

Aoibhneas CLG

Annual Report 2024



Aoibhneas
Domestic Abuse Support
for Women and Children
Safety. Recovery. Freedom.

*Working towards Freedom for Women and
Children experiencing Domestic Abuse*



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Who we are and what we stand for



Who We Are

Aoibhneas was established in June 1988 to meet the needs of women and children experiencing domestic abuse living in the Ballymun area. At that time, we supported women and children from a three-bedroom flat in Ballymun.

Our accommodation provision expanded in 1997 with the opening of a new purpose-built 10-unit refuge in Coolock. In addition to our refuge centre, Aoibhneas has developed and adapted its service provision to support the needs of the community and to provide a continuum of care to women and children experiencing domestic abuse through access to a 24-hour Freephone Helpline and community and outreach service covering the North County Dublin and North Dublin area.



Our Beliefs

Our work with women and children experiencing domestic abuse is underpinned by a number of core beliefs centred on the impact of domestic abuse, individual human rights and how we respond:

Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on a person's wellbeing and in turn, a community's wellbeing. In some instances, it can be fatal. Women and children have a fundamental right to safety in their own home and the existence or threat of abuse deprives them of this right.

Being 'safe' is more than being physically safe – it includes all aspects of wellbeing.

Domestic abuse does not exist in a vacuum. How we respond as services, family members and friends is crucial. This response is informed by culture, media and societal perceptions of domestic abuse and gender inequality. We work to positively influence others and to create societal change.

Domestic abuse in all its forms is a violation of basic human rights. Every woman and child has a right to live free from abuse.



Our Values

As an organisation we are:

Compassionate:

Our work is person centred and built on the fundamental human rights of our service users. We strive to understand the suffering of others and are motivated to alleviate this suffering. We respond to another's suffering through positively using an interpersonal and individualised approach. We promote kindness and empathy towards colleagues, to remain connected, healthy, and productive as we work with trauma on a day-to-day basis.

Empowering:

We support our service users to heal and to become stronger and more confident in controlling their lives and claiming their rights, including the right to freedom from abuse. At an organisational level we put in place structures to enable, where possible, decision making at every level within the organisation.

Empathetic:

We give service users the necessary time and space to express their feelings and emotions, and we respond supportively and without judgement. At an organisational level we strive to actively engage and listen, at the same time encouraging genuine perspective taking and compassion.

Respectful:

We treat our service users with courtesy, dignity and respect, showing them consideration and working with them at their pace. At an organisational level we promote respect as an action by exhibiting an interest in, and appreciation for, others' perspectives, knowledge, skills, and abilities, by expressing recognition and gratitude for the efforts and contributions of others and by taking concerns seriously.

Courageous:

We hold courageous conversations with service users about their situation and options for them, with staff about their own development and the development of the organisation, with policy makers and funders about how our vision can be achieved and supported. We strive to encourage discussion and conversation within the organisation defined by a commitment to lean into vulnerability and create a culture that inspires courage. This involves stepping up as a leader in our area of specialism, pioneering efforts including stepping into new areas, and taking action.

Learning:

We learn from our service users' experiences and their feedback to us and this informs how we work internally and with others. We keep up to date with the latest developments and practices in our sector and apply the knowledge gained to our own work.

Trustworthy:

We work hard to gain and maintain our service users' trust and confidence. We are honest in our dealings with them, with our staff, with our partners, collaborators and other stakeholders.

Ambitious:

We are driven and have the determination to work to eliminate gender-based abuse. We endeavour to foster individual and collective ambition by hiring motivated employees that feed into organisational culture to promote progressive change.



Our Beliefs



Mission

At Aoibhneas we seek to challenge and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence, including intergenerational abuse, through education and awareness.

We aim to empower women and children to live in safety and freedom from domestic abuse through the delivery of a range of therapeutic and crisis supports through the expansion of intervention-based accommodation and community services.



Vision

At Aoibhneas, we believe that abuse of any kind should not be tolerated. Our vision is to demonstrate leadership and partnership at both community and national level to seek to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence, including intergenerational abuse, through personal, social, political and legislative change. Where domestic abuse is perpetrated, our aim is to provide women and children full access to a range of interventions that enable recovery, healing and positive growth, at the earliest opportunity.



Our Team Motto

The meaning behind our motto is layered. At the most basic level, we invite service users, staff, collaborators, supporters, and funders to join our family. Joining our family for service users carries particular meaning, because for a lot of women and children that access our service, they feel isolated, removed and disconnected from their own family, friends and networks. From the moment a service user engages with our service we aim to create a sense of belonging.

From an organisational perspective, we respect everyone's individualism, and how everyone's individual makeup and effort supports a shared purpose and vision.

We aim to reinforce a shared sense of commitment and partnership amongst our service users, staff, collaborators, supporters and funders to promote better outcomes for women and children.



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A Note From Our Chairperson





A Note from our Chairperson,

It is both a privilege and an honour to present the Chairperson's Report for 2024, a year that marked meaningful progress, reflection, and forward momentum for Aoibhneas.

As we continued our vital work in supporting women and children impacted by domestic abuse, the organisation remained deeply rooted in its values of compassion, empowerment, and justice. The last year has not only reaffirmed our strategic direction but also demonstrated the remarkable resilience and capability of our team in responding to complex and evolving needs.

One of the most significant achievements of the year was the progression of our new 13-unit refuge development. This development will provide critical additional capacity in a time of unprecedented demand. The appointment of a dedicated Project Manager and the collaborative work with our Integrated Design Team signal our commitment to building the infrastructure required for long-term, sustainable impact.

This year also marked a pivotal moment in organisational development, with key appointments across leadership, finance, and service delivery. The strategic expansion of our team has created the capacity to distribute operational responsibilities more widely and strengthen internal leadership. This shift is essential not only for service continuity but also for embedding resilience within our organisational structure.

We have seen a strong focus on child- and youth-centred services, particularly through the planned enhancement of our refuge-based child and youth spaces. These improvements are not cosmetic — they reflect a philosophy that children are not secondary clients but central to our mission and healing work. Construction will begin in early 2025, and we look forward to seeing these important upgrades come to life.



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As we look ahead to 2025 and prepare to celebrate Aoibhneas' 35th anniversary, we do so with a deep sense of gratitude and renewed determination.

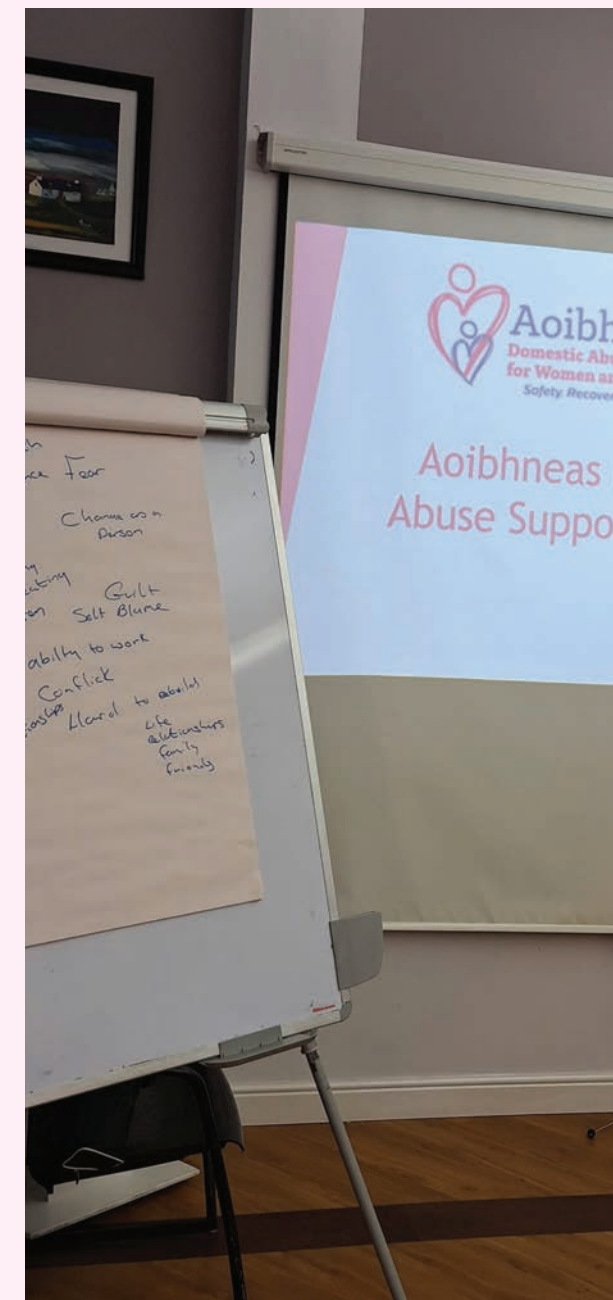
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Throughout 2024, Aoibhneas continued to centre the voices of women and children in programme design and delivery. The ASPIRE Programme, now in its second year, saw survivors take on leadership roles as mentors and facilitators. This model of co-production is a powerful illustration of the potential that lies in every woman who walks through our doors — not only to heal, but to lead and uplift others.

