lack of investment from as far back as 2008, and there is still a lot to catch up on.

To address DSGBV comprehensively, cultural transformation is vital, targeting attitudes that perpetuate violence. To build on the capacity of DWCR to respond effectively to this, throughout 2022, we underwent changes, enhancing services and implementing staff training. The training included important and relevant certified training such as, Leadership & Change Management within NGOs, DKIT Dynamics of Domestic Violence, Facilitation Skills, WRAP, Trauma Informed Care and Danger Assessment. Our commitment to continuous improvement remains unwavering, ensuring effective assistance to women and children in need of our supports and services.

We adopted the ESafe Customer Relations Management system to streamline work and collect high-quality real time data,

within DWCR and across the services nationally. Staff retention and recruitment were challenging, leading us to conduct a comprehensive salary review and organisational restructuring with the help of SisGate Pro.

In addition to our progress, impact and positive outcomes on families effected by domestic abuse, this report outlines the continued increased service needs we have experienced in 2022. We admitted 88 women and children to refuge, responded to 914 crisis calls, 441 of which were 1st time callers. We carried out over 5,000 1:1 support interventions.

This report highlights the ongoing supports and challenges we face in the provision of a 24/7 service, particularly in providing refuge accommodation and court accompaniments. In 2022 we made 398 refusals for refuge accommodation compared with 264 refusals in 2017. 82% of our refusals last year were due to lack of space from not being able to move women and children on from refuge. Thankfully mid-year, Drogheda Court reopened after the Covid-19 pandemic, enabling the Outreach Service to provide this support for 74 women in the latter half of the year.

We remain dedicated to directing our efforts towards grants, fundraising initiatives, and depending on generous donations to sustain essential services and cover energy expenses. Our transitional house requires substantial refurbishment and energy enhancements, which necessitated strenuous efforts in securing

funding to secure these necessary improvements.

The development of our Strategic Plan in mid-2022 has allowed us to focus on expansion of our community services, childcare, staff development, and continued change management. It also emphasises the need to engage in effective collaboration with various organisations and agencies to ensure we continue to provide and improve wrap-around support and the best outcomes for the women and children we support.

2022 Snapshots Part2

41
WOMEN
accessed
counselling

146
Counselling
Sessions



32 Children received counselling through Sensory Space

72 Individual sessions for Children

15 children engaged in the How It Looks to Me Programme



12

Staff members trained as WRAP Level 2 Facilitators

6



Refuge Support Workers completed the DKIT Fundamentals of Domestic Violence

 **15**

staff members trained in Mental Health First Aid

2

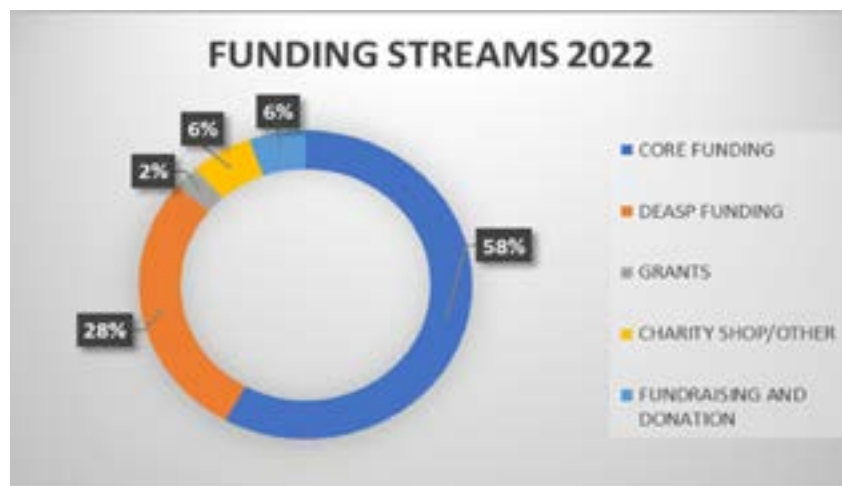
Support Workers trained as Freedom Programme Facilitators

Finance Overview

Financial Results

The surplus for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €(28,549) (2021 - €53,278). At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €1,250,685 (2021 - €1,370,875) and liabilities of €683,571 (2021 - €775,212). The net assets of the company have decreased by €(28,549).

The company has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic with a forced reduction in some services. Increase funding has been made available by Government to assist towards the increased costs arising from the pandemic. Income from donations has also increased significantly in the year under review.



Funding and Donations

We are extremely grateful to the grant bodies, state agencies, donors, and supporters whose continuous support facilitate us to provide counselling services, play therapy, food, clothing, vouchers, childcare outings, client emergency support that we could otherwise not do.



**InverColpa Rowing Club Skipathon for DWCR
July 2022**



Our Lady's Greenhills Secondary School

This year, community groups, sport clubs, schools and businesses in the local community supported our work. We recognise the vital importance of community and public giving which not only provides a reliable ongoing income stream every year but enables local communities and businesses to be a part of their local domestic violence support service.

In 2022, 8 % of our overall income came from donations and grants. Some of our biggest philanthropic supporters were Pageant Commercial, Coca Cola, Inver Colpa Rowing Club, Jons Civil Engineering, St Joseph's Secondary School and Our Lady's Greenhills Secondary School and we are very grateful for their ongoing support which has enabled significant developments within our services.

We received a total of €13,500 CAF Grant from Louth County Council that was used towards the upkeep of our Transitional house and €4,000 from HSE Period Grant which went towards sanitary products and €10,500 from Mental Health Ireland that supported WRAP Training for Staff to strengthen the support we provide to clients.

We also received 3,000 to provide a counselling service to women and children from CSVC (Department of Justice) and €500 from Louth Leader Partnership Community Grant Childcare - a combined total of €31,500 in grants, and 67,883 in fundraising and donations. Our biggest fundraising event was the Go Purple Day held on 28th April raised €5,799.

Investment Policy

The policy of Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge Board is to invest any monies where risk is kept to a minimum. Hence, to date any funds that have accrued have been held in fixed term deposit account with AIB Bank.

Reserves Policy

Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge reserves policy requires that:

- Prudent and adequate budgetary controls are in place to ensure that the resources of the company are not depleted unnecessarily.
- A reserve should be maintained in a readily realisable form and used for any cash flow requirements.
- The reserves and use of any surplus to the baseline reserve is reviewed regularly by the Finance Subgroup and the Board.
- To reflect the Charities Regulator's Governance Code our Reserves Policy is reviewed annually and worked towards a target Reserves of five months'.

Treasurer's Report

Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge and Support Services has been receiving its primary funding from Tusla - The Child and Family Agency since 2015. This financial support is provided through a yearly Service Level Agreement, and prior to that, it was facilitated by the HSE.

In the year 2022, our Core funding was allocated as follows: 49% was provided through the annual Service Level Agreement with Tusla, amounting to €611,328 from the Child and Family Agency. An additional 28% was contributed by DEASP to support the CE Scheme, which totalled €341,561. A portion of 2% was granted by Pobal – €18,841 from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. Furthermore, 7% was obtained through an annual Service Level Agreement with Louth County Council, providing €90,560 from the Department of the Environment. This allocation is earmarked for aiding homeless women and children.

Our Charity Shop and Accommodation Service constitute 6% of our funding, equating to €75,169. These funds are entirely dedicated to covering the operational expenses of our service.

The core funding mentioned earlier primarily covers salary expenses. Throughout 2022, we exerted significant effort to uphold the necessary level of resources by engaging in fundraising activities. These efforts are crucial for us to effectively provide services to women and children.

A thorough examination of our audited accounts reveals that, in 2022, 8% of our funding was derived from grants, public donations, and income generated through fundraising. This portion of funding was allocated to various essential aspects such as program support, counselling services, play therapy, provision of Christmas vouchers for families, and covering client emergency expenses. Additionally, 7% of our funding in 2022 originated

from the organisation itself. This internally generated funding is pivotal as it enables us to sustain our service provision, encompassing expenses like phone services, electricity, heating, stationary supplies, and maintenance and repair costs.

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic underscored the immense generosity of the public and their deep-seated interest in and support for Drogheda Women and Childrens Refuge. However, the challenge we confront is maintaining this level of investment beyond the pandemic's influence. We must also address the substantial gaps in our core funding requirements from the Central Government. The total shortfall in funding exceeded €65.8K, that was met through the utilization of funds from our Charity Shop and existing reserves. This cost relates to 22,312 staff costs and 43,506 running costs.

As indicated by our audited accounts for 2022, there was a deficit of €28,549 after providing for depreciation. This was attributed to the additional expenditure incurred for Staff Training and development, the formulation of our Strategic Plan 22/24, and the establishment of the TLC Kids Programme. Funding for the latter initiative was drawn from the TUSLA 2021 underspend.

Our board-sanctioned reserves policy set a target of five months totalling €416,805. However, our reserves at the conclusion of 2022 amounted to €406,412, resulting in a shortfall of 2.5% from our intended reserve goal. The reserves policy, endorsed by the board, acknowledges the continual impact of inflation on operating costs, and the necessity for capital expenditure to ensure the sustainability and future resilience of our buildings and fixed assets. It is worth noting that there is a proposal to reduce our reserves from a five-month duration to a range of three to four months in 2023, in support of forthcoming capital expenditures.

In the coming year, 2023, we plan to implement a more structured and formalised fundraising approach. This will entail crafting a new fundraising

strategy and potentially appointing a fundraising manager to efficiently handle the demands of fundraising activities. Nonetheless, we firmly believe that the government must adopt a fully costed model for Domestic Violence services within its commissioning framework (Service Level Agreement), transitioning from annual funding to multi-year funding, such as a three-year funding plan. This shift is necessary due to escalating costs and mounting requirements, as reliance solely on fundraising proves inadequate and unsuitable to such a vital service. Additionally, it constrains our capacity for strategic planning and expansion to address heightened service demands.

Each year, our financial accounts based on FRS 102 Standards undergo external auditing. We maintain robust financial procedures and protocols, and the board, along with a designated financial officer and the manager, review monthly management accounts for day-to-day oversight.

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
INCOME STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Income	1,342,892	1,206,383
Expenditure	<u>(1,371,441)</u>	<u>(1,153,122)</u>
(Deficit)/surplus before interest	(28,549)	53,261
Interest receivable and similar income	-	17
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year	<u>(28,549)</u>	<u>53,278</u>
Total comprehensive income	<u>(28,549)</u>	<u>53,278</u>

Our Social Enterprise Initiative

Operating through the Butterfly Charity Shop, extends crucial support to our Client Group and the local community through a voucher system. The shop’s sales proceeds fund the refuge’s operations, with a notable net profit of €29,792 in 2022.

In June 2022, we welcomed a dedicated full-time Shop Supervisor, Sima Bivainyte, who efficiently manages a team of 5 Community Employment Staff. The shop now operates at a higher level of professionalism, resulting in increased activity and revenue. This improvement stems from an optimised work schedule that allows the shop to open six days a week.

Most of our current staff, apart from the Shop Supervisor, have limited or no prior retail experience. Sima provides essential training and professional guidance, ensuring our team delivers top-notch service. Reporting to the Refuge Manager, Sima oversees day-to-day operations. Additionally, she manages our Butterfly social media platforms, keeping our clients informed about the latest fashion trends and promoting refuge awareness-raising events. Sima continually seeks innovative initiatives to enhance the shop’s visibility and actively contributes as a valued member of our Fundraising Committee.

Structure, Governance and Management

Drogheda Women & Children's Refuge (DWCR) is a charitable organisation and a company limited by guarantee. In 2020, we committed to the Governance Code, and we are actively working towards full compliance with the Charities Regulator's Charities Governance Code.

