

Aoibhneas^{CLG}

Annual Report 2025



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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Message from the Chair





Message from the Chair

As Chair of Aoibhneas, I am proud to reflect on a year marked by resilience, growth, and continued commitment to supporting women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

In 2025, we saw a sustained increase in demand for our services, alongside growing complexity in the needs of those we support. Despite these challenges, Aoibhneas remained steadfast in ensuring that our services were responsive, accessible, and centred on the safety and wellbeing of survivors.

This year also demonstrated the strength of our organisation, our staff, management, and partners who showed exceptional dedication, particularly during periods of operational disruption due to essential upgrades to our facilities. Their ability to maintain continuity of care under challenging circumstances reflects the values that define Aoibhneas.

We also made important progress in strengthening our strategic direction, enhancing governance structures, and investing in innovation, particularly in our work with children and young people. Ensuring that survivor voice remains at the heart of everything we do continues to guide our approach.



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Board, CEO, staff, volunteers, and partners for their ongoing commitment, as well as to our funders and supporters whose contributions make this work possible.

Together, we remain focused on our vision of a society where every woman and child can live free from violence, with dignity, safety, and opportunity.

Nickie Fowler, Chairperson
Aoibhneas CLG

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In 2025, we saw a sustained increase in demand for our services, alongside growing complexity in the needs of those we support.

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CEO / Director's Report





CEO / Director's Report

2025 was a year of both challenge and achievement for Aoibhneas, reflecting increasing demand for domestic abuse services and the evolving complexity of client needs.

We saw sustained growth across all areas of service delivery. Over the course of the year, 163,886 interventions were delivered to women and 66,038 interventions to children, alongside 11,792 helpline calls responded to. These figures represent not only an increase in demand, but also the level of sustained, often intensive support required by those experiencing domestic abuse. They underscore both the scale of need within our communities and the critical role Aoibhneas plays in providing safety, support, and pathways to recovery.

A key feature of the year was an upgrade of our Children and Youth services. While this required significant operational adjustments over a six-month period, our teams demonstrated exceptional professionalism, flexibility, and commitment to ensuring continuity of care. Alongside these changes, essential electrical upgrades were completed at the end of 2025 to enhance safety and support the ongoing delivery of high-quality services. These developments represent a meaningful investment in the quality, safety, and therapeutic environment we can offer to children, young people, and families residing in our refuge centre.

The launch of our Children and Youth Centre was marked by the support of Dublin Lord Mayor Ray McAdam and Minister for Justice, Migration and Home Affairs, Jim O'Callaghan TD, underscoring the importance of continued investment in services for women and children affected by domestic abuse.

We also placed a strong emphasis on engagement and innovation. Through extensive consultation with young people, adult survivors, and frontline professionals, we deepened our understanding of lived experience and used this insight to inform service development. This work has already shaped new initiatives, including youth-led resources and the development of our Photovoice project, *In Her Words: Voices Uncensored*, which was launched in 2026.

At the same time, the year brought continued focus to systemic challenges, particularly in relation to housing, access to refuge, and the complexity of multi-agency responses. Too many women and children continue to face barriers in securing safe and sustainable accommodation, impacting both their immediate safety and long-term recovery.



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Importantly, 2025 also presented opportunities to influence systemic improvements and drive national change. Aoibhneas, with the support of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC), brought forward a motion through the National Women's Council on Enhancing Access to Trauma-Informed Healthcare for Victims and Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence. This motion was accepted by the membership and has supported the commencement of collaborative work with partners such as the HSE.

We also welcomed opportunities through the National Women's Council to support all-island engagement with our Northern Ireland counterparts, and valued inclusion in discussions and panels addressing key issues such as housing, homelessness, and access to legal supports.

Despite these challenges, Aoibhneas continues to respond with a trauma-informed, survivor-centred approach, ensuring that the voices and experiences of those we support remain central to our work.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our staff team for their unwavering commitment, professionalism, and compassion throughout the year. I also extend my sincere thanks to our Board, partners, and funders for their continued support and shared commitment to our mission.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on strengthening our services, advancing innovation, and advocating for systemic change, working collaboratively to ensure that every woman and child can live free from violence, with safety, dignity, and opportunity.

Emma Reidy, Chief Executive Officer
Aoibhneas CLG

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About Us





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.