We also maintained a strong emphasis on governance and compliance. In a landscape that is becoming increasingly regulated, the Board remained proactive in monitoring emerging risks, ensuring adherence to statutory obligations, and guiding the organisation through operational and strategic decision-making with integrity and transparency. Reputational stewardship continues to be a core function of our governance, and we remain vigilant in upholding the trust placed in us by the public and our partners.

None of this would be possible without the enduring commitment of our exceptional staff and management team, who deliver complex services with professionalism, empathy, and dedication. I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of my fellow Board members, whose expertise and guidance continue to shape Aoibhneas' future.

As we look ahead to 2025 and prepare to celebrate Aoibhneas' 35th anniversary, we do so with a deep sense of gratitude and renewed determination. We are not only commemorating a legacy but also actively building the future — one where every woman and child is safe, supported, and free.



On behalf of the Board, I extend our heartfelt thanks to our funders, donors, statutory partners, and the wider community. Your belief in our work empowers us to continue innovating, growing, and advocating for systemic change.

Together, we stand firm in our commitment to ending domestic abuse and creating pathways to freedom, safety, and hope.

Nickie Fowler, Chairperson
Aoibhneas CLG

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Chief Executive Officer's Welcome



Chief Executive Officer's Welcome



As CEO of Aoibhneas, I am proud to present this report on a year that demonstrated not only growth and innovation, but an unyielding commitment to the women and children we serve.

In 2024, Aoibhneas supported **914** women and children across our refuge, outreach, and community-based services. Behind this number lies an extraordinary level of engagement: over **190,000** direct interventions were provided, with each one representing a moment of connection, safety, and care.

Strengthening Service Delivery

A significant area of focus this year was on broadening the depth and accessibility of our therapeutic and psychoeducational supports. We conducted a comprehensive review of our core interventions, incorporating service user feedback, desktop research, and trauma-informed best practice. As a result, we expanded our programme offerings to include:

- Yin Yong Yoga and creative therapies for body-based healing and expression
- Enhanced psychoeducational support groups such as Freedom Programme, Family & Friends, and Personal Development Groups
- Broader access to individual therapeutic sessions, with nearly **14,000** one-to-one engagements
- Over **2,000** one-to-one psychoeducational sessions, providing structured emotional education and coping strategies

These interventions have been vital in strengthening pathways to recovery and restoring a sense of autonomy, particularly for women navigating complex trauma.

Children and Youth Focus

Children remain central to our mission. This year, we delivered **34,076** interventions to children and

young people through **6,182** engagements. These included emotional and practical support, therapeutic play, developmental activities, and family-based interventions. We also began the process of upgrading our child and youth spaces within the refuge, having secured planning permission and appointed a construction contractor. This capital investment will reinforce our commitment to providing safe, welcoming, and developmentally appropriate spaces for children healing from trauma.

Notably, we delivered:

- Over **9,900** emotional support interventions for children
- Nearly **1,400** developmental play sessions, and
- **611** one-to-one therapeutic sessions, tailored to individual needs

Our work with teenagers also expanded, recognising the unique experiences of adolescent survivors through group spaces and structured interventions designed specifically for their age group.

Survivor Leadership and Engagement

The ASPIRE Programme continued to flourish in 2024, with former participants becoming mentors and peer facilitators. This survivor-led model not only builds community but also strengthens long-term outcomes by positioning women as agents of change. In 2024, over **27** women participated in ASPIRE, many of whom are now shaping the programme's next phase.

We also redesigned our service user feedback systems, ensuring that client voice remains embedded in our service development. New tools will launch in 2025 to make feedback more accessible across different engagement points and platforms.



Crisis Response and Advocacy

With over **5,767** helpline calls answered, our front-facing support teams remained a critical point of contact for individuals in immediate crisis. Additionally, we provided **470** instances of external accompaniment, supporting women and children through court appearances, Gardaí engagement, medical visits, legal services, and child protection appointments.

These direct interventions demonstrate our holistic approach—one that understands the layered, intersectional needs of survivors and seeks to meet them with empathy, professionalism, and urgency.

“
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Organisational Development

Internally, Aoibhneas made major strides in infrastructure and operations. We completed a full IT migration, improving efficiency, data security, and system stability. We also upskilled staff in the use of Esafe, our client database, in preparation for a 2025 rollout of expanded reporting functions. These system upgrades will streamline data collection and enhance our ability to evaluate and communicate our impact.

On the staffing front, we welcomed a Financial Controller, Team Leader for Outreach, and Development Facilitator, all of whom have been instrumental in professionalising our internal functions and expanding our reach. These appointments allowed the redistribution of operational responsibilities, enabling me to step into a more strategic leadership role alongside our executive team.

Partnerships and Prevention

We maintained strong interagency collaboration with Gardaí, Child Protection Services, and Addiction Services, ensuring joined-up responses for women and children with multiple needs. In addition, we hosted or participated in **152** professional networking engagements and **35** awareness-raising events, advocating for systemic improvements and broader public understanding of domestic abuse.

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2025 and mark 35 years of Aoibhneas, our mission remains unwavering: to provide women and children with the safety, dignity, and support they need to rebuild their lives. The year ahead will focus on expanding capacity, embedding survivor leadership, and driving innovation in trauma-informed practice.

To our staff, Board, funders, community partners, and—most importantly—the survivors who place their trust in us: thank you. Your resilience and belief fuel our purpose every day.

Together, we will continue to transform lives and build a future free from domestic abuse.

Emma Reidy, Chief Executive Officer
Aoibhneas CLG



Case Study: Julia's Story

At Aoibhneas, we continue to see the significant barriers faced by women fleeing domestic abuse, particularly those who must cross county lines to ensure their safety. Julia's story reflects these ongoing systemic challenges and highlights the resilience of survivors navigating complex support systems.

Background

Julia, originally from a North African country, lived with her husband and four young children in a neighbouring county. Over the years, Julia made multiple attempts to leave an abusive relationship marked by coercive control, emotional abuse, financial manipulation, and physical violence.

In 2023, Julia first accessed refuge accommodation at Aoibhneas. Like many survivors, her initial departure was met with promises of change from her husband, which led her to return home. Unfortunately, the abuse persisted, and by June 2024, Julia returned to Aoibhneas with her four children, aged 9, 4, 1, and a 4-month-old baby, ready to pursue lasting safety.

The Challenges

During her second stay, Julia disclosed the full extent of her experiences, which included repeated death threats, threats to take her children away, and deliberate interference with her immigration status. Julia felt remaining in her home county was not an option given her husband's strong network of friends and the pressure and threat she would experience from her husband and his network.

Despite her determination to rebuild her life, Julia encountered significant obstacles navigating the housing system:

County Boundaries: Although discretion exists for local authorities to process housing applications for domestic abuse survivors residing outside their home counties, Julia's application became trapped in a bureaucratic loop. Dublin County Council redirected her application to her home county, only for her home county to redirect it back to Dublin, where she was residing for safety reasons.

Logistical Burden: With no choice but to comply with system requirements, Julia endured repeated, lengthy journeys with her young children between counties. These trips, often without outcome, placed immense physical, emotional, and financial strain on her family.

“The team at Aoibhneas supported Julia by advocating with the county councils as well as providing practical supports to travel between counties as she was required to attend in person.”

Our Support

Aoibhneas advocated tirelessly on Julia's behalf, liaising with both county councils, providing practical travel supports, and ensuring Julia had access to the necessary resources and information. In parallel, Aoibhneas accompanied her through court processes. Unfortunately, repeated adjournments and the burden of travelling long distances with four young children led Julia to withdraw her case at Dolphin House Family Law Court.

Resilience and the Road Ahead

Throughout these challenges, Julia demonstrated remarkable resilience and unwavering care for her children. Her strength, and the protective environment she maintained for her family, were critical to their wellbeing amidst instability.

Eventually, Julia was placed in homeless accommodation within the county she had fled, an unsatisfactory but necessary interim solution. Aoibhneas continued to support Julia until local services could be mobilised to assist her family more sustainably.

Current Situation

Julia and her four children remain engaged with Aoibhneas while residing in emergency accommodation, facing uncertainty but determined to find long-term safety and stability.

Conclusion

Julia's experience underscores the persistent gaps in inter-county support structures for domestic abuse survivors. It demonstrates the need for consistent, survivor-centred approaches across counties, ensuring that fleeing abuse does not mean facing new barriers to safety, housing, and justice.

Aoibhneas remains committed to advocating for systemic change to remove these barriers and to ensure women like Julia and their children, can access the protection and opportunities they deserve.

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Our Services



Our Services

We provide a 24-hour professional support, information and referral service to women and children who have been forced to leave their home for their own safety.

Our key activities undertaken in relation to our purpose include:



24 Freephone Helpline

Access to a 24-hour freephone helpline service providing emotional and practical support where you can speak about your experiences of domestic abuse in confidence.