The Board

Our governance structure is overseen by a Board of Directors, consisting of eight representatives from the local community. Each member brings a diverse set of skills and expertise to the Refuge, contributing significantly to its operation. Under the leadership of Antoinette Rourke, the Board bears the crucial responsibility of supervising all organisational activities, defining a clear long-term vision, and implementing necessary controls to ensure safe and effective operations.

Throughout 2022, the full Board convened every second month to discuss various matters. Additionally, we established two sub-committees, the Finance and HR sub-committee, which met monthly, and the Governance and Risk sub-committee, which met every two months. New board members are sourced through Boardmatch, Louth Volunteer Centre, and public promotion. Applicants undergo a rigorous process of skills and experience profiling, followed by an interview with a board representative. After recommendation and approval, they are appointed to the board. The board actively engages in identifying skills gaps and succession planning.

To maintain transparency and integrity, all conflicts of interest are openly declared and recorded during every board meeting. In the year 2022, no conflicts of interest were reported. Moreover, all board members are required to sign and adhere to an agreed Code of Conduct, ensuring ethical practices and a shared commitment to the organization's mission.

In 2022, DWCR welcomed four new board members while one member, our chairperson, resigned from their officer position and directorship during the AGM in September. It's important to note that our board members serve a three-year term and are eligible for re-election each subsequent year.

As a non-profit organisation, DWCR operates without offering any remuneration to its board members for their valuable services. The progress on our objectives is diligently recorded by the General Manager and Department Managers. It's important to highlight that the Manager is not a member of the Board, ensuring a clear separation of responsibilities and impartial oversight.

Board Director	Board Meeting	Gov. & Risk Sub-Group	Finance & HR Sub-Group	Fundraising Working Group	Retired / Appointed as per CRO
Antoinette Rourke Chairperson	6/6	5/5			Appointed 9/4/21
Anna Shakespeare Company Secretary	3/6	5/5			Appointed 9/4/21
David McKeown	5/6		9/9		
Elaine McGinty					
Treasurer	5/6		5/9		Appointed 30/11/21
Renata Matanovic	3/4		4/6		Appointed 12/5/22
Myles Hackett	1/1				Appointed 27/9/22
Lorna Coleman	3/4			1/2	Appointed 12/5/22
Valerie Kennedy	1/1			2/2	
Pauric Grennan	1/5	1/4			Appointed 24/9/20 Retired 27/9/22
Brenda Finnegan	0/6		1/2		Appointed 9/4/21
Frances P Byrne	0/6				Appointed 14/5/99 Resigned 27/9/22

Sub Committees

Finance & HR

The Finance & HR Sub-Committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending to the Board for approval: Monthly finance reports, the annual budget, audited accounts, and broad HR decisions related to finance. It provides independent and expert oversight and review of annual budgets, returns to funders, projected cash flows, monthly management accounts and the annual financial statements and reports. Recommendations from the committee are brought to the main Board for decision making. Nine finance and risk subgroup meetings took place in 2022.

Governance & Risk

The Governance and Risk Committee operates to strengthen the accountability and growth of the DWCR by ensuring effective governance practices. By overseeing corporate documentation, board competency, and management performance, the committee aims to empower the Board and key personnel to make informed decisions, drive innovation, and achieve the company's mission.

In 2022 this group was actively engaged in the revisioning process of the Constitution, a significant undertaking that will define the organisation's guiding principles and operational framework.

Managing Risks

Our primary financial risks in 2022 were from potential loss of funding from Tusla our main funder, loss of our Homeless Accommodation, loss of income from our Butterfly Boutique and the closure of our Childcare service. The energy crisis brought on by the war in Ukraine is also a huge financial risk as we are a 24-hour service and incurred high energy costs in 2022. The company has decided to mitigate against this by exploring energy upgrade options to reduce running costs on energy.

We were successful in securing a grant for an energy audit carried out in August 2022 and hope to secure options recommended in the report in 2023. The Covid-19 pandemic continued to present operational risks through, safety of service users and staff and the loss of support staff requiring the additional cost of extra relief staff. The continued closure of Drogheda court posed a risk of reduced service levels and supports for women and children locally, as was the challenges in recruitment and retention of staff for the 24-hour service. we managed this through ongoing training and support to Community Employment participants to support the service alongside the Core staff and Relief.

The size and layout of the refuge premises limits or capacity to provide wrap around services, service users and staff training. We support these services through the rental of additional counselling and meeting rooms and space offered by organisations such as Louth Local Development and the Augustinian Church.

We regularly review and update our policies that govern areas such as Child Safeguarding, Health and Safety, and others. Other unique operational risks for our organisation include IT and data security and recruitment and retention of staff.

We mitigate the inherent risks in these areas through the strict implementation and monitoring of relevant policies and engagement of specialised third parties to advise on these areas.

The development of a risk register and policy has been identified as a priority for 2023. The primary responsibility for this is the Manager and the Management Team to be available for review by the board.

Fundraising Working Group

The Fundraising working-group was newly established later in the year, comprising of two board members and local volunteers. This group on establishment began the process of developing a fundraising strategy for completion in early 2023.

Staffing

DWCR is managed by General Manager, Susan Keogh, who was supported in 2022 by a staff comprising the Finance Officer, Support Services Manager, Childcare Manager, CE Supervisor, Housekeeper, Shop Supervisor, Administrator, Refuge Support & Outreach teams, Childcare team and a panel of CE participants covering across all of the refuge and shop services.

For details of staff salary ranges, please refer to our FRS 102 based Financial Statements

DWCR Staff Team consists of:

- Manager
- Finance Officer
 - Support Services Manager
 - Childcare Manager
 - Deputy Childcare Manager
 - Community Employment Supervisor
- Support Services Teams
 - Refuge Support Workers (including Night Support Workers & Relief)
 - Outreach Workers
 - Childcare Workers
 - CE Care Workers
- Therapeutic Services (Sub-Contracted)
 - Qualified Therapist
 - Child Therapists
 - TLC Kidz Coordinator
- Ancillary Services
 - Housekeeping
(including CE Caretakers and Cleaners)
 - Shop Supervisor
(including CE shop assistants)

DWCR Management & Supervisors



Manager: Susan Keogh

Email: manager@droghedarefuge.org

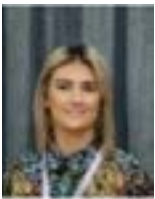
Susan has over 25 years working in the community & voluntary sector across the North East and Border region. Her skills and experience cover across training and development in the community and to boards of management of CDPs & FRCs, to development work in local communities and with Traveller families in the Louth & Cavan region and management of local community projects. She is passionate about equality and human rights, in particular for women and children which has led her to working and leading change in DWCR.



Finance & Office Manager: Irene Kilroy

Email: irene@droghedarefuge.org

Irene joined the refuge team in 2007 as the Administrator. She now works as the Finance Office Manager. In this role, Irene oversees financial planning, collaborates with the CEO and Finance Subgroup, and manages the company's finances, including budgeting, cash flow, reports, and management accounts presented to the Board of Management. She also handles financial systems, payroll, and ensures compliance with regulations. Irene leads the Annual Audited account processes and works closely with the CEO on Service Level Agreement (SLA) submissions and reporting to various entities like Tusla, LCC, Pobal, as well as statutory annual returns to CRO, CRA, and funding stakeholders.



Support Services Manager: Chelsea Johnston

Email: cjohnson@droghedarefuge.org

Chelsea has been with DWCR since 2021. Her background is working within the social care sector. Her current role is to oversee daily operations in DWCR that support women and children experiencing Domestic Abuse with the vision of expanding current services in line with our strategic planning objectives.



Childcare Manager: Michelle Woods

Email: mwoods@droghedarefuge.org

Michelle has 20 year experience working with children and families who have experienced trauma. With eleven years service in the DW&CR, Michelle has developed the support services for children living in refuge and the community to minimise the impact of domestic abuse. Michelle is passionate about supporting children and validating children's experiences of domestic abuse with a vision of expanding services in the future.



CE Supervisor: Carmel Quarney

Email: cquarney@droghedarefuge.org

Carmel's Educational background in BA(Hons) Psychology, MA Addiction Studies, Currently Studying to H-dip/ MA in Counselling and Psychotherapy. Carmel has a background of 9 years in working in case management experience working with people who are marginalised from various nationalities with complex needs such as homeless services, mental health, addiction, and as a volunteer on a suicide helpline and more recently working with long term unemployed. Carmel is supervising the Community Employment Team in Refuge for 4 years and hope to develop participants experience and learning out outcomes as the main service develops.



Shop Supervisor: Sima Bivainyte

Email: shopsupervisor@droghedarefuge.org

Sima's day to day role is to oversee the day-to-day work and the future development of the Butterfly Boutique, including supporting the CE staff and volunteers. Sima has worked as a graphic designer in her native Poland. She had previously been working in the charity retail sector through St Vincent's de Paul. Sima is a lover of fashion, and this is reflected in her creativity within the shop and in her amazing window displays.



Housekeeping: Catherine Bermingham

Email: catherine@droghedarefuge.org

Catherine has long experience in managing housekeeping in the hotel sector internationally as well as at home. Her skills and experience are vital to the smooth running of the day to day housekeeping, managing stock and turnover of residents and managing donations for the refuge and the Butterfly Boutique.

Strategic Spotlight 2022

Our new strategic plan for the year 2022 to 2025 was collaboratively developed in the first half of the year, involving both our dedicated staff and committed Board members. This plan reflects our collective efforts and key areas of focus for the future, which are detailed below and further down this report.

This section of the report aims to spotlight the significant service and organisational developments, as well as important events that transpired throughout 2022.

Focus Area 1:

Supporting Women and Children Impacted by Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV)

Strategic Objectives:

- Continue to provide quality, needs led services.
- Plan and develop the expansion of needs led services.
- Ensure continuing relevance and effectiveness of services.

Introduction To Quality Procedures & Review

With the successful recruitment of the Support Services Manager in December 2021, we have made significant strides in 2022 towards enhancing the quality of the support and services we provide to women. Throughout the past year, Chelsea has spearheaded the implementation of several key procedures and initiatives, including:

- 1. Phases of Engagement Process:** This has empowered our staff to offer women a more structured and comprehensive education programme as they navigate the challenges of domestic abuse. By delineating clear phases, we can better tailor our support to meet individual needs effectively.
- 2. Enhanced Risk Assessments:** The development of new risk assessment tools has enabled our staff to more accurately gauge the level of risk faced by women and children seeking our services. This heightened awareness has significantly improved our safety planning protocols, ensuring a safer environment for those we assist.
- 3. Service User Feedback Form:** The introduction of this feedback mechanism has been instrumental in our continuous improvement efforts. It enables us to gather valuable insights from service users, helping us refine and enhance our support services while also informing our future planning.
- 4. Substance Misuse Policy Enhancements:** In recognition of the complex challenges faced by some of the women in our care, we have bolstered our Substance Misuse Policy. This includes the addition of comprehensive risk assessments and tailored responses, allowing us to provide more effective support to women grappling with addiction issues.

Opportunities For Childcare & Outreach Expansion

The need to expand our outreach and review our childcare was emphasised in a briefing submitted to Minister Helen McEntee in June and was given further momentum in November with an application to TUSLA through SP1 forms for additional Childcare and Outreach staff. We await positively for a response in 2023.

Expansion Of Our Therapeutic Supports

Through additional funding from the CSVC for counselling we were able to expand the counselling service to a second day and began the process of securing an additional Therapist to enable us to minimise the waiting period for service users to support the childcare service in developing therapy supports for children.

For the first half of 2022 the service had a Child Therapist who delivered counselling sessions to children onsite in refuge. 2022 was the first year we increased our child therapeutic supports and an additional referral pathway was developed with Sensory Space Therapy Service.