This helpline is also a support to professionals, agencies, family and friends concerned about a loved one.



Refuge Accommodation

Safe emergency/crisis short term accommodation for women and children experiencing domestic abuse through provision of 10 self-contained units for 10 families. The refuge offers facilities such as a communal kitchen, dining area, sitting room, laundry facilities, courtyard and outdoor children's play area. Women and children can access refuge accommodation on a 24-hour, 365 days per year basis.



Outreach and Community Support

Provision of a community-based service that enables women and children experiencing domestic abuse to access the necessary supports from a range of locations where they live. The outreach service offers continued support to women and children post-refuge whether that involves a return home or a relocation elsewhere.

The community service spans across North Dublin; from inner city to north county Dublin, we have offices in Coolock, Smithfield, Swords and Balbriggan and we also work from several satellite clinics from accessible locations over Dublin.

In addition to the support, we provide women and children victims of domestic abuse in the community, we also provide targeted and therapeutic support to survivors of domestic abuse.

Aspire is a comprehensive 12-week programme aimed at empowering women overcoming the impacts of domestic abuse. Through a combination of accredited training, personal development, and practical life skills, participants are resourced with the tools for a brighter, more independent future.





Drop-in Service

Access to a safe confidential space for women and children to talk and work through experiences of domestic abuse.



Court Preparation and Accompaniment Service

The provision of the Court Preparation and Accompaniment Service offers support in the following areas:

- Advice on legal orders, court process, court application process.
- Court preparation – support formulating, preparing, and delivering case.
- Court accompaniment
- Assistance in legal aid application and gathering necessary and applicable documents.
- Linkage/Advocacy with Gardaí, solicitors, barristers, social workers and legal personnel.
- Post court support/debrief.



Child/Youth Specific Services

We provide a range of services that can support your children with access to.

- Childcare (supervised)
- Homework/afterschool support.
- Breakfast club
- Developmental play
- Play and art therapy.
- 1:1 Therapeutic work
- Group programmes
- Holistic and therapeutic interventions.

“

I am indebted to Aoibhneas for not only this support, but for the professional development that I have gained in the field through your leadership, support, and guidance.

Student Placement, 2024

”



Training and Networking

Aoibhneas recognises in order to reduce the number of people affected by domestic abuse, we must work towards social and community change. Aoibhneas provides specialist accredited training to statutory groups, non-statutory groups, family resource centres, women's groups and specialist domestic violence services responding to domestic violence. Aoibhneas have designed a positive relationships programme, which is delivered to Secondary Schools and Youthreach. All training provided by Aoibhneas is tailored to meet the identified needs of those requesting the training.

Our prevention work involves awareness raising, building relationships, promoting understanding of domestic abuse, the need for zero tolerance and working together.

“

Thank you so much for that very powerful session this morning. In a short space of time, you conveyed the scale of and the immense complexities of domestic violence while also building confidence in our people managers about what they can do to make an individual feel safe and heard while recognising that the individual is always the expert of their situation.

Irish Distillers Training 2024

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Advocacy / Accompaniment

Enabling and supporting women and children to attend or access a civil or statutory service with a view to reducing crisis or increasing empowerment.



Networking and Engagement

Development of local referral pathways and networks with key stakeholders such as Gardaí, GPs, local community groups, with emphasis on seldom heard and hard to reach communities.

Refuge communal kitchen

Real Queens Fix Each Others Crowns

The Aoibhneas Podcast- Community Edition with The Nail Kandi Salon in Clondalkin



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Service Activity in 2024





Frontline and direct support to 914 women and children in the following areas:

220

women and children were accommodated through Refuge and Airbnb.



694

women and children accessed direct, face to face support through Outreach and Community.

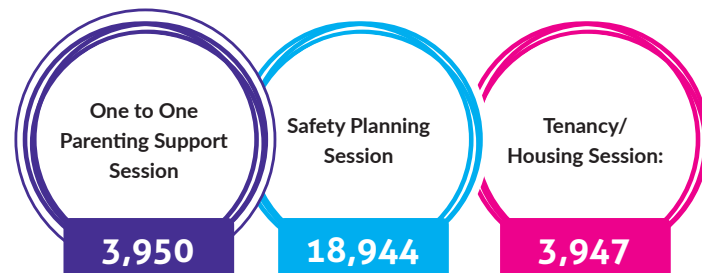
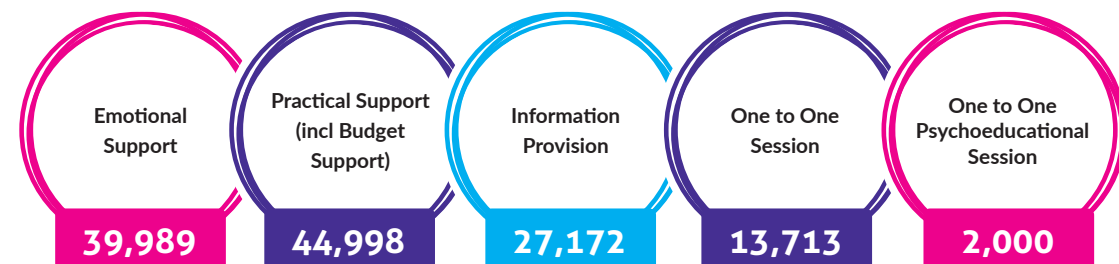


Total Interventions Women:

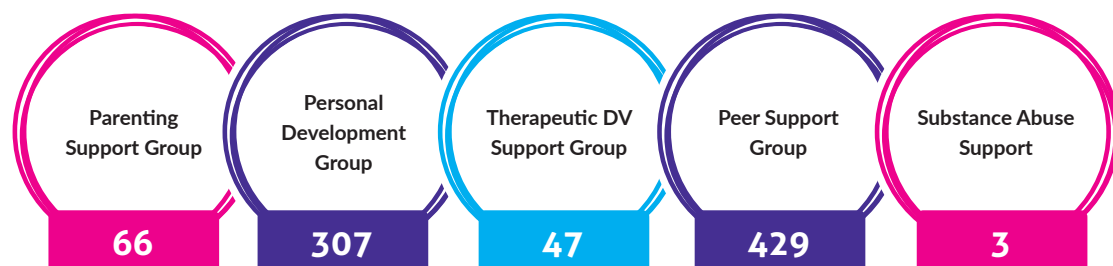
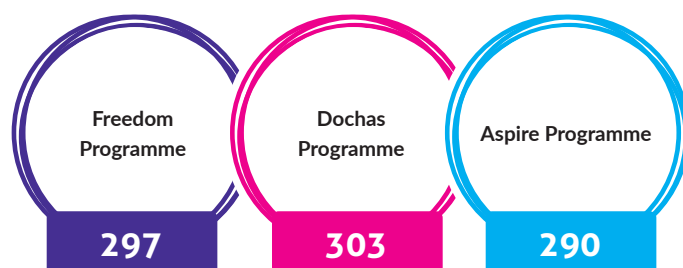
156,463 through 22,013 engagements



Including:

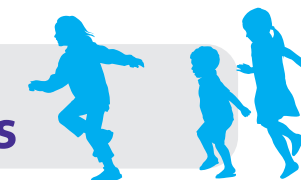


Programmes and Groups

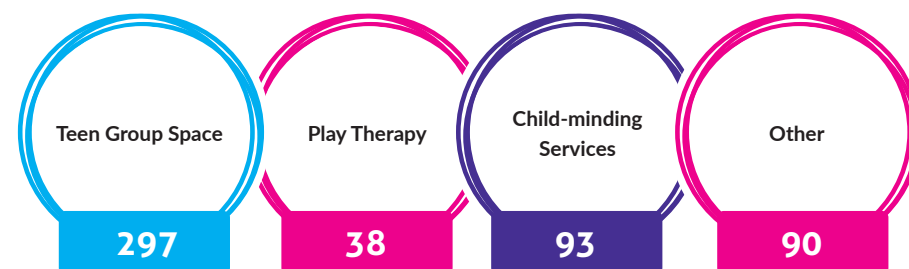
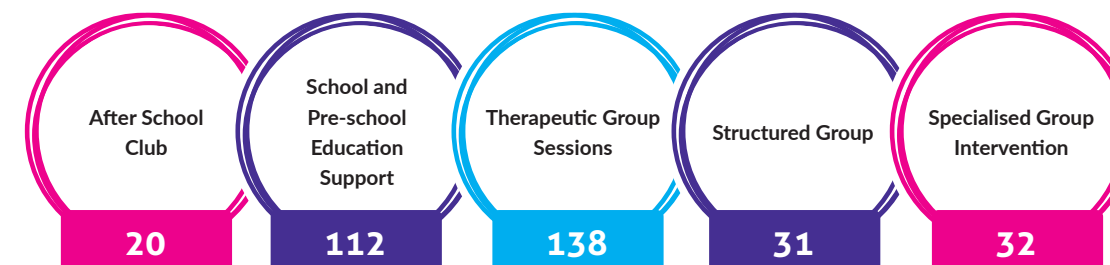
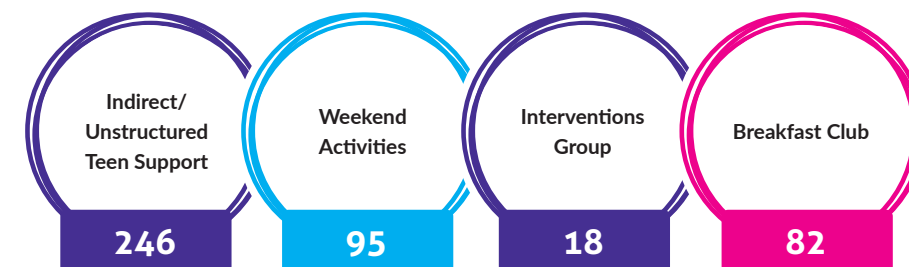
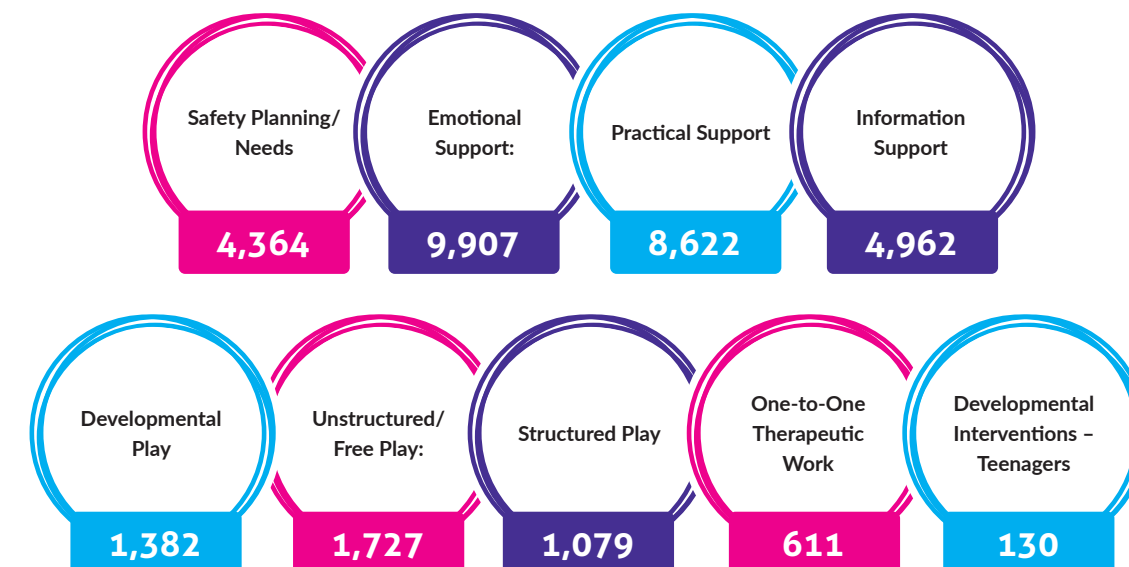


Total Interventions Children:

34,076 through 6,182 engagements



Including:



“

My time in the refuge was a time of rest, an escape from everything bad that had happened before. I received great mental and emotional support here. During these few weeks, it felt like I had a real family who took care of me and took care of everything. The staff who work here have given their hearts and great commitment. I received help, comfort and I was always listened to. Thank you for being here for these few weeks.

Client

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External Accompaniment provided to Women and Children (includes accompaniment to court, legal support, gardai, mental health services, SATU, medical services, social welfare, social work etc.):



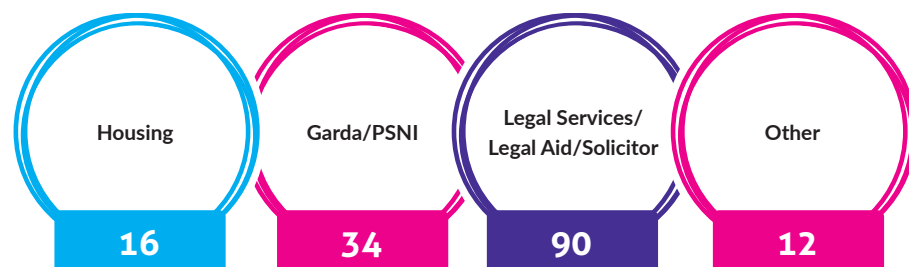
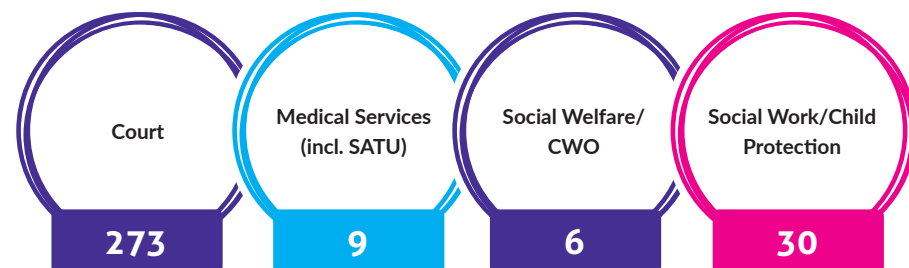
470

Referral to External Organisations on behalf of Women and Children Service Users (includes social welfare, counselling, mental health services, gardai, legal, education, immigration services, childcare services, school, CAMHS, family support, social work etc.)



1,099

Including:



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Service Delivery in 2024



Service Delivery 2024

During 2024, we provided direct and indirect support to women and children including the delivery of **156,463** (164% increase on service activity 2023) interventions through **22, 013** engagements to women and **34,076** (118% increase on service activity 2023) interventions to children through **6,182** engagements. Additionally, we responded to **5,767** helpline calls.

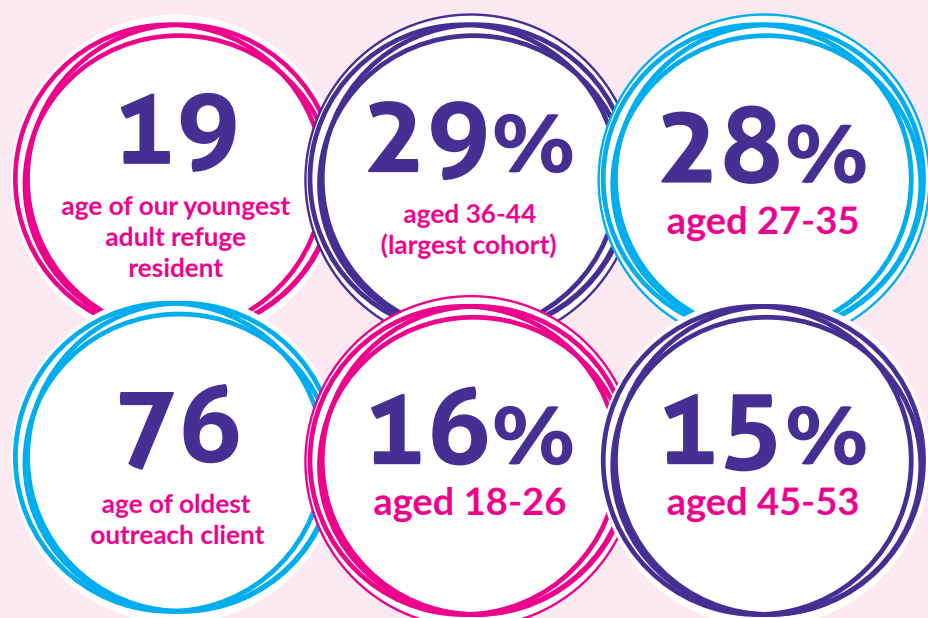
In 2023, Aoibhneas provided domestic abuse support to women and children from **42** different country of origins. The diversity we see in our client's backgrounds demonstrate the global nature of domestic abuse and its prevalence in our diverse society of today. The diversity of our client base has grown over the past number of years which has meant that as an organisation we have adapted our service to ensure we cater for the needs of women and children from all backgrounds. **60%** of our clients identified their legal status as National, we noted an increase of complex presentations with **29%** of clients who along with experiences of domestic abuse required support around their immigration status (**18%** increase on 2023).

In addition to a clients country of origin we recognise the need to consider the ethnicity and race of our client cohort, and as such **4%** of our clients identified as members of the Traveller community.

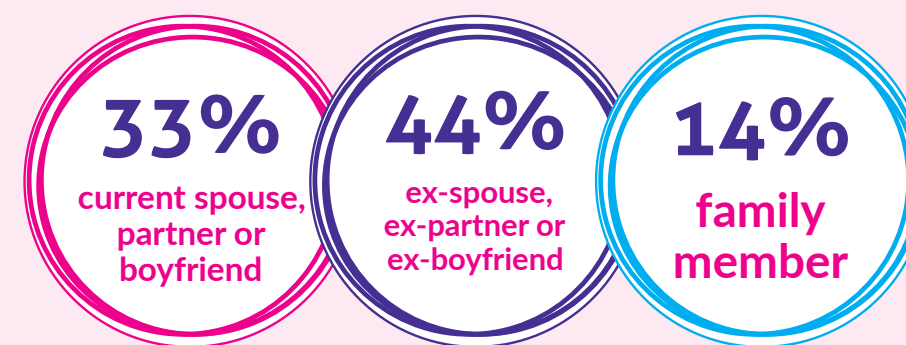
“The staff were supportive, patient and kind. The environment created was kind and loving. I was believed, supported and cared for throughout my stay.”

When it comes to age, domestic abuse does not discriminate and 2024 saw a diverse range of age categories among clients, with our youngest adult refuge resident aged **19 years** to our oldest outreach client aged **76 years**. Our largest cohort of clients presented in the age ranges **36-44 (29%)**, **27-35 (28%)**, **18-26 (16%)** and **45-53 (15%)** age category seeking support. **6%** of clients that presented to us were over **54** years of age. **33%** of women we supported identified their perpetrator as a current spouse, partner or boyfriend. **44%** of women disclosed an ex-spouse, ex-partner or ex-boyfriend; these figures suggest that intimate partner relationships represent the majority of cases whereby domestic abuse gets perpetrated. However, **14%** of clients (an increase of **1%** on 2023) disclosed that their abuser was a family member, this represents an increasing trend of adult child to parent violence and familial violence, with clients noting an increase in secondary perpetrators in the form of their perpetrators' family.

2024 saw a diverse range of age categories among clients



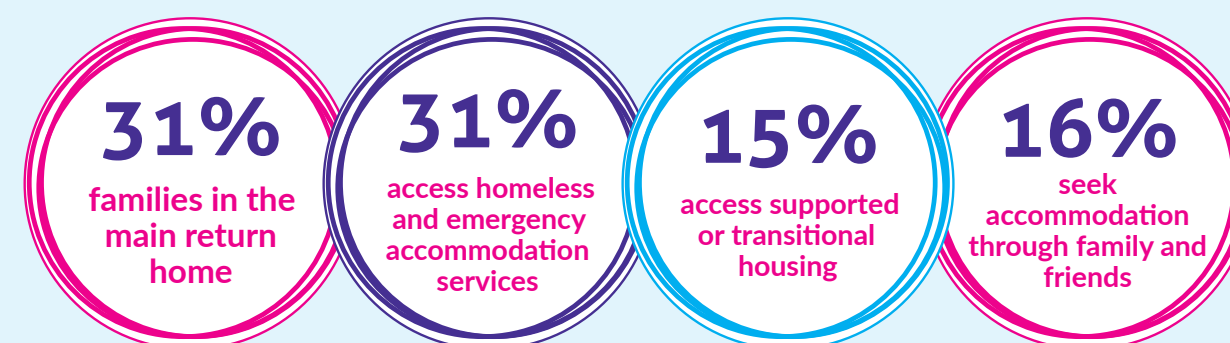
Identification of Perpetrator



Our refuge accommodation responds to the complex and crisis needs of women and families who identify fear and an inability to remain safely in their homes. Our refuge accommodation provided accommodation in the majority of cases to women and children residing in the Dublin area (Dublin City Council **43%**, Fingal County Council **23%** and South Dublin County Council **19%**, however we accommodated family's seeking refuge and fleeing counties Cork, Donegal, Louth, Meath, Westmeath, Tipperary and Wicklow. Our objective is to support all women seeking accommodation with access to safe accommodation, however due to the considerable need for our refuge service we were unable to accommodate **564** families in 2024 (**8 %** increase on 2023). Our goal is to refer to other specialist accommodation providers to ensure women and children's safety and through a bed availability App we co-manage with **7** domestic abuse providers in the Dublin Northeast region, we have been able to communicate with specialist accommodation providers in real time to resource families without delay or distress. In recent years we associate this as a feature of the housing crisis whereby more adult children or adult siblings are remaining in or returning to the family home, we have also seen increased cases of child to parent abuse when an adult child is acting also as the parents' caregiver.

Following an intake to refuge a period of assessment commences for resident women and children, during this time we complete a needs survey with every client this guides our care plan and interventions by ultimately providing clients and team a clear set of expectations and objectives. An increased length of stay for us generally facilitates a more substantial focus in areas of psychoeducational support, housing or tenancy supports and legal protection. Whatever steps a client decides to take in relation to housing, we aim to work alongside and advocate on her behalf to support her and her children. A lack of move on options post refuge saw family's in the main return home (**31%**), access homeless and emergency accommodation services (**31%**), access supported or transitional housing (**15%**) and seek accommodation through family and friends (**16%**). The lack of alternative move on options impacts a family's length of stay and our ability to accommodate families presenting in crisis, not to mention clients engaging in invisible forms of homelessness like couch surfing or moving in with family and friends in the aftermath of a stay in refuge. In 2024 the average length of refuge stay was **33 days**. The chart below shows a stay broken down by family/ unit size. At a client's initial access to our service, they report their experience of abuse, we note experiences as wide ranging, overlapping and escalating depending on the stage into the violence we first engage a client.

Move on options post refuge



Forms of abuse experienced by clients



Emotional abuse was the most common form of abuse experienced by clients (**99%**), while physical abuse followed with **83%** of clients experiencing abuse of that nature. **83%** of clients presenting to refuge detailing physical abuse with **28** women accessing refuge with physical injuries. Injuries ranged from concussion/ head trauma to broken, broke, dislocated and fractured bones, dental injuries, bruising, scratches, burns and cuts and, with reference to in some cases to the use of weapons (spoon, lead, brush, shoe, iron, hammer. In **13** of these cases clients needed immediate referral to medical support. We note the escalating form domestic abuse can take following pregnancy, in 2024 **5%** of our clients at refuge intake informed us that they were pregnant.

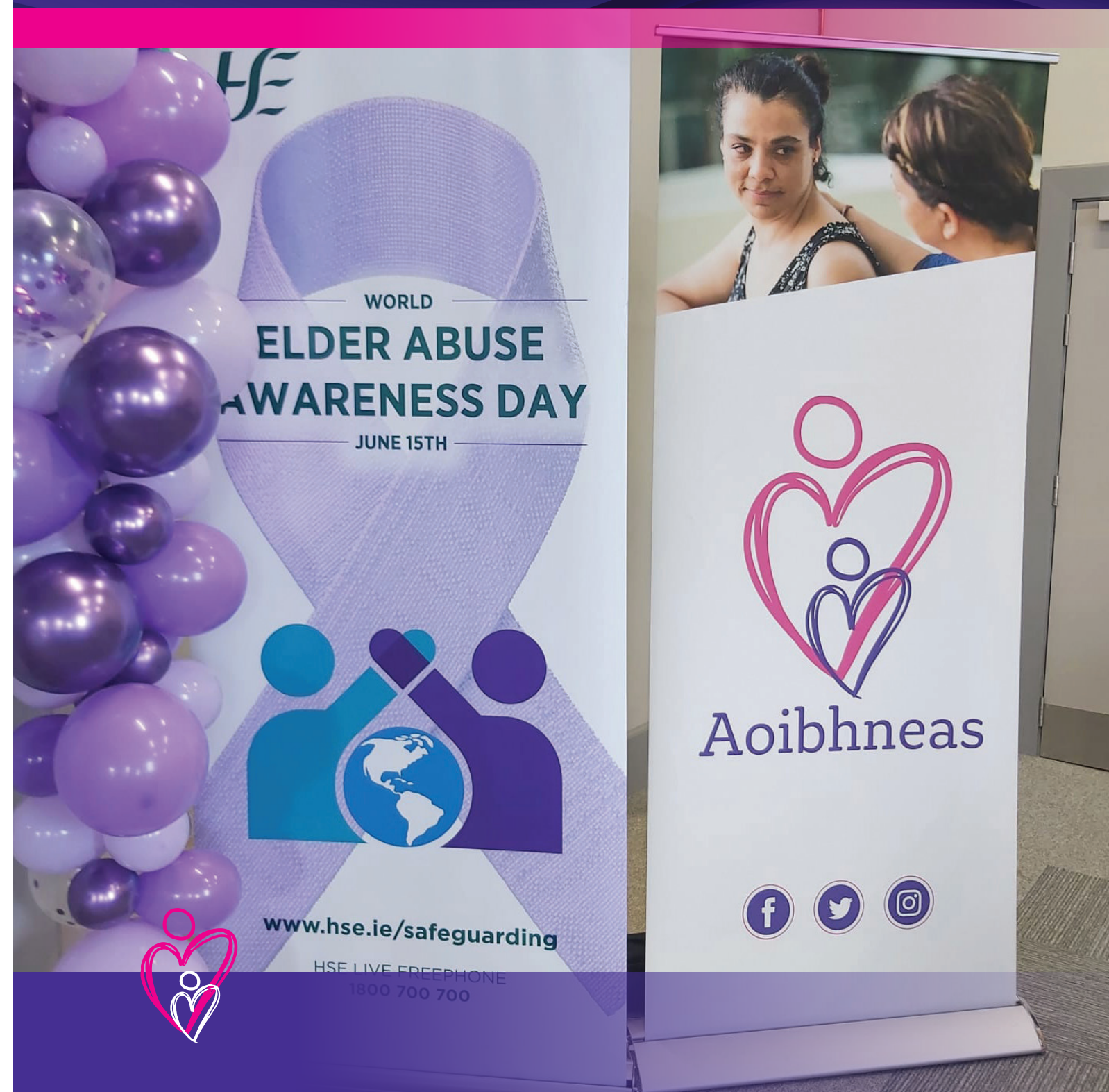
Many clients disclosed more than one type of abuse with financial abuse being another common experience (**73%**). Digital abuse is a more recent type of abuse experienced by clients (**54%**) and continues to be used by perpetrators as another form of coercive control. Clients outlined that often, when they attempted to end the relationship, they experienced heightened digital abuse which ranged from being sent negative, insulting, or even threatening emails, Facebook messages, tweets, or DMs. Clients recalled having movements and activities monitored and scrutinised using sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Clients also experienced unwanted demands made and threats of unwanted or explicit pictures shared through social media. Sexual abuse disclosures (**41%**) are typically underreported due to the fact we ask information pertaining to abuse type at a clients first engagement with our service. We note once a client builds rapport, understanding and comfort they feel more enabled to speak on the true and full extent of their situation and experience. This is indicative of how layered and complex situations not to mention patterns of coercive control and domestic abuse are.