We also made a joint application with Rape Crisis North East to TUSLA through SP1 forms to secure a Sexual Violence Counsellor in Drogheda for women accessing the services of DWCR.

FOCUS AREA 2:

Contributing to the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual And Gender Based Violence

Strategic Objectives

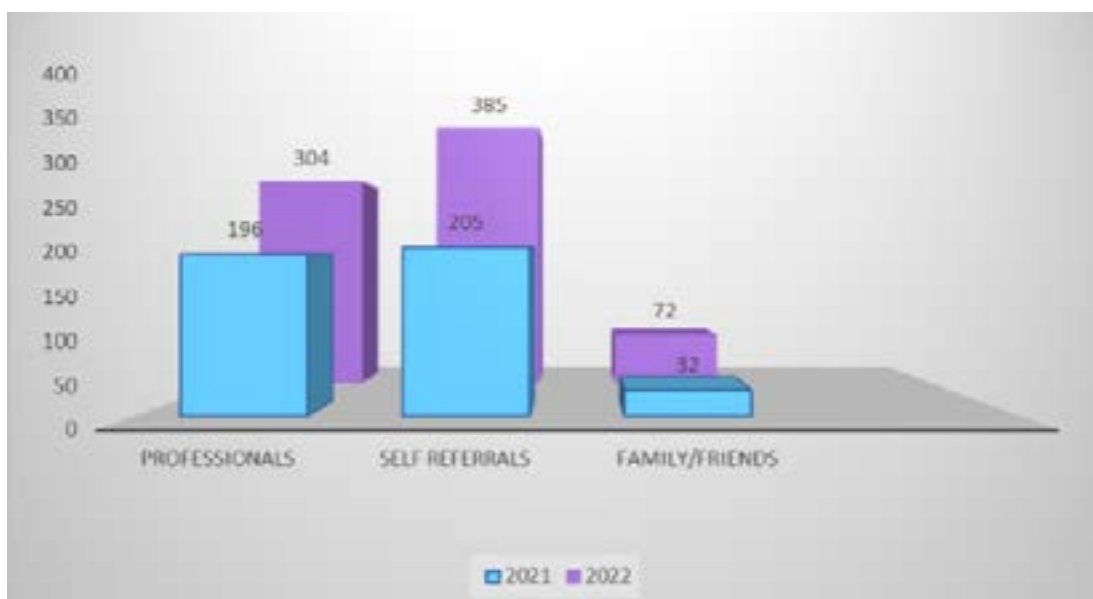
- Raise awareness and promote understanding of DSGBV in wider society
- Influence local, regional and national policy that contributes to the prevention of DSGBV

Community Outreach Transformation

Our community outreach programme is dedicated to supporting women and children facing domestic abuse. Unfortunately, when our Educational Training Officer left in 2020, our community connections and awareness initiatives suffered a setback. In 2022, we initiated a significant revamp of our approach to combat Domestic Sexual Gender-Based Violence. We expanded our outreach services to encompass prevention efforts in the community, age-specific awareness campaigns, and continued service enhancement.

Our emphasis was on enhancing our presence within the community. To achieve this, we organised monthly clinics at the local library, hospital, and conducted tailored talks at secondary schools in Drogheda. Our goal was to reach more women and raise awareness among professionals and service providers. Our outreach service now offers a weekly clinic in the community, providing a safe and accessible space for women to discuss their situations and seek support.

As a direct result of our outreach clinics, we observed a 55% increase in engagement with other professionals through our helpline in from 2020 to 2022 (see table below).



Raising Our Profile

We were actively involved with local schools, Drogheda Garda & Connect FRC in the delivery of and engagement in workshops on domestic abuse. We participated in local information seminars which included the Drogheda Implementation Board, Louth Local Development and Peace Plus.

We were delighted to play an active part of the development and the launch of the Louth Meath DV Resource Pack for Practitioners in the summer, developed in conjunction with ourselves, CYPSC, Dundalk Womens Aid, Meath Womens Refuge & Support Services & Men’s Aid.

The year also included our participation in the launch of the 3rd National Strategy for Domestic Gender & Sexual Based Violence by the Dept. of Justice. We are also able to reopen the Health Promotion Stand at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in the latter part of the year.

16 Days of Action Launch – Breaking the Taboo Network



We were also actively involved in the global “16 days of Action” awareness raising campaign (25th Nov. to 10th Dec.) alongside other organisations within the Breaking the Taboo Network. The campaign focused on the theme “Orange the World” and through a QR Code distributed daily on Social Media platforms we were able to get awareness and links to relevant support organisations out to the community.

Policy Work

Alongside meeting our reporting requirements from funders, we also actively engage in various peer and professional networks and fora, locally regionally and nationally. These included the Drogheda Breaking the Taboo Network, CYPSC Safe from Harm Working group, Louth Local Development Women’s Collective, Louth Homeless Action Team, NE Regional Homeless Forum, Dublin NE DV Accommodation Forum, Safe Ireland DV Services Network and DKIT River Project.

Communication

We regularly and actively communicate with our key stakeholders through a mix of activity online and in print. In addition to this we ensure we actively engage in media activity through local print media and local radio, LMFM. 2022 was our 2nd year engaging in the National Go Purple Day. Through our social media platforms, we were able to generate awareness on the issue of domestic abuse and we received generous support from various organisations to organise Go Purple themed events on the day. These ranged from Drogheda Garda, Drogheda Chamber of Commerce and local Hair Salons. Many thanks to all involved.



FOCUS AREA 3:

Ensuring the Organisation is fit for purpose.

Staff Training & Professional Development

2022 was a busy year in terms of staff training and development. The Children’s Service Manager, Support Service’s Manager, Deputy Childcare Manager and Support Workers returned to education in completing the QQI Level 8 course in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse. This 14-week specialist course aims to support learning in the development of an appropriate level of knowledge, skills and understanding to appropriately recognise and respond to domestic abuse.

In addition to this, both the Children and Support Services Managers completed a Level 9 Certificate in Non – Profit Leadership and Management. The service responded to the identified training gaps by staff in developing a training calendar which was offered to all staff working for the DW&CR. The level of attendance by staff demonstrated commitment to self-improvement and performance alongside maintaining and enhancing knowledge and skills in delivering a professional service and keeping up to date with emerging trends in the sector.

Towards the end of 2022, both CE Childcare Participants completed the QQI Level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education and identified that they would like to progress into completing the scheme in 2023. December 2022 brought realignment of a different practice for the childcare service when two of the childcare practitioners left the service. Despite this challenge the service remained opened until the recruitment process was completed in 2023.

WRAP Level 1 Workshop for staff – Townely Hall Aug. & Sept. 2022



Organisational Review

We employed the services of SisGate Pro (HR and Management Systems), for day-to-day HR issues, to carry out a comprehensive salary review and following this a full organisational review and restructure. The salary review focused on the remuneration of staff in DWCR in the context of the Irish employment marketplace with particular attention to the repercussions on the retention of the staff and attraction of new staff into the DWCR. The objective of the report was largely to establish what current salary levels are currently like across Domestic Violence services, how they may be benchmarked best in the future, what factors are in focus for job-seekers in the social care space and what improvements may be introduced to attract and retain staff better.

The organisational review and restructuring process will extend into 2023, driven by individual consultations with both staff and management. We eagerly anticipate this ongoing transformation as it aims to enhance the overall effectiveness of our services, spanning from management teams to our dedicated support staff working at the grassroots level.

Enhancing Our Digital Recording Systems

In 2022 we adopted a new which supported the organisation in capturing real time information. The new ESafe system allows support workers a more effective handover and follow-up procedure. Currently, there are no national statistics in Ireland with respect to Domestic Abuse, historically Domestic Violence Service have captured their data within their own right.

This has been a national networking piece in terms of collecting these much need statistics. The implementation of ESafe has been a collaborative working piece with other Domestic Violence Agencies, Enclude, Safe Ireland, and Tulsa to generate standardised reports. DWCR's participation in this supports us in achieving our strategic planning objective of influencing local, regional, and national policy relevant to those impacted by Domestic Sexual Gender Based Violence. And what were the outcomes/outputs for the organisation against this in 2022.

Charities Regulatory Authority

Following on from our submission of our assessment of our compliance with the Charities Regulator's Governance Code in October 2020, we worked in 2022 to ensure we could improve and ensure our governance was of as high a standard as required by the CRA. We submitted a second return to the Charities Regulator in October 2022 and recorded that we were partially compliant for 2021. We continue to work towards full compliance for submission in October 2023.

Compliance gaps identified in the Oct. 2022 submission were:

- Development of a Risk Register - 2023
- Development of a Fixed Assets Register - 2023
- Development of a Fundraising and Communication Strategy - Process started Dec, 2022
- Reserves Policy - Approved Dec. 2022
- Constitution Review - -Solicitor secured to support Board Aug. 2022
- Board Renewal and Recruitment Policy - On completion of Constitution Review

Review Of Constitution & Purposes

The Board of Directors is steadfast in its commitment to regularly review and update the company's governing document. Recognising the dynamic nature of our landscape and the ever-evolving regulatory environment, the Board understands the paramount importance of ensuring that our governing document remains current and aligned with our strategic goals. This commitment underscores our dedication to transparency, accountability, and responsible corporate governance, as we strive to uphold the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct in all our operations. By actively engaging in the revision and enhancement of our governing document in 2022, to 2023 the Board aims to empower DWCR to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing business world, ultimately safeguarding the interests of our stakeholders and preserving the long-term success of our company.

Our Support Services

Demographic of our Service User

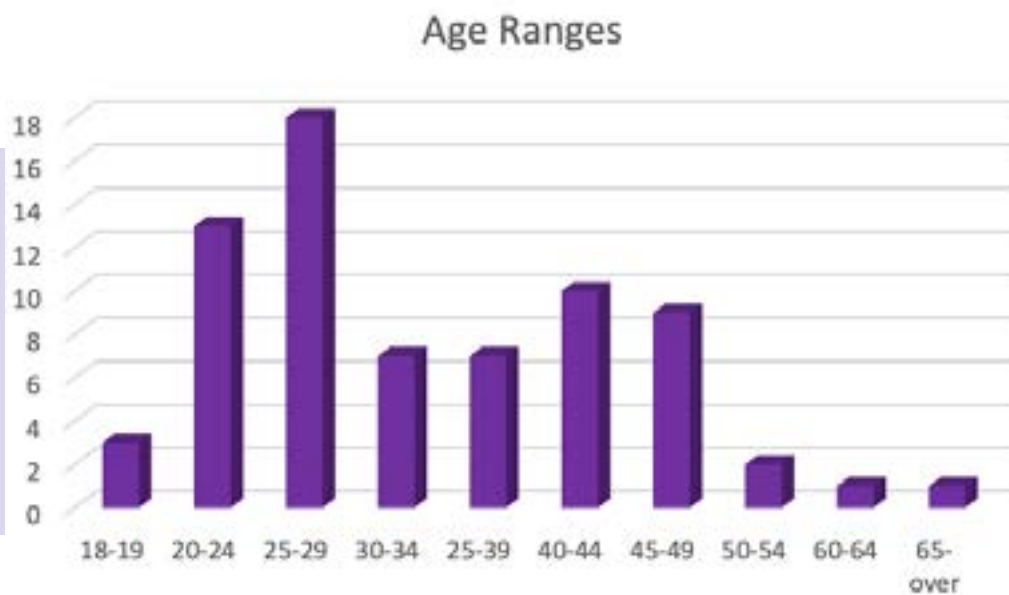
Whilst there is no specific demographic of our families, they are women and their children escaping domestic violence; those seeking support and information to end the violence in their homes, and women who have become homeless for a variety of complex reasons. We primarily work with women and children across the Dublin, North East region. Due to the nature of domestic violence, it is not always safe or appropriate for families to remain in their county of residence, due to high risk and/or a lack of refuge space.

Overview

Our service supported 480 adult clients in 2022. Some clients used a range of our services showing the importance of each service for whatever stage a woman is at, whether it is crisis, post-crisis, looking for information, etc. 76% of these were 1st time users of the service.

Age Profile

Predominantly the largest age group we supported across our services in 2022 were between 22 – 29 years old, which is 30% of our service users. The age range reflects young parents and young single women, both within the domestic violence and homeless service. Some these were retuning as adults, having been in the refuge and children.

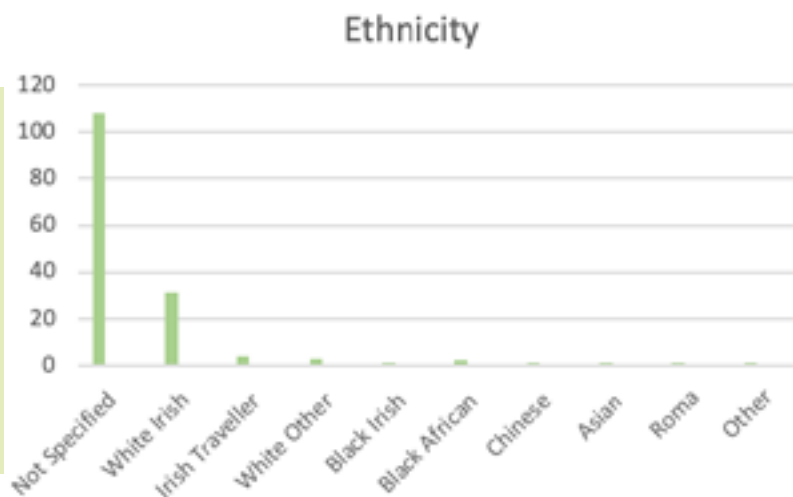


Ethnicity Of The Women We Support

The summer of 2022 saw a spike in women with no legal status presenting to the refuge, resulting in longer stays at refuge while their status was being addressed.

While it is not a requirement of service users to identify their ethnicity (see below), we know that we supported up to 7 women in the refuge in 2022 with no legal status. They were supported in gaining their status through collaborative work with DWCR & the Immigration Council of Ireland

We know from our work that ethnic minority women often do not have the same level of familial or social networks available to them when living away from their country of origin and as a result may require the additional supports of refuge.



Length Of Stay For Women & Children In Refuge

3-6 weeks is generally the average length of stay with the Refuge. Depending on their care plans we can offer up to 10 weeks. 10 service users stayed in the refuge for up to 6 months due to the restrictions from the eviction ban leaving and the Ukraine war, meant that it was difficult for services users to source properties to move on to. The high numbers, 20 of same day admissions were for various reasons such as court orders secured, lack of progression options meant we saw a high number of women returning home.



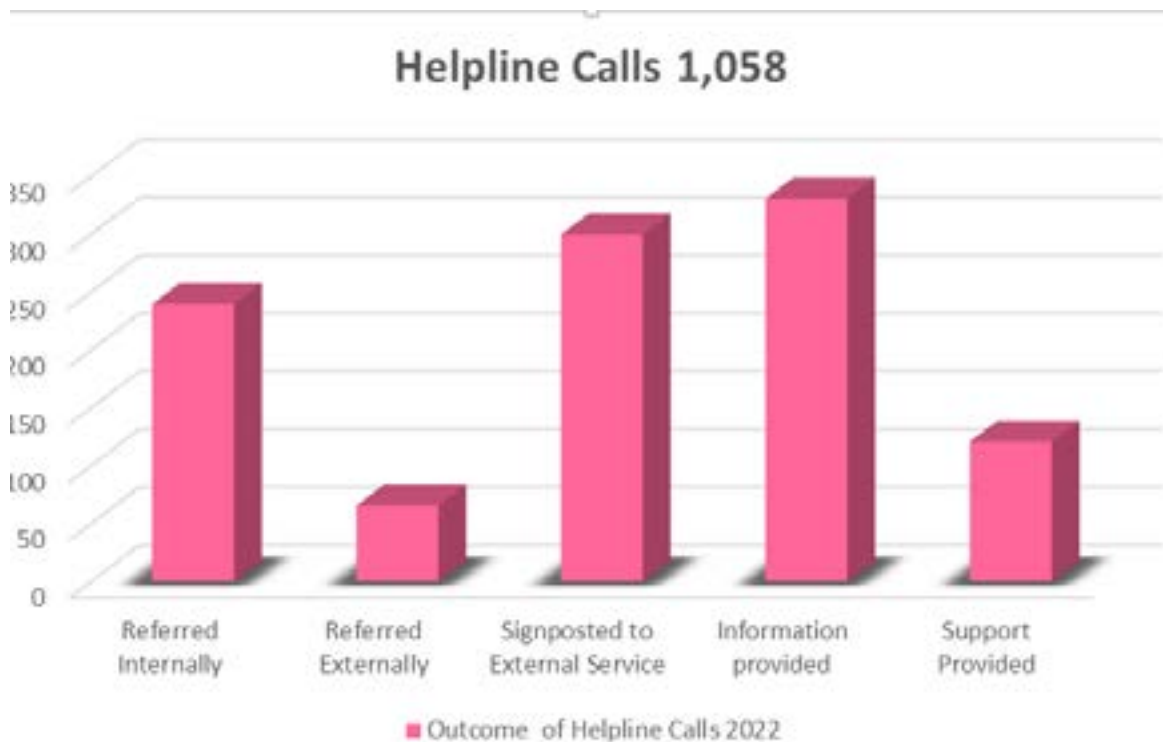
The Impact Of Our Work

Helpline

We provide a 24-Hour private and confidential helpline service for women experiencing domestic violence. Our Helpline operates 365 days of the year with trained staff around the clock to deliver on-site support to those impacted and living with domestic violence and homelessness. The helpline service provides practical and emotional support to women in crisis, advice, information, and referral pathway to refuge. The helpline supported 439 (48%) first time crisis callers and received 1,058 helpline calls in 2022.

Our Snapshot shows 915 Crisis calls received from an individual client.

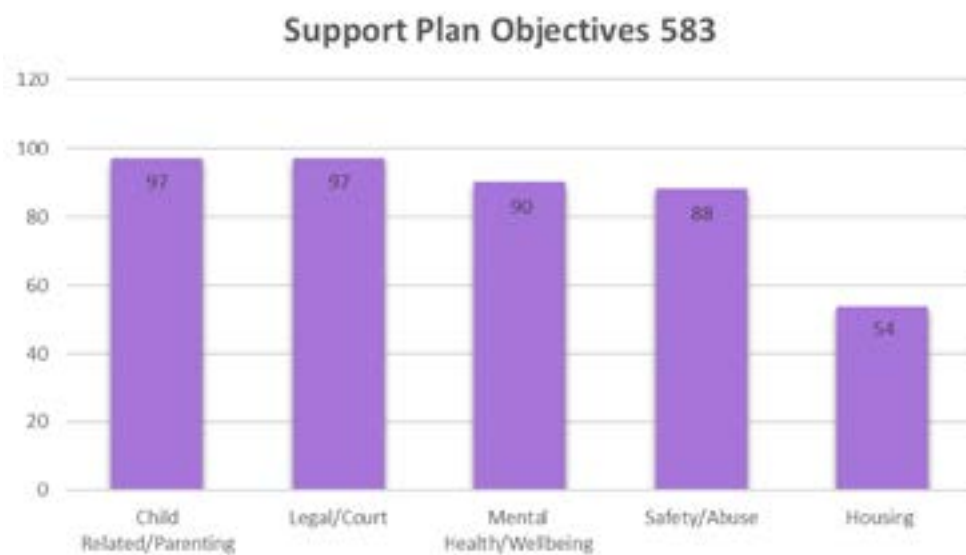
The newly implemented ESafe CRM system records additional follow-up calls which also may have 3 different outcomes. The table above reflects the Outcomes from these calls and therefore reflects the figure of 1,058.



Refuge

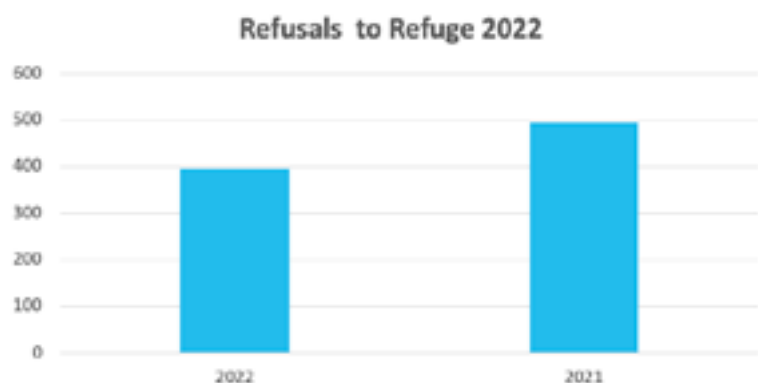
Our refuge provides emergency short term crisis accommodation for women and children experiencing domestic abuse and homelessness. We have six self-containing units for families and five single bedrooms within the service.

In 2022 we admitted 35 single women to refuge and 53 women and children, this was a 12% increase on last year. When women are admitted to refuge, they are assigned an allocated key worker who will then support the women with any identified support needs through our needs assessment. In 2022 we supported women in the following support areas



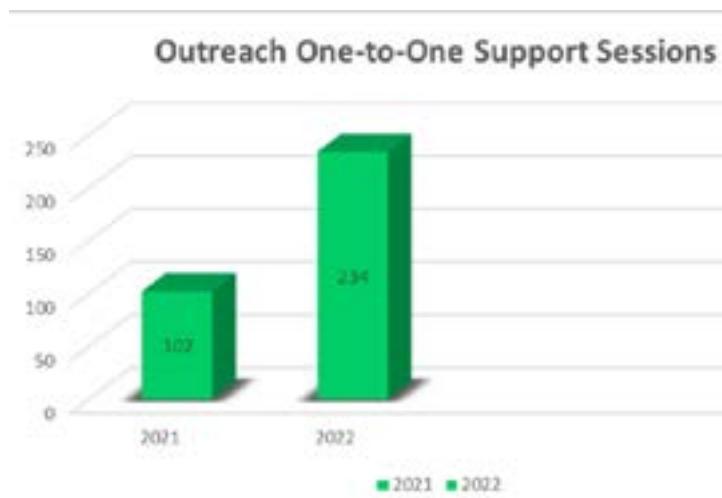
Women & Children, We Were Unable to Accommodate

The 398 refusals to refuge accommodation in 2022 and 495 in 2021, is compared to 264 refusals five years ago. Approximately 72% of these refusals were due to a lack of space and the inability to move women and children on from refuge. While many of these individuals were supported through our outreach service, it is important to note that our current outreach service has the capacity to support less than one-third of the women who were refused from refuge. This means that 257 individuals did not receive the support they needed due to high demand and a lack of staffing.