At initial engagement with Aoibhneas, clients are asked about their involvement with external services. **34%** of clients informed us they had some form of court order in place, this included protection, safety, barring, maintenance and access orders. **49%** of clients informed us that prior to accessing our service they had sought Garda assistance regarding their experience of domestic abuse. **35%** of clients informed us of past or ongoing involvement with Tusla, Child and Family Agency. A further **39%** of clients described child protection or child welfare concerns for their children. This indicates that multidisciplinary services often share insight into the family's individual experience of domestic abuse before we commence engagement with that family. It indicates a long and protracted process that women and their children face concerning 'the leaving' and how leaving or ending an abusive relationship does not signal the end of abuse.

In 2024 we provided direct or indirect support to **451** children across refuge and community. Our child refuge population diverges quite considerably week to week, so we promote interventions that facilitate and adapt to the ages and needs of children living in refuge. While we can't predict the age profile of children or young people that access refuge with their mothers in crisis, we consistently see higher presentations under **4 years of age (36%)** and between the ages of **5-9 years (29%)** with children aged **10 to 14 years** representing **19%** of our dependent refuge population. We support individual children and families with access to a range of family-based interventions including art and play therapy, baking, family play sessions in our playroom and outdoor play areas, homework and breakfast clubs, parent/ child mindfulness relaxation classes, creative play, therapeutic stories, resilience building, free play, and sensory play. In our community and outreach services we see similar trends of engagement with **0 to 12 years** representing our biggest cohort (**67%**).

7

Organisational Achievements in 2023



Organisational Achievements in 2024

In 2024, Aoibhneas continued to make transformative progress in our mission to lead the response to domestic abuse through innovative, trauma-informed, and survivor-centred services. Guided by our strategic priorities, we strengthened service delivery, expanded our infrastructure, and deepened our engagement with survivors and community partners.

1. Refuge Expansion and Infrastructure Development

A major milestone was reached in the development of our new 13-unit refuge centre. In partnership with Fingal County Council, we advanced the project through Stage 2 Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF).

A Project Manager was onboarded to lead coordination with the Integrated Design Team, setting the foundation for future expansion of capacity for women and children in crisis.

Additionally, planning permission was secured to upgrade our current refuge's children and youth spaces, with the project expanding to include reception and courtyard enhancements. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2025.

2. Strategic Team Growth

Despite national recruitment challenges, we successfully appointed key staff, including a Financial Controller, Community and Outreach Team Leader, and Development Facilitator.

These hires supported the redistribution of operational functions from the CEO to the senior leadership team, enhancing the organisation's strategic capacity and operational efficiency.

“

I am very grateful for everything you have done for us. Thank you everybody, the excellent team; all of you were always very kind and helpful. You gave us hope to start a new life again, you gave us a chance to believe in us again. (Client)

”

3. Enhanced Services for Children and Young People

Aoibhneas delivered over **34,000** interventions for children and young people through play therapy, developmental programmes, therapeutic sessions, and family support services.

Dedicated interventions included emotional support, structured and unstructured play, teen group activities, and specialised therapeutic group sessions.

4. Innovation in Programmes and Therapies

Following a comprehensive review of our therapeutic approaches, we aligned all interventions with the Empowerment Model and Trauma-Informed Practice.

New therapeutic offerings included creative arts programmes, Yin Yong Yoga, and expanded psychoeducational groups such as Freedom, Family & Friends, and Personal Development programmes.

In total, over **156,000** interventions were delivered to women across emotional support, information provision, safety planning, parenting support, and recovery-based programming.

5. Survivor Voice and Leadership

The ASPIRE programme, launched in 2023, matured into a fully integrated survivor-led initiative. In 2024, the first cohort of mentors facilitated peer-led support groups and community outreach.

Focus groups were conducted to evaluate services, and new user feedback tools were developed, with a full rollout planned in 2025 to improve service evaluation and accountability.

6. Strengthening Data Systems and IT Infrastructure

A full IT migration was completed, significantly improving the security, efficiency, and reliability of our internal systems.

Staff were trained in advanced use of Esafe, our case management system, in preparation for the 2025 launch of enhanced reporting capabilities to improve data quality and reduce administrative burden.

7. Sector Collaboration and Advocacy

Aoibhneas actively engaged in **152** professional networking events and **35** awareness-raising activities, strengthening interagency responses and advocating for systemic improvements.

We continued close collaboration with Gardaí, Child Protection, and Addiction Services to improve referral pathways and crisis responses for survivors.

8. Service Reach and Impact

In 2024, Aoibhneas directly supported 914 women and children across refuge, outreach, and community services:

- **220** women and children were accommodated through refuge and Airbnb placements.
- **694** individuals received face-to-face outreach and community-based support.
- **5,767** helpline calls were answered, serving as a lifeline to those in immediate need.
- **470** instances of accompaniment were provided to court, Gardaí, legal, medical, and social welfare appointments.
- Referrals were made to **1,099** external services including legal aid, housing, education, and mental health supports.

Conclusion

2024 was a year of growth, reflection, and resilience. We invested in our infrastructure, deepened our therapeutic practice, and continued to centre survivors in everything we do. These achievements reflect Aoibhneas' unwavering commitment to building a society where women and children are safe, empowered, and supported in their journey from crisis to freedom.

“

I just wanted to write to you to commend Hannah on her wonderful recent Aspire programme. She is a very calm and organised facilitator and presenter, and I am happy to have gotten to know her during this time. As both an attendee and a presenter, I learned so much. I have described it as an experience, difficult to express in words alone. I feel that the life skills would benefit people, including young adults, from all walks of life.

Aspire Graduate, 2024

”



Go Purple Day 2024



Case Study: Clarabelle's Journey

Empowerment in Action

At Aoibhneas, we believe that meaningful engagement through the empowerment model can transform lives. Clarabelle's story demonstrates the strength and resilience that emerge when individuals are supported to reclaim their autonomy and safety.

In March 2023, Clarabelle was referred to our service by a partner agency following a distressing helpline call seeking crisis accommodation. Clarabelle arrived at our refuge having experienced a prolonged period of abuse from her ex-partner, which led to her two children being taken into care. Due to the severity of violence and the ongoing risk presented not only by her ex-partner but also by his extended family, Clarabelle was assessed as being at high risk of lethality.

From the outset, Clarabelle engaged with our team, initially through multiple stays in our refuge accommodation. During this time, she was introduced to our Community and Outreach services, ensuring that support was available beyond the immediate crisis phase.

Over the following two years, Clarabelle remained in consistent contact with her allocated Outreach worker, receiving intensive, tailored support to meet her high safety needs. Despite her determined efforts, Clarabelle's journey was marked by ongoing harassment, threats, and physical violence from her ex-partner and his family.

One particularly severe incident

required Clarabelle to seek emergency medical treatment and return to refuge accommodation when threats were made against her extended family, leaving her with no safe place to stay. When her whereabouts in refuge were compromised, our team worked swiftly to secure alternative safe accommodation.

Throughout this turbulent period, Clarabelle was forced to relocate multiple times to protect her safety, which sadly disrupted her ability to visit or communicate with her children. Despite the constant upheaval and danger, Clarabelle remained steadfast in her commitment to building a life free from violence.

Through her resilience and with the comprehensive support of Aoibhneas, including assistance navigating the legal system, safety planning, and emotional support, Clarabelle achieved significant milestones. She maintained her employment, demonstrating remarkable strength amidst adversity, and ultimately, was reunited with her children.

Clarabelle has since secured long-term accommodation and continues her journey towards recovery, stability, and freedom. Her story reflects not only personal courage but also the impact of empowering survivors to take control of their lives with the right support.