Community Outreach Service

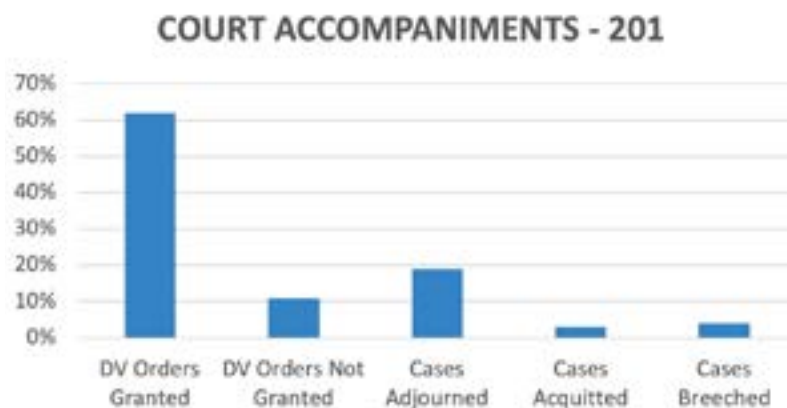
The outreach service offers support to women and children who for whatever reason cannot or do not wish to leave their homes. The service can meet with women in a safe space in the community and holds outreach clinics around Drogheda and surrounding areas monthly. Due to the expansion of the services, promotion and awareness raising activities, our 1:1 support sessions doubled from 102 in 2021 to 234 in 2022.



In 2022 the outreach service carried out 842 service interventions and 20% of those were court accompaniments. While court accompaniments are a key part of the service we provide, they require 1/3 of the staff working week, resulting in our outreach service being less accessible to those who need support. Our current capacity does not adequately meet this demand.

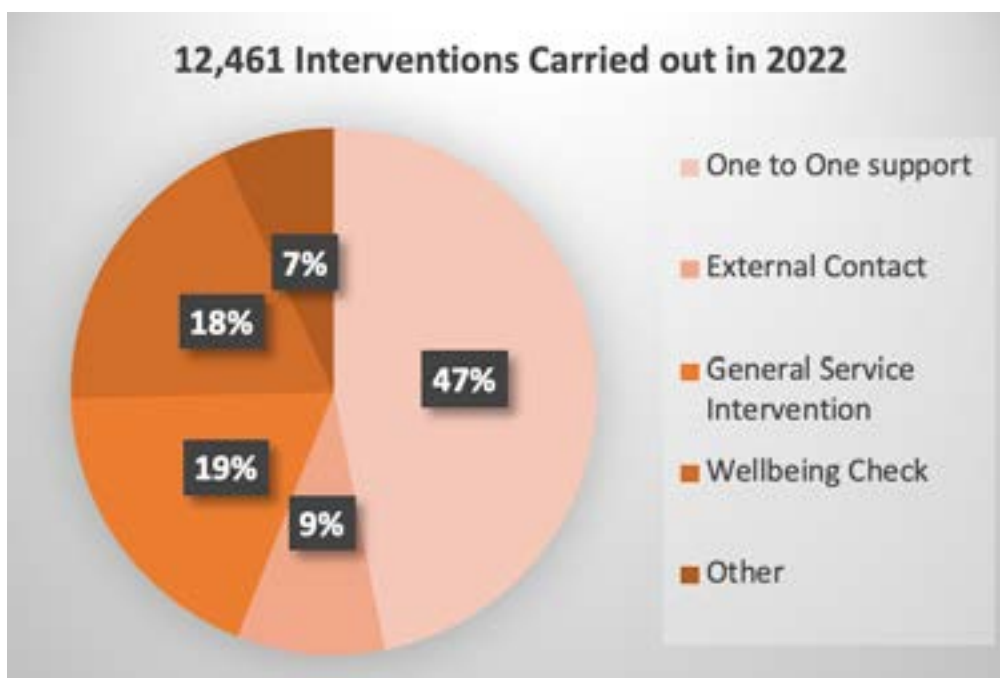
Court Accompaniment Service

In 2022 we were still feeling the effects of covid as Drogheda District Court remained closed for majority of the year meaning DWCR could only achieve 8 court accompaniments for our outreach clients, in comparison to 201 court accompaniments in 2022 which is a 214% increase in supports. Attending court can be intimidating and can often deter women in applying for orders.



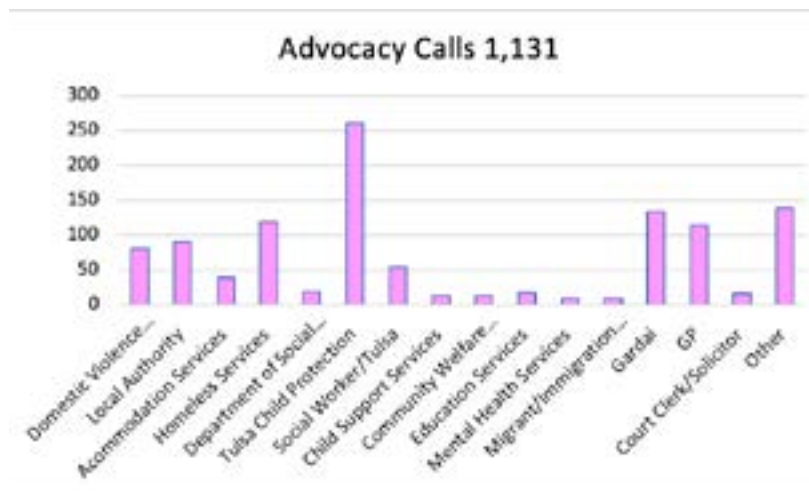
Types of Interventions

These figures outline the interventions carried out across our refuge and Outreach service. A huge part of our work as a service is offering 1:1 support for women accessing our refuge and out in the community. 1:1 can look like safety planning, emotional support & risk assessments.



Breakdown of Advocacy Calls

Over the course of 2022 we had positive collaborative relationships with external support agencies to provide wrap around supports for our service users. Our main relationship was with TUSLA, through our child protection referrals. We also have a good working relationship with the Drogheda Guards, with the Community Guard holding a monthly information clinic at the refuge.



Transitional House

In 2022 we supported one woman and two children through our transitional house. Throughout the year we carried out routine health and safety checks of the house and observed that it required updates in various ways. We conducted a survey on the condition of the house and off the back of this we applied for CAF funding from the Department of Housing to support us with the renovations. Unfortunately, this meant until works were carried out, we felt the house was untenable. We supported this family to positively progress into a property within the community.

Case Studies

Case Study 1

Fiona (not her real name) contacted the refuge team for support with domestic abuse. Fiona resided in the refuge for approximately seven months.

The refuge supported Fiona with the following:

- Linking in with the Red Door project (addiction services).
- Provided counselling sessions.
- Liaising with Fiona's family support worker.
- Applying for carer's allowance.
- Money management.
- Additional childcare support for her daughter who has additional needs.
- Encouraged her to join a parent training programme.
- Assisted her with applying for properties.
- Staff accompanied her to house viewings.
- Fiona and her daughter moved on to rented accommodation. The refuge provided her with vouchers and assisted her with furnishing her home.
- Fiona was then linked in with our outreach team who continued to support her and provided
- Vouchers for our Butterfly shop when she was in need.

Fiona stayed in unit 4 before moving to unit 6. However, we only started using ESafe midway through Fiona's stay. Therefore, we do not have much information on the abuse that brought her to refuge.

Case Study 2

Anna (not her real name) contacted the refuge team for support around domestic abuse. Anna resided in the refuge for approximately three months.

- The refuge supported Anna with the following:
- Danger assessment
- Safety planning
- Confidence building techniques.
- Coping skills.
- DV educational work
- Money management
- Reporting her assault to the guards.
- Butterfly shop vouchers
- Legal aid application, medical card application and supplementary welfare allowance application.
- Anna returned to her property with safety measures in place.

Our Children’s Services



Michelle Woods
Childcare Coordinator



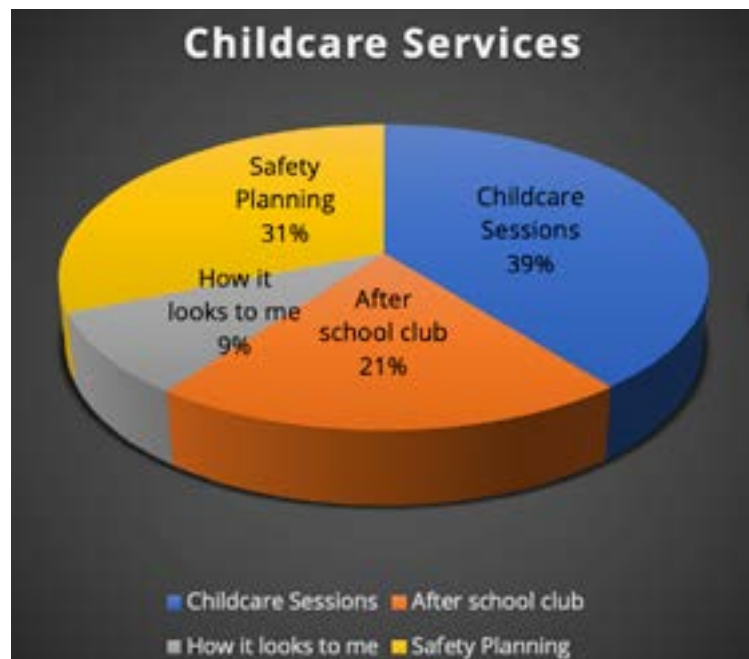
Lorraine Woods
Deputy Childcare Coordinator

Our Children’s Service

Each year brings new challenges and 2022 was no different. The pandemic continued to present many challenges in 2022 but as an essential service within the Drogheda Women’s and Children’s Refuge (DW&CR) it was vital to remain open. To achieve this, it required dedication and flexibility from the children’s services team in implementing covid 19 preventative measures and additional workload.

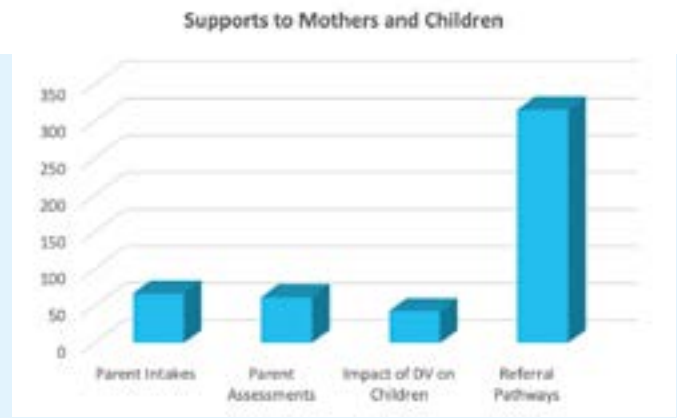
We supported 67 children through the service in 2022 and carried out 1635 support interventions. The types of interventions consisted of the following.

Our children’s service provides a quality need led provision which offers a range of supports to meet the different age groups of children accessing refuge and in the community. This customised level of support provided childcare support to 67 children through our pre-school and drop-in childcare service and thirty-five children attended the afterschool club. Providing children with rich learning environments and supportive interactions helps children heal from the impact of domestic violence.



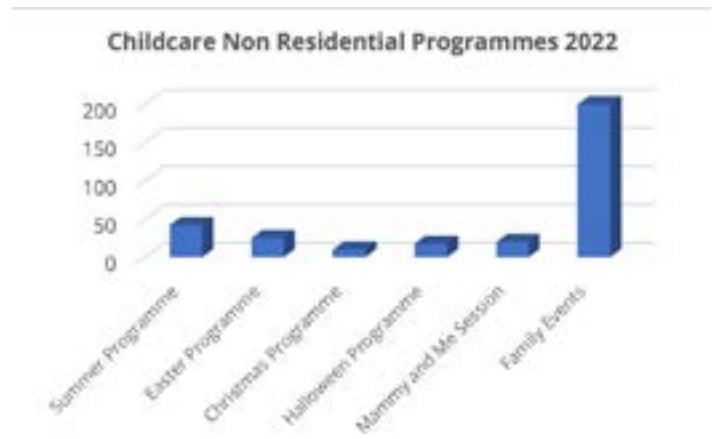
Supports To Mothers & Children

In recognising that a mother's parenting capacity was previously undermined through abuse, the children's services team plays a pivotal role in working the mothers to gain new skills and confidence and provide them with an opportunity to explore their coping mechanisms and parenting strategies. The childcare team provide one to one session with the mothers covering a range of supports: from intake meetings, parenting assessments, educational work on the impact of domestic violence on children and referral pathways for children.



Activites & Trips

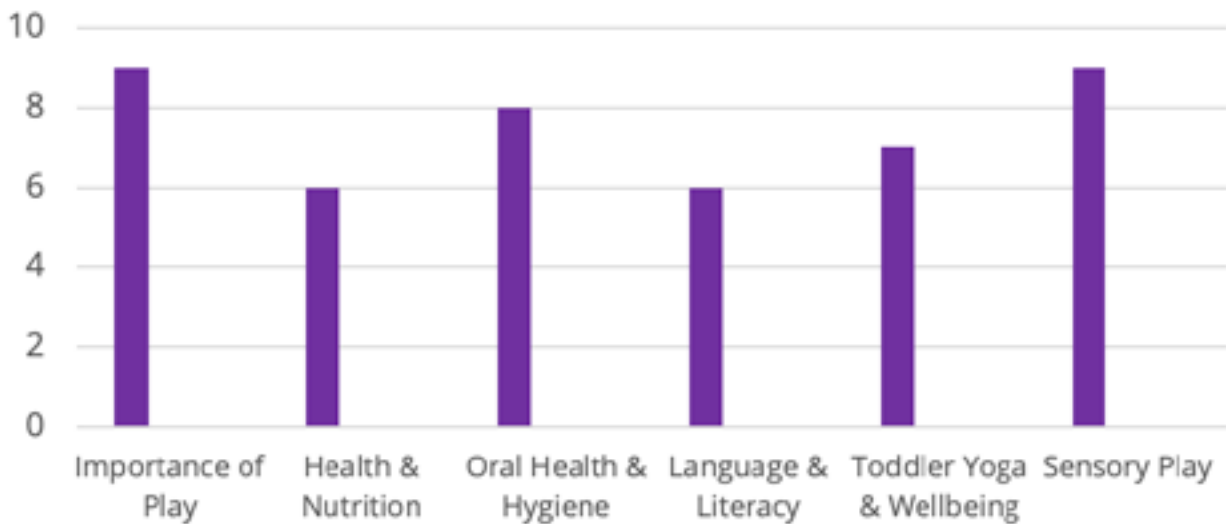
The children enjoyed many adventures and trips to local amenities, and family events to Newgrange farm, Tayto Park, bowling, the cinema, beach days, the carnival, and there was a very exciting day when two ponies visited refuge for a day of grooming, feeding and pony rides. In addition to outings and family events the children's service team provides a school holiday programme at Summer, Easter, Halloween, and Christmas. This is to ensure that there is a continuous service to families for 50 weeks of the year.



Parental Support

A worrying trend with mothers who are parenting after domestic abuse is regression in children’s developmental areas and attachment. Parental involvement is an important part within refuge as it maximises outcomes for children whilst repairing attachments and bonds. Supporting mothers to provide their children with rich learning environments and supportive interactions helps children heal from the impacted of domestic violence. Throughout the year, the childcare team facilitated six interactive workshops with mothers in refuge. These interactive workshops covered a range of topics such as the importance of play, nutrition, oral health, language and literacy, toddler yoga, and sensory play. These workshops offer mothers time to learn a range of strategies to support their child/children’s developmental needs whilst offering opportunities to engage, play and interact in a safe and supported environment.

Parental Workshops



DV & Therapeutic Work With Children

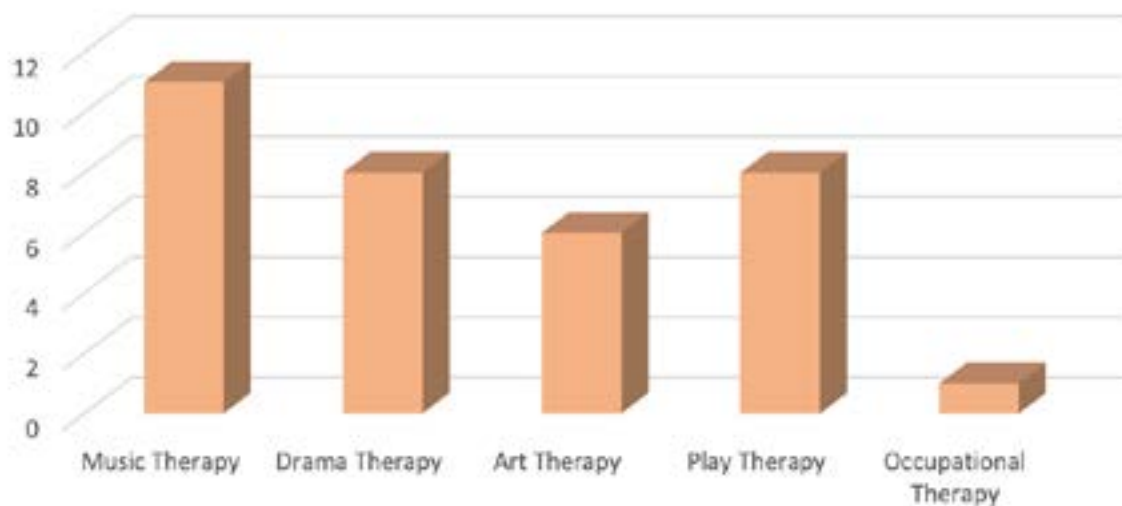
By hearing children and young people’s voices, it validates their experiences of domestic abuse. The “how it looks to me is a programme” aims to support children’s transitions into refuge, name how they are feeling and managing their emotions in a safe way. Group and one to one sessions are held with children to engage in age-appropriate safety planning, whilst working on confidence building and self-esteem. In 2022, fifteen children engaged in the programme and created personal safety plans which helps to reduce the impact of domestic abuse.



In supporting children impacted by domestic abuse the service is grateful to the Commissioner of the Victims of Crime for the funding stream which has supported the service in developing therapy supports for children. In the first half of 2022 the service had a counsellor who deliver counselling sessions to children onsite in refuge and a second referral pathway was developed with Sensory Space Therapy Service.

Towards the end of 2022, the service lost the onsite counsellor. Unfortunately, this position has not been filled as the service has been unable to recruit a therapist with availability due to current workloads. Moreover, the service provides free therapy support for children living with or impacted by domestic abuse. Sensory Space is a multi-disciplinary private intervention and children’s therapy centre. The centre offers a variety of therapy services to suit the children’s needs in a fun and sensory motivating environment. For 2022, the service provided 34 children with different therapy types which equated to 172 individual sessions.

Child Therapeutic Supports 2022



Drop In & Additional Supports

The drop-in childcare service offers two hours of childcare in the afternoon which can cater for all age groups of children. Overall, providing twenty-five hours of childcare supports per week.

The team support mothers without transport with daily accompaniments to primary and secondary schools alongside an afterschool and homework support service. This programme is to ensure that children living in refuge continue to reach their full potential by attending school regularly which increases children’s quality of life, academic achievement, and social development. Thirty-five children attended the afterschool and homework support program in 2022.

TLC Kidz

The development of the TLC Kidz Programme on behalf of DW&CR was established in Louth with the aim to support children in their recovery of domestic abuse. The programme was overseen by an interagency

steering committee established and supported by the Programme Coordinator. The role of the TLC Kidz Co-ordinator was to carry out the groundwork for the establishment of the programme in Louth. Despite, best efforts to get the programme up and running the lack of referrals and children's suitability for the TLC Kidz programme remained a barrier in getting the programme established, and the programme was closed in November with the view to exploring how the programme can be more effectively integrated into the work already being implemented within the Refuge.



Case Studies

Supports for Children

Mum A and her two children were referred to the childcare service after using the helpline support. Mum A was in an abusive relationship, left and was living in B&B accommodation. Mum A was offered a childcare placement. Throughout the parental assessments and numerous support visits it was evident that mum and the children were dealing with post separation abuse and she was too scared to leave the B&B which lead to her isolating herself and the children due to fear. Refuge support was offered and the team began to work on a range of emotional and practical support plans. Throughout the placement the family received the following supports through the children's services team:

1. Parental assessment to identify the families support plan objectives
2. Domestic Violence Education Work with mum on the impact domestic abuse has on children
3. Bespoke one to one parenting supports to meet the children's needs
4. Additional Childcare Support for Court Dates
5. Sponsored referral for childcare funding under the National Childcare Scheme
6. Weekly accompaniment to therapy
7. Application made for domiciliary care allowance, which was approved
8. Referral to Family Support which was screened when family left refuge
9. Attending in house art therapy sessions
10. Attending in house family craft sessions

Child One

On observation, it was evident that the child presented with a complex profile and presented to be hypersensitive and easily overwhelmed by certain sensory input and speech and language delay. To meet the child's strengths and difficulties the child required one to one support and a range of different support plans to help work on his emotional and sensory regulation, this included daily support on:

1. Speech and language development
2. Implementation of visual display boards, Picture Exchange Boards and now and next choice boards
3. Regular forms of deep pressure and proprioception
4. Daily support with self care skills
5. Supporting transitions to support separation anxiety
6. Daily interactions through music, songs and literacy to develop communication and engagement
7. 8 weeks music therapy
8. 8 weeks occupational therapy
9. Referral to the Public Health Nurse to carry out developmental check up's
10. Referral to the Disability team for an assessment of need

Child Two

On observation it was evident that the child struggled with separation anxiety. Mam disclosed that the baby has never been cared for by anybody else and that she was very scared to leave her. Mam also disclosed that she felt that the bond was impacted witnessing domestic abuse and that she spent so much time trying to protect her baby and did not get time to play or interact

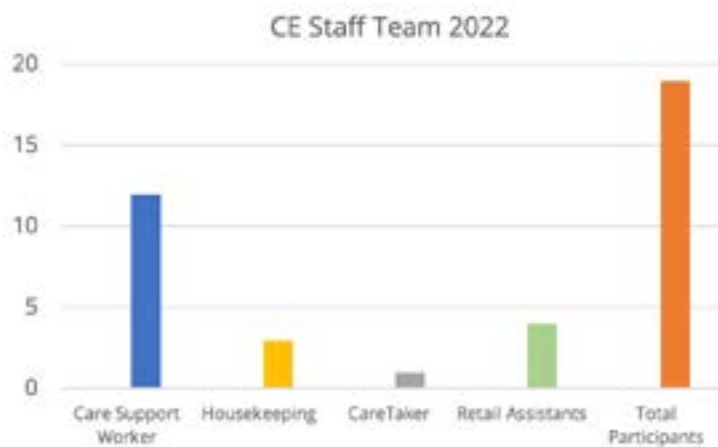
1. Daily play sessions with mum and baby to support attachments and build relationships with the childcare team
2. Visual display boards to help with transitions
3. Weaning supports
4. Referral to the GP for vaccinations
5. Daily Activities to support sensory and motor development

Our Community Employment Scheme



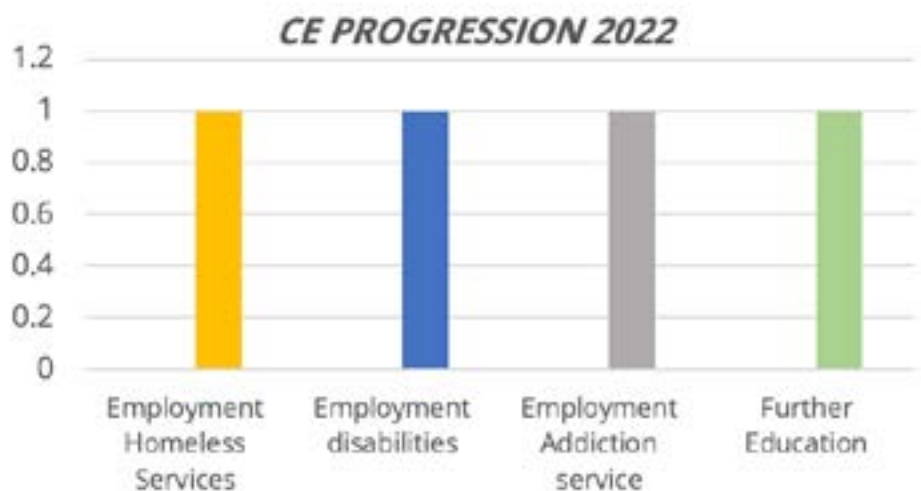
Carmel Quarney – CE Supervisor

In 2022, the DWCR Community Employment Scheme had a total of 26 participants.