Clarabelle's case highlights the successes achievable when services prioritise empowerment, safety, and client-led engagement, principles at the heart of Aoibhneas' mission.



8

Structure, Governance and Management



Structure, Governance and Management

Aoibhneas is constituted as a company limited by guarantee as set out under parts 1 - 15 of the Companies Act 2014. Its purpose and objects and how it conducts its business are set out in its Constitution. This document is publicly available from the Companies Registration Office website (www.cro.ie).

Aoibhneas adopted the Governance Code for Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in 2018. Aoibhneas is Charity Regulator Governance Code compliant, details pertaining to company status are updated on the Charity Regulator Website (www.charitiesregulator.ie)

Aoibhneas is an Approved Housing Body, and Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority (AHBRA) compliant details pertaining to company status are updated on AHBRA website (<https://www.ahbregulator.ie/>)

Board members do not receive remuneration in respect to their services to the charity. There have been no contacts or arrangements entered into during the financial year in which a Board member was materially interested or which were significant in relation to the charity's activities.

All Board members are independent. The directors do not hold any beneficial interest in the company.

Board Committees

The Board has decided to operate the following sub-committees of the Board:

Finance and Audit Subcommittee

The Finance and Audit Subcommittee monitors and reviews the financial performance and governance of the company. It provides an independent review of the annual budgets, forecasts, monthly management and annual financial statements and reports on the effectiveness of and compliance with Aoibhneas' internal financial systems. The Subcommittee makes recommendations to the Board as relevant.

Strategic Subcommittee

The Strategic Subcommittee sets the organisations strategic objectives over the medium and long term. The Subcommittee is responsible for developing the organisations Strategic Plan and for setting realistic key performance indicators to evaluate performance of both the Board, and management team in line with the plan. The Subcommittee is also responsible for evaluating and assessing growth opportunities for the organisation and to report said opportunities back to the Board.

Risk Management Subcommittee

The Risk Management Subcommittee monitors risk within the organisation by promoting that the management of risk is the concern of everyone, management of risk is part of normal day to day business, and the process for managing risk is logical and systematic and should be implemented on a routine basis and integrated with service delivery. The Risk Management Subcommittee ensures Risk Management is an integral and ongoing part of a management process, is as simple and straightforward as possible and that structures and responsibilities are clearly defined. As part of the Risk Management Committee structure, staff representatives attend sub committee meetings under Health and Safety to report on health and safety issues, enabling the review and consideration of all health and safety matters in the context of risk management.

Staffing Subcommittee

The Staffing Subcommittee assists the Board in ensuring that all pertinent human resources and staffing issues are reviewed, monitored and highlighted to the Board as necessary. It ensures that best practice recruitment and selection processes are in place and utilised in full and that future hiring requirements are identified and planned as efficiently and effectively as possible. The Subcommittee also supports the CEO in the resolution of human resources and staffing issues where input is requested by the CEO.

Directors and Secretary

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

Nicola Fowler
Ciara Savage
Bláthnaid Evans
Fiona Little
Aimee Millar
Aoibheann Treacy (Resigned 19 November 2024)
Selene Alford
Biola Wyrwas

A summary of director meeting attendance during the year is as follows:

Directors	AGM	Board Meeting	Finance and Audit	Strategic	Risk Management	Staffing
Aoibheann Treacy	Yes	6/6	5/5	4/5		
Ciara Savage	Yes	6/7			5/5	
Fiona Little	Yes	5/7	1/1	6/6		
Bláthnaid Evans	Yes	5/6				4/4
Nicola Fowler	Yes	6/7	6/6			
Aimee Millar	Yes	6/7		6/6		
Biola Wyrwas	Yes	5/7		3/6		
Selene Alford	Yes	5/7			2/3	

Reference and Administrative Details

The Board discharge the day-to-day organisation and running the company to CEO Emma Reidy, her management team, frontline support staff and administrative staff. The company use the professional services of their auditor and solicitors as and when required. Any other professional services used by the company are used for purposes of them fulfilling the objectives of running the company.

“

Thank you for all your help and support. I am grateful to receive all this kindness during this difficult time. You are doing an amazing job. Blessing helped me with settling in. Thank you for your advice and support.

”

Client

Staff Team

Our staff team provide a multidisciplinary range of practical, emotional and therapeutic supports for women and children.

Our team includes Keyworkers, Social Care Workers, Outreach Workers, Court Preparation and Accompaniment Workers, Weekend Support Workers, Night Support Workers, Activity Worker, Administrators, Housekeeping and Maintenance personnel.

Representation and Membership in 2024

We continued our representation roles at:

- Children and Young People’s Services Committee
- Child Family Support Networks (Dublin North City and Dublin North)
- Prevention, Partnership and Family Support
- Irish Observatory on Violence against Women and Girls
- Northside Community Forum Court Service Users Network
- Victims of Crime Forum
- DACT Teams in relevant areas
- E-Safe Community of Practice

- Our Balbriggan
 - Sectorial Dialogue (Community in Action Conflict Mediators)
 - Regional Domestic Violence Accommodation Forum
 - Trauma Informed Care Network
 - Brook Recovery Hub
- We continued our membership roles at:
- The National Women’s Council of Ireland
 - SAFE Ireland
 - The Wheel
 - Irish Council for Social Housing
 - Northside Partnership
 - Children’s Rights Alliance

“

Everyone was so lovely, and I loved my stay here. Antonia, Robyn, Dami, Emma, everyone was very kind and understanding to me. I loved staying here and although I was in a vulnerable position I was never made to feel threatened or unsafe. Staying here has made me feel the safest I have ever felt. I felt unconditional love and security here, every day I became a much stronger person. I will forever remember the people and staff I have met, though we may have different life paths, we found comfort together. I am forever thankful for your help to all staff and outreach.

”

Client

“

I really loved my stay here. I have received so much love and help that was not transactional at all.

”

Client

“

Staff I have dealt with were very supportive, polite, kind and helpful.

”

Client



Our Strategic Priorities 2023-2027

Aoibhneas' goal is to be a leader in the provision of domestic abuse services. Our overall strategic priority for 2023-2027 is to ensure quality services for women and children with a strong emphasis on safety, empowerment, and advocacy.

Our strategic priorities for the period will be aligned with the Third National Strategy as follows:

1

Protection

Strategic Objective: To enhance our service offering to ensure women and children are protected.

Critical Success Factors

We often have to turn women away from our refuge because it is full. Expanding refuge places and developing our children's centre will be a critical aspect of the delivery of this strategic plan. Access to safe accommodation is an on- going challenge and relationships with housing providers as well as the development of our own step-down options will be important. Our networks and collaboration with other service providers will be critical to this success

Desired Outcome

Women and children have access to immediate safety when needed and to move-on accommodation options if required. Women and children have access to integrated pathways of care that support them on their journey to healing and that empower them to be agents of change in their lives.

2

Prevention

Strategic Objective: To use our skills and knowledge to support efforts to prevent the occurrence of domestic abuse and to intervene at the earliest opportunity.

Critical Success Factors

Harnessing our knowledge and good programme design to develop training programmes, continuing our community- based approach, and working with partners and the Department of Justice will be critical success factors. Our training provision will be targeted and will move primarily to a train the trainer model. We will use our web site, social media platforms ,outreach and community services to raise awareness in the community. We will use our therapies to support children who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse.

Desired Outcome

We are recognised as a thought leader and key voice in the sector. Our work contributes to greater awareness, understanding and skills to recognise and prevent domestic abuse and enable women and children at risk to have access to early interventions.

3

Prosecution

Strategic Objective: To provide supports that enable positive legal experiences for women and children.

Critical Success Factors

While Aoibhneas does not have a direct role in prosecution, the supports we provide to women enable them to enhance their safety (e.g. barring orders) and empowers them to make decisions about legal actions they might pursue. Access to relevant and up to date legal information and advice and knowledge of the court system are critical to supporting women who are taking legal action to protect themselves and their children or who may have legal action initiated against them. In addition, Aoibhneas can play a role in educating legal professionals and court officials on the impact domestic abuse has on its victims.

Desired Outcome

Women have the knowledge to make informed decisions about their options and are supported through the court system if necessary.

4

Policy & Coordination

Strategic Objective : To maintain a high profile for domestic abuse and Aoibhneas amongst key policymakers and relevant stakeholders contribute to the development of relevant policy and a strong sector capable of responding to the needs of victims of domestic abuse.

Critical Success

Factors fundamental to success will be keeping domestic abuse on the agenda for key policymakers and relevant stakeholders, collaborating with others and using our own experience and knowledge to highlight the issue of domestic abuse and to demonstrate how it can be addressed.

Desired Outcome

Domestic abuse remains a high national priority and Aoibhneas is recognised as the 'go to' organisation for practical advice on service excellence.

5

Organisational Capacity

Strategic Objective: To ensure continued operational excellence and enhanced organisational sustainability.