Progression

Throughout 2022, our scheme made significant progress. Some participants successfully secured employment in the social care field.



Training

Notably, some CE participants received specialised training in mental health first aid, Danger Assessment, training for supporting Migrant Women affected by domestic violence, and responding to coercive control. We've enhanced our training programs by incorporating key elements like Salesforce ESafe client database training and report writing.

In 2022, our CE participants actively engaged in Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP), a retreat-style training program designed to explore self-care tools to maintain positive mental health. 3 participants have further developed their skills and are now qualified WRAP Facilitators and are able to deliver this training to service users. Additionally, some CE staff members participated in a 3-day Facilitation Skills training, emphasising the development of professional communication within group settings.



In the same year, we introduced new opportunities for CE participants to gain experience in our main office, allowing them to explore other aspects of our work, such as key working and support planning.

Some of our CE Participants at work in the refuge



Testimonial from past CE participant:

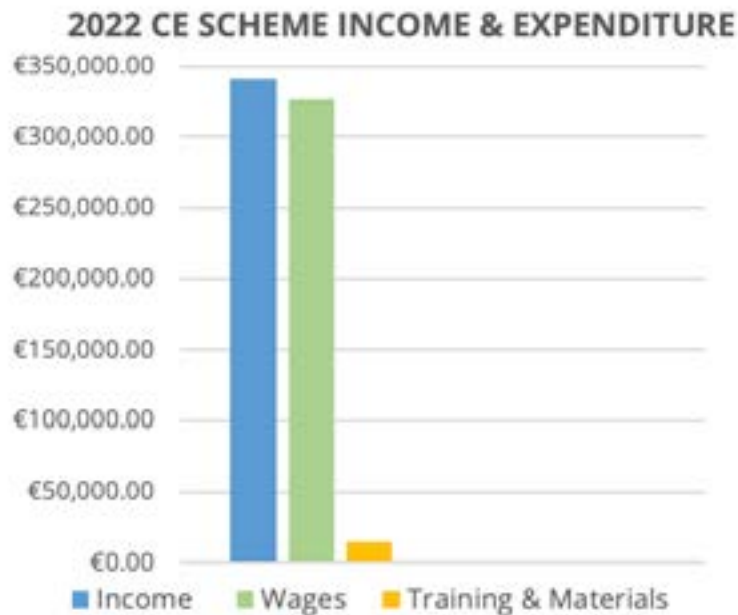


‘Really enjoyed experience on Community Employment in Drogheda Women’s and Children’s Refuge and enjoyed being part of the team. Training was fantastic especially Trauma Informed Care, Helpline training, Wrap training and Facilitation training. I highly recommend the Scheme for anyone interested in building their confidence by developing skills and practical use of the skills on the job.

Frances.

CE Scheme Finances

Financial and training monitoring took place remotely in Oct 2022 and went well. All financial accounts are prepared by Matthew Walsh and Associates in Dec for yearly rollover in January 2023.



Future Strategic Plans

Demographic Trends: As of the report’s development date, the 2022 census data confirms Drogheda as Ireland’s largest and fastest-growing urban area, with a 13% increase between 2016 and 2022. The population in East Meath’s surrounding areas has risen by 52% since 2016, and the north side anticipates 7,200 new homes, accommodating an expected population of 21,100.

Refuge Space Expansion: We appreciate the support for additional refuge spaces in Louth, including Dundalk Women’s Aid, Meath Women’s Refuge and Support Services, as well as in Cavan/Monaghan. These spaces will alleviate pressure on DWCR in the future.

Staff Training & Development: Ongoing staff training and development are essential for maintaining the quality of care for women and children. DWCR is committed to implementing staff training, supporting existing staff in meeting CORU registration standards for Social Care workers, and facilitating their registration process.

Outreach Development: We understand that refuge alone isn’t the sole solution to domestic violence. Our future goals include expanding our outreach efforts to raise awareness and understanding of Domestic Sexual Gender-Based Violence, targeting youth groups, schools, and professionals. We aim to collaborate with diverse agencies, communities, and education providers to reach a broader audience.

Court Accompaniment: In 2023, we plan to establish a clinic in Drogheda District Court House to support women in understanding their rights and the court process. This initiative aims to increase the number of women we reach and provide support before, during, and after court proceedings.



Step Down & Transitional Housing: We recognise the scarcity of step-down emergency homeless accommodation. In 2023, we intend to explore safe housing models and develop transitional housing supports for women and children leaving refuge and facing homelessness.

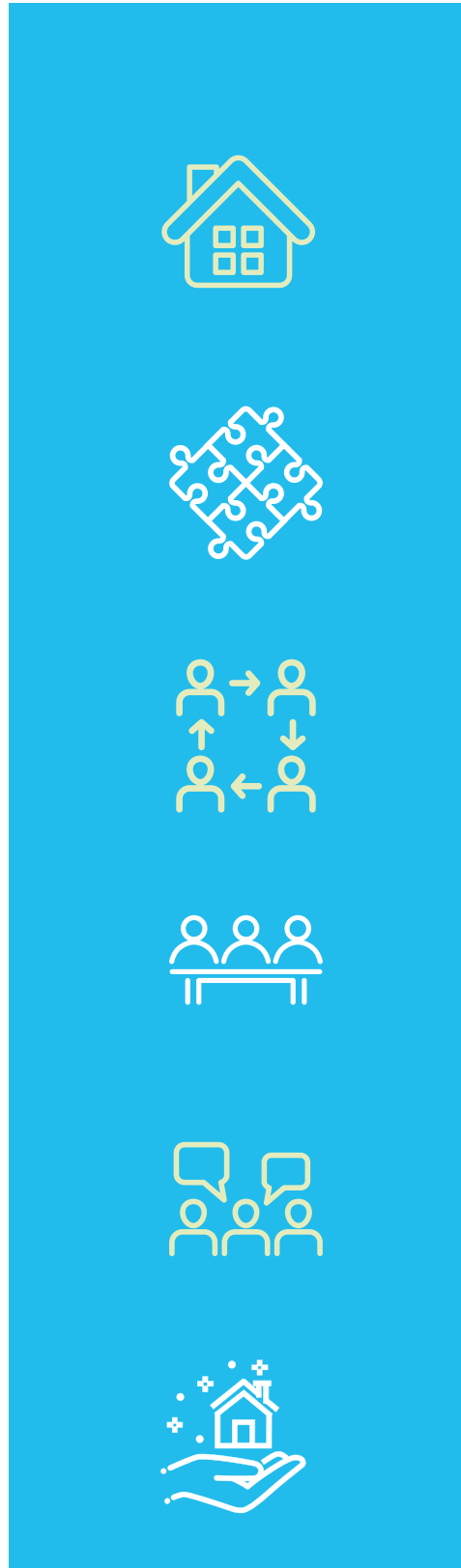
Community Employment (CE): As part of our 3-year strategic plan, we will expand outreach services, utilising CE participants in roles like court accompaniment and tenancy sustainment. This aligns with our vision to offer valuable work and training experiences to CE participants.

Organisational Development: Early feedback highlights the need to enhance our management structure for improved service delivery and strategic development. We plan to reduce reliance on CE participants by additional support staff and developing a recruitment strategy.

Governance: We are committed to compliance with the Charities Regulator’s standards. Our priorities include reviewing and amending the Governing Document, developing a Recruitment and Turnover of Directors policy, and enhancing our Risk and Fixed Assets registers to meet CRA requirements.

Fundraising & Communication: We aim to expand our fundraising subgroup to create a comprehensive fundraising and communications strategy. Our focus in 2023 will be on generating income through the Butterfly Boutique and corporate ad grant support for the Refuge car.

Upgrade of DWCR Properties: To maintain operational costs and futureproof our premises, we will explore SEAI grants, funding sources, and fundraising efforts to upgrade the Transitional House and Refuge building.



Accounts 2022

Company Number: 306682

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
CONTENTS

	Page
Directors and Other Information	3
Directors' Report	4
Directors' Responsibilities Statement	5
Independent Auditor's Report	6 - 7
Appendix to the Independent Auditor's Report	8
Income Statement	9
Balance Sheet	10
Reconciliation of Members' Funds	11
Cash Flow Statement	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 - 18
Supplementary Information on Income and Expenditure Account	20 - 21

**Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION**

Directors	Frances P Byrne Padraig Grennan Anna Shakespeare Brenda Finnegan Antoinette Rourke Elaine McGinty Lorna Coleman (Appointed 12 May 2022) Renata Matanovic (Appointed 12 May 2022)
Company Secretary	Anna Shakespeare
Company Number	306682
Registered Office	St Anthony's Priest Lane Duleek Street Drogheda Co. Louth Ireland
Business Address	St Anthony's Priest's Lane Duleek Street Drogheda Co. Louth Ireland
Auditors	Matthews, Walsh & Associates Limited Certified Public Accountants and Registered Auditors Ferris House Constitution Hill Drogheda Co. Louth Ireland
Bankers	Allied Irish Banks Drogheda Co. Louth
Solicitors	B.V. Hoey & Company , Law Chambers , Fair Street , Drogheda , Co . Louth.

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the company is to provide and manage a refuge for women and their children and such other accommodation as may be appropriate to their needs.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

Financial Results

The (deficit)/surplus for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €(28,549) (2021 - €53,278).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €1,250,685 (2021 - €1,370,875) and liabilities of €683,571 (2021 - €775,212). The net assets of the company have decreased by €(28,549).

The company has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic with a forced reduction in some services. Increased funding has been made available by Government to assist towards the increased costs arising from the pandemic. Income from donations has also increased significantly in the year under review.

Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Frances P Byrne
Padraig Grennan
Anna Shakespeare
Brenda Finnegan
Antoinette Rourke
Elaine McGinty
Lorna Coleman (Appointed 12 May 2022)
Renata Matanovic (Appointed 12 May 2022)

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Anna Shakespeare.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

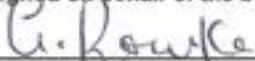
Auditors

The auditors, Matthews, Walsh & Associates Limited, (Certified Public Accountants) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Accounting Records

To ensure that proper books and accounting records are kept in accordance with the Companies Act, 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The books of account are located at the company's office at St Anthony's, Priest Lane, Duleek Street, Drogheda, Co.Louth.

Signed on behalf of the board



Antoinette Rourke
Director



Anna Shakespeare
Director

8 September 2023

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

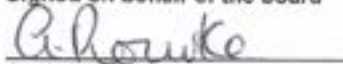
Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.


The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the board



Antoinette Rourke

Director



Anha Shakespeare

Director

8 September 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee ('the company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Income Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Reconciliation of Members' Funds, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2022 and of its deficit for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 5, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is contained in the appendix to this report, located at page 8, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Aidan Berrill
for and on behalf of
MATTHEWS, WALSH & ASSOCIATES LIMITED
Certified Public Accountants and Registered Auditors
Ferris House
Constitution Hill
Drogheda
Co. Louth
Ireland

8 September 2023

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee APPENDIX TO THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

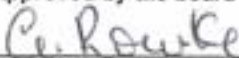
We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee INCOME STATEMENT


for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Income		1,342,892	1,206,383
Expenditure		(1,371,441)	(1,153,122)
(Deficit)/surplus before interest		(28,549)	53,261
Interest receivable and similar income		-	17
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year		(28,549)	53,278
Total comprehensive income		(28,549)	53,278

Approved by the board on 8 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Antoinette Rourke
Director



Anna Shakespeare
Director

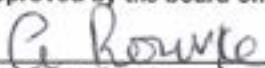
Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	6	626,094	737,769
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	22,006	23,676
Cash and cash equivalents		602,585	609,430
		624,591	633,106
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(76,899)	(62,540)
Net Current Assets		547,692	570,566
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		1,173,786	1,308,335
amounts falling due after more than one year	9	(606,672)	(712,672)
Net Assets		567,114	595,663
Reserves			
Retained surplus		567,114	595,663
Equity attributable to owners of the company		567,114	595,663

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the small companies' regime.

Approved by the board on 8 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


Antoinette Rourke

Director


Anna Shakespeare

Director

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
RECONCILIATION OF MEMBERS' FUNDS

as at 31 December 2022

	Retained surplus	Total
	€	€
At 1 January 2021	542,385	542,385
Surplus for the financial year	53,278	53,278
At 31 December 2021	595,663	595,663
Deficit for the financial year	(28,549)	(28,549)
At 31 December 2022	567,114	567,114

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year		(28,549)	53,278
Adjustments for:			
Interest receivable and similar income		-	(17)
Depreciation		111,675	111,675
Amortisation of government grants		(106,000)	(106,000)
		<u>(22,874)</u>	<u>58,936</u>
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in debtors		1,670	(9,924)
Movement in creditors		14,359	(22,117)
		<u>(6,845)</u>	<u>26,895</u>
Cash (used in)/generated from operations			
		<u>(6,845)</u>	<u>26,895</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		-	17
		<u>-</u>	<u>17</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(6,845)	26,912
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		609,430	582,518
		<u>609,430</u>	<u>582,518</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	13	<u>602,585</u>	<u>609,430</u>

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

1. General Information

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2022 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Act 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The company qualifies as a small company as defined by section 280A of the Companies Act 2014 in respect of the financial year, and has applied the rules of the 'Small Companies Regime' in accordance with section 280C of the Companies Act 2014.

Income

Income represents total income from all sources received during the year.

Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Land and buildings freehold	-	5% Straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	33.3% Straight Line
Motor vehicles	-	33.3% Straight Line

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Balance Sheet bank overdrafts are shown within Creditors.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Employee benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

1. General Information

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2022 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Act 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The company qualifies as a small company as defined by section 280A of the Companies Act 2014 in respect of the financial year, and has applied the rules of the 'Small Companies Regime' in accordance with section 280C of the Companies Act 2014.

Income

Income represents total income from all sources received during the year.

Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Land and buildings freehold	- 5% Straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 33.3% Straight Line
Motor vehicles	- 33.3% Straight Line

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Balance Sheet bank overdrafts are shown within Creditors.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Employee benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

Taxation

The company has been granted exemption in respect to Income/Corporation Tax, Capital Gains Tax and Deposit Interest Retention Tax under Sections 207, 609 and 266 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

Government grants

Capital grants received and receivable are treated as deferred income and amortised to the Income Statement annually over the useful economic life of the asset to which it relates. Revenue grants are credited to the Income Statement when received.

3. Departure from Companies Act 2014 Presentation

The directors have elected to present an Income and Expenditure Account instead of a Profit and Loss Account in these financial statements as this company is a not-for-profit entity.

4. Operating (deficit)/surplus	2022	2021
	€	€
Operating (deficit)/surplus is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible assets	111,675	111,675
Amortisation of Government grants	(106,000)	(106,000)
	4,675	(4,325)

5. Employees

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the financial year was 38, (2021 - 38).

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
Administration	3	3
Childcare and Support Staff	11	11
CE Scheme	24	24
	38	38

6. Tangible assets

	Land and buildings freehold	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
At 1 January 2022	2,233,507	53,374	26,500	2,313,381
	2,233,507	53,374	26,500	2,313,381
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	1,495,738	53,374	26,500	1,575,612
Charge for the financial year	111,675	-	-	111,675
	1,607,413	53,374	26,500	1,687,287
Net book value				
At 31 December 2022	626,094	-	-	626,094
	626,094	-	-	626,094
At 31 December 2021	737,769	-	-	737,769
	737,769	-	-	737,769

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

7.	Debtors	2022	2021
		€	€
	Prepayments	<u>22,006</u>	<u>23,676</u>
8.	Creditors	2022	2021
	Amounts falling due within one year	€	€
	Taxation	22,757	398
	Accruals	<u>54,142</u>	<u>62,142</u>
		<u>76,899</u>	<u>62,540</u>
9.	Creditors	2022	2021
	Amounts falling due after more than one year	€	€
	Government grants	<u>606,672</u>	<u>712,672</u>
10.	State Funding		
	Agency	TUSLA	
	Sponsoring department	The Department of Children and Youth Affairs	
	Grant Programme	Domestic Abuse	
	Purpose of the Grant	Core Staff Salaries	
	Term	Annual	
	Grant Amount	€611,328	
	Expenditure Amount	€620,884	
	Grant deferred at year end	n/a	
	Amount Received in the year	€611,328	
	Grant	Revenue	
	Restrictions on use	Core Staff Salaries	
	Remuneration in excess of €60,000	There were no staff in receipt of remuneration in excess of €60,000.	

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

Agency	Pobal
Sponsoring Department	The Department of Children & Youth Affairs
Grant Programme	CCS/ECCE/AIM
Purpose of the Grant	Contribution towards Child Care staff salary
Term	Annual
Grant Amount	€18,841
Expenditure Amount	€21,489
Amount deferred at the year end	N/a
Amount received in the year	€18,841
Grant	Revenue Grant
Restrictions on use	Child care staff salary
Agency	DEASP
Sponsoring Department	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
CE Scheme Grant Programme	CE Scheme
Purpose of the Grant	Salary & Running costs of the CE scheme
Term	Annual
Total Grant	€341,561 (Employee Benefits /Pensions - Not Applicable)
Expenditure	€341,561
Amount deferred or due at year end	n/a
Amount received in the year	€341,561
Grant	Revenue Grant
Restrictions on Use	CE Scheme Salaries and Participant Development

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

Agency	Louth County Council
Sponsoring Department	Department of the Environment
Grant Programme	Bednights and Retainers
Purpose of Grant	Running costs of the Refuge, outreach and accompaniment core staff salaries
Term	Annual
Total grant	€90,560
Expenditure	€90,560
Amount deferred at year end	N/a
Amount received in the year	€90,560
Grant	Revenue Grant
Restrictions on use	Provision of Emergency Accommodation and Support Services
Agency	CSVC
Sponsoring Department	Department of Justice
Grant Programme	CSVC Grant
Purpose of Grant	Salary for Outreach Worker
Term	Annual
Total Grant	€3,000
Expenditure	€11,720
Amount deferred at year end	n/a
Amount received in year	€3,000
Grant	Revenue Grant
Restrictions on use	Outreach Worker Salary

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

Agency	Louth County Council
Sponsoring Department	Dept Rural and Community Development
Grant Programme	Community Activities Fund
Purpose of Grant	Running costs and equipment
Term	One-off
Total Grant	€13,550
Expenditure	€13,550
Amount deferred at year end	NA
Amount received in year	€13,550
Grant	Revenue Grant
Restrictions on use	Running costs and equipment

11. Status

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members or within one year thereafter for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves such amount as may be required, not exceeding € 2.

12. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions.

13. Cash and cash equivalents

	2022 €	2021 €
Cash and bank balances	<u>602,585</u>	<u>609,430</u>

14. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 8 September 2023.

DROGHEDA WOMENS & CHILDRENS REFUGE CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOT COVERED BY THE AUDITORS REPORT

THE FOLLOWING PAGES DO NOT FORM PART OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DETAILED INCOME STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	€	€
Income		
Dept of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA) - Pobal/CCS/ECCE/AIM	18,841	19,466
Dept of Children & Youth Affairs - TUSLA/Childcare Grant	611,328	540,775
Charity Boutique Sales	56,746	41,001
DEASP Grant	341,561	339,635
Dept Environment - Louth County Council - Tenancy Sustainment/Retainer/Bednights Grant	90,560	51,740
Dept Rural and Community Development-Louth County Council-CAF Funding	13,550	-
Dept of Justice - CSVC Grant	3,000	12,000
Donations & Fundraising	67,883	72,847
Wages - Sick Pay Rebates	-	305
Rental Income	18,423	20,449
Sundry Income	15,000	2,165
Amortisation of government grants	106,000	106,000
	<u>1,342,892</u>	<u>1,206,383</u>
Expenditure		
Wages and salaries	669,947	508,783
PRSA Costs	25,479	24,789
DEASP Project - Wage Costs	326,852	319,889
Redundancy Cost	-	19,290
Costs of Running Charity Shop	26,954	14,896
Furnishings	5,453	9,161
Insurance	6,216	6,180
Training	16,645	6,844
Gas Charges	19,321	10,695
DEASP Project - Materials & Training Costs	14,933	19,855
Refuse Collection	5,036	4,818
Repairs , Contracts and maintenance	8,773	11,330
Programme Costs	14,267	4,603
Health Care	866	1,179
Transitional Housing	11,206	6,320
Office Supplies	5,210	4,537
Advertising	1,070	3,185
Mobile Phone - Manager	2,562	1,812
Eir Limited	2,622	2,545
IT Costs	13,254	22,132
T V Rental & Licence	160	160
Transport, Taxi etc	1,196	586
Mileage Allowance	2,525	9
Motor Tax & Insurance	1,904	1,086
BWG Foods	5,204	5,409
Water Costs	917	778
Counselling	20,240	3,275
Consultancy fees	14,780	9,364
Bank charges	1,333	1,019
General expenses	-	2
Petty Cash Items	5,800	1,500
Goodwill	4,415	3,930
Electricity charges	20,410	6,866
Subscriptions	935	970
Reimbursement	-	370
Auditor's remuneration	3,280	3,280
Depreciation	111,675	111,675
	<u>1,371,441</u>	<u>1,153,122</u>

Drogheda Womens & Childrens Refuge Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DETAILED INCOME STATEMENT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

	2022 €	2021 €
Miscellaneous income		
Bank interest	-	17
Net (deficit)/surplus	<u>(28,549)</u>	<u>53,278</u>



Drogheda Women's & Children's
Refuge Centre C.L.G.



Drogheda Women &
Childrens Refuge Centre



@droghedarefuge



@DWCR41226152

info@droghedarefuge.org
www.droghedarefuge.org

DWCR IS HERE 24/7 365 DAYS OF THE YEAR

Because it never stops,
neither do we.

OUR HELPLINE NUMBER 041 98 44550

For Advice, Outreach, Court Accompaniment:

085 8744238 (Mon-Wed)

085 8744158 (Wed-Fri)

DWCR Reception Office/Donations: 041 9844998

Community Employment: 089 4875657

DWCR OFFICE, St Anthony's, Priestlane, Drogheda, Co. Louth, A92 N9OP



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice



government supporting communities



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