Critical Success Factors

We will continue to work to a high standard in our service provision and to develop our model of support for women and children. Sufficient funding to enable this is fundamental. We have invested significantly in our Board composition and skills to reflect the ambition of the organisation and will continue to do this. Sustainability will pivot around finances and fundraising, human resources and where we can play our part re climate change mitigation. We strive to create an environment where positivity, diversity, innovation, flexibility, and responsiveness flourish, for both our staff and our service users. Physical infrastructure also needs to be to a high standard.

Desired Outcomes

To have adequate resources (physical, human and financial) to meet the needs of our service users and access adequate statutory funding to meet these needs.



9

Financial Statements



AOIBHNEAS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 €	Restricted Funds 2024 €	Total 2024 €	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €	Restricted Funds 2023 €	Total 2023 €
Donations and legacies	99,636	-	99,636	81,775	-	81,775
Charitable activities						
- Grants from governments and other co-funders	-	1,830,361	1,830,361	-	1,505,285	1,505,285
Other income	10,992	1,000	11,992	10,976	1,000	11,976
Total income	110,628	1,831,361	1,941,989	92,751	1,506,285	1,599,036
Expenditure						
Charitable activities	17,443	1,819,947	1,837,390	59,085	1,599,014	1,658,099
Net income/ (expenditure)	93,185	11,414	104,599	33,666	(92,729)	(59,063)
Transfers between funds	1,000	(1,000)	-	(92,729)	92,729	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year	94,185	10,414	104,599	(59,063)	-	(59,063)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds beginning of the year	1,127,090	-	1,127,090	1,186,153	-	1,186,153
Total funds at the end of the year	1,221,275	10,414	1,231,689	1,127,090	-	1,127,090

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year.

All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 1 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Nicola Fowler
Director

Bláthnaid Evans
Director

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	416,116	214,828
Current Assets		
Debtors	13,681	14,957
Cash at bank and in hand	1,449,318	1,172,293
	1,462,999	1,187,250
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(393,529)	(228,988)
Net Current Assets	1,069,470	958,262
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	1,485,586	1,173,090
	(253,897)	(46,000)
Grants receivable	1,231,689	1,127,090
Total Net Assets		
Funds	10,414	-
Designated funds (Unrestricted)	607,680	607,680
General fund (unrestricted)	613,595	519,410
Total funds	1,231,689	1,127,090

Approved by the Board of Directors on 1st April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Bláthnaid Evans
Director

Nickie Fowler
Director

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movement in funds	104,599	(59,063)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	22,951	42,464
Interest receivable and similar income	(1,280)	(266)
Amortisation of capital grants received	(1,000)	(1,000)
	125,270	(17,865)
Movements in working capital:		
Movement in debtors	1,276	1,817
Movement in creditors	164,541	110,547
Cash generated from operations	291,087	94,499
Cash flows from investing activities	1,280	266
Payments to acquire tangible assets	(224,239)	(22,320)
	(222,959)	(22,054)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	208,897	-
Payments to acquire tangible assets		
Net cash (used in)/generated from investment activities		
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	277,025	72,445
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,172,293	1,099,848
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,449,318	1,172,293

Note

The Board of Aoibhneas has set a reserves policy which requires reserves to be maintained at a level which ensures Aoibhneas’ core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form.

This takes into account:

- To fund working capital;
- To fund unexpected expenditure, for example when projects overrun, or unplanned events occur;
- To fund shortfalls in income, when income does not reach expected levels.
- To accumulate funds for a major project or event such as a new building, or to hold a major event held once every, say, three years.

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation’s planning, budget and forecast cycle. To view reserves is to see funds that will cover working capital requirements e.g. to cover any time lag between spending and when grants come in, and/or to “buy some time” in the event of reduced income or changes in circumstances.

In planning its budget each year, Aoibhneas review the timing of the likely cash flows in and out as well as the levels of income and expenditure. In the event there is a possibility that funding from a particular source will be cut, Aoibhneas will need reserves to fund committed expenditure whilst they source alternative funding.

The company determined that based on the above analysis, the minimum sum of reserves that the organisation should carry on an ongoing basis as designated unrestricted reserves was €480,000.

A breakdown of which includes:

- €380,000 projected organisational expenditure over a 3-month period
- €100,000 sinking fund to cover working capital requirements and to assist refurbishment and upgrade of key services such as, roofs, fire alarm systems, boilers, carpets.

The company also holds a designated funding reserve of €350,000 for the development of a dedicated space to support children affected by domestic abuse.

Restricted reserves forward are accumulated reserves from the current funder Tulsa, previous funder Dublin City Council and certain other specific grants awarded. Unrestricted reserves forward are reserves accumulated from previous funders since the incorporation of the company up until now along with income streams that are not restricted.

Extract from Independent Auditor’s Report to the Members of Aoibhneas CLG Year ended 31 December 2024

Report on the audit of the financial statements

We have audited the company financial statements of Aoibhneas Company Limited by Guarantee (‘the Charity’) for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the 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 2024 and of its surplus 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 further 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 the Provisions Available for Audits of

Small Entities, in the circumstances set out in note 3 to the financial statements, 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.

Note

A full copy of Aoibhneas CLG Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024 can be obtained through the Companies Registration Office (www.cro.ie) and the Charities Regulator (www.charitiesregulator.ie)

10

Acknowledgements



Funders, Supporters and Collaborators

Aoibhneas extends its deepest gratitude to all those who made our work possible in 2024. Your support has been vital in enabling us to provide life-saving and life-changing services to women and children affected by domestic abuse.

Government and Statutory Support

We acknowledge with sincere appreciation the support of our former funder, Tusla – Child and Family Agency, and our new funder, Cuan, the Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) Agency under the Department of Justice. As a committed partner in delivering the Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, we remain focused on strengthening our services in line with national goals and survivor-led best practices.

Donors and Grant Funders

We are profoundly thankful for the generosity of individual donors, corporate sponsors, and philanthropic partners whose contributions have made a direct impact on the lives of the women and children we serve. A special acknowledgment goes to PIMCO, whose grant funding supported the design, development, and delivery of the ASPIRE Programme, an innovative, survivor-led initiative that promotes women's journey from recovery to long-term empowerment and freedom.

Pro Bono and In-Kind Support

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Reddy Architecture + Urbanism for their generous pro bono contributions in 2024. Their expertise and support have been instrumental in the refurbishment of our children and youth playrooms and the design of our new children's centre, ensuring that our youngest service users are welcomed into a safe, engaging, and therapeutic environment.

Collaborators and Community Partners

Aoibhneas is proud to work in close collaboration with a wide range of statutory bodies, housing providers, domestic abuse services, and community and voluntary organisations. Together, we form a vital network of care that enhances referrals, strengthens crisis response, and supports women and children through every stage of recovery and healing.

Our People

To our Board of Directors, thank you for your vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to our mission. Your strategic guidance continues to shape a resilient and forward-looking organisation.

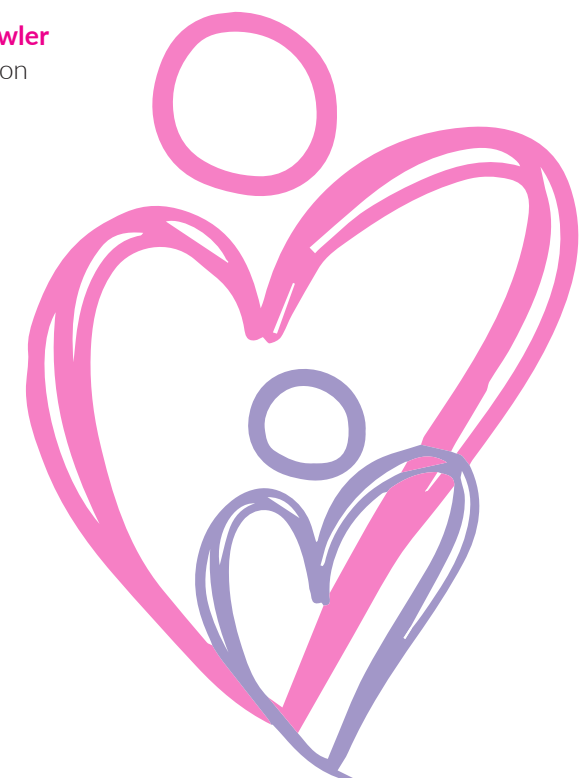
To our staff, whose professionalism, compassion, and relentless dedication underpin everything we do—thank you. Your work makes a profound difference every day.

To our volunteers, who give so freely of their time and energy, your selflessness and spirit of service inspire us and embody the values we hold dear.

With your continued support, Aoibhneas will carry forward its mission to ensure a future where every woman and child can live in safety, with dignity, and free from violence.

Thank you,

Nickie Fowler
Chairperson





CUAN

An Ghníomhaireacht um Fhoréigean Baile,
Gnéasach agus Inscnebhunaithe
The Domestic, Sexual and
Gender-Based Violence Agency



Aoibhneas
Domestic Abuse Support
for Women and Children
Safety. Recovery. Freedom.