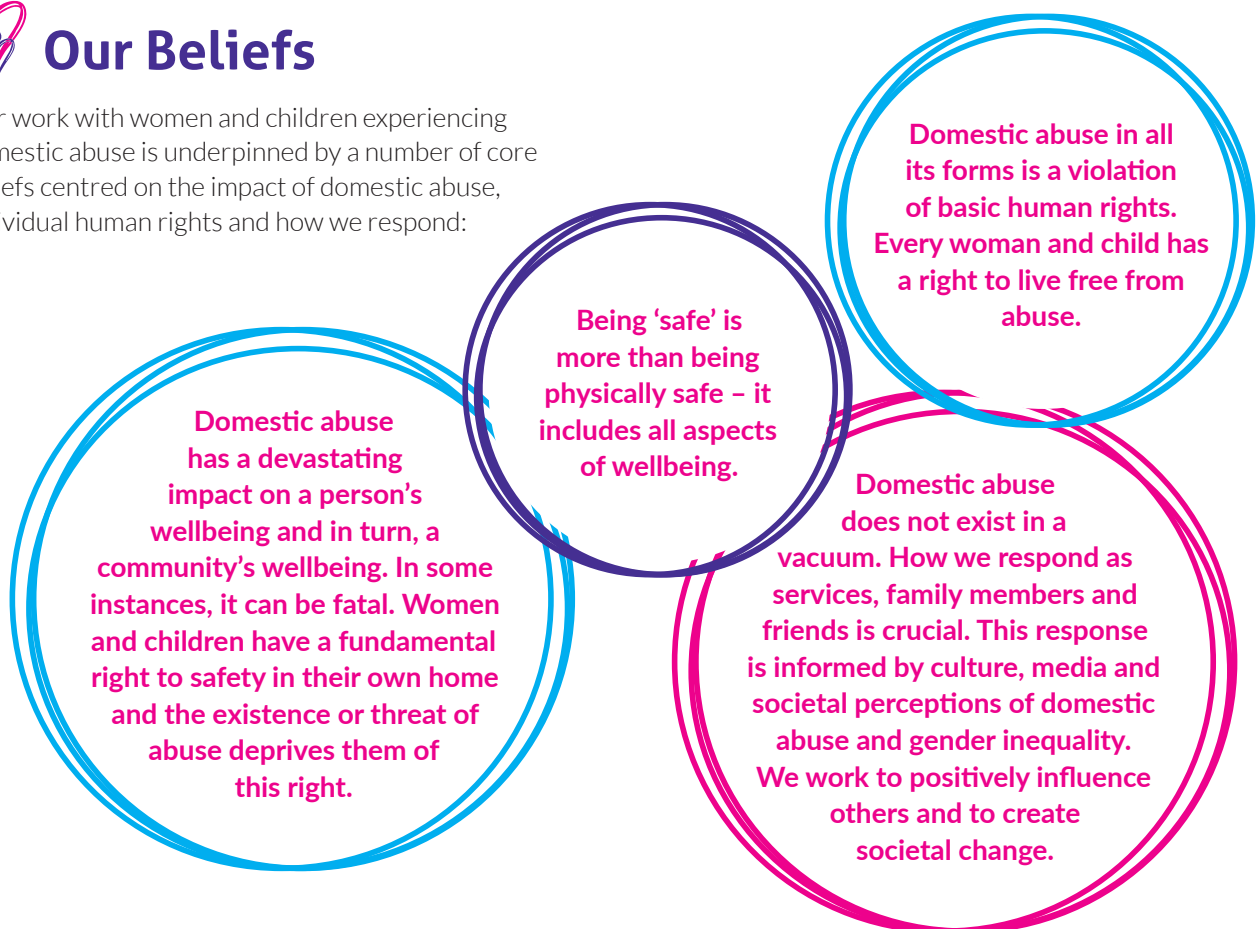
Vision

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 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:



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To the people who show up every day with care, patience, and strength, thank you. Thank you for standing alongside families in their toughest moments, for listening without judgement, and for helping people feel safer, believed, and supported. Your work is hard, emotional, and often unseen, but it matters more than you know.

Client Testimonial

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Service Activity in 2025





Our Impact - Service Activity in 2025

1,118



women and children supported

265



women and children were accommodated in refuge

Total Interventions Women:

163,886



Non-Therapeutic Supports

99,693

Safety Plans

20,943

1 to 1 Supports / Keyworking

18,251

Case Management

11,486

Parenting Support

9,910

Support / Group Work

1,631

Counselling / Therapeutic

989

Outreach Supports

983

4,435

Referrals & Advocacy

11,792

Helpline Calls

368

People Trained

External Accompaniment - 330 Total

200

Court

18

Garda/PSNI

107

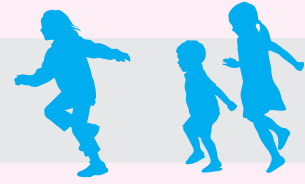
Legal Services

5

Other

Children Interventions:

66,029



Non-
Therapeutic
Supports

26,658

Parenting
Support

13,273

Safety
Planning

8,884

Case
Management

6,060

1 to 1 Supports /
Keyworking

6,050

Counselling /
Therapeutic

1,909

Childcare /
Early Education

1,053

Support / Group
Work

1,017

Youth / Peer
Programmes

471

Outreach
Supports

55

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It's the most practical and useful course I've ever taken in my 40 years. I learned how to set and maintain healthy boundaries, to approach problems from new angles, and to find solutions instead of feeling stuck. The lessons on healthy and unhealthy relationships and emotion regulation were truly eye-opening.

Aspire Graduate, 2025

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“

You carry calm into chaos, kindness into fear, and hope into places where it's been missing. You keep going on the tough days, you hold space for others even when it's heavy, and you help make new beginnings possible through compassion, consistency, and real grit.

Client, 2025

”

Services & Programmes





Our Services

At Aoibhneas, we offer free, confidential support and practical assistance for individual women and children affected by domestic abuse. Our goal is to empower you to feel safe, informed and supported every step of your journey.



What we can help with

- Practical and emotional support around experiences of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, digital abuse, and coercive control.
- Advice and assistance on legal, housing, social welfare, rights and entitlements, budgeting.
- Information, advocacy, and referral to appropriate services.
- Referral to refuge accommodation.
- Post refuge support.
- Court preparation and accompaniment.



How we support you

- One to one and group interventions.
- Options including helpline support, refuge, and outreach.
- Programmes including Freedom and Aspire.
- Aftercare and peer support programmes.
- Holistic and therapeutic interventions.
- Parenting programme.
- Child & youth support.



24 Hour 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.



Outreach and Community Support

- Through our community-based service we meet women children from a range of locations considered safe and accessible.
- Our community outreach service provides ongoing support at every stage of a survivor's journey, whether they are still in the relationship, thinking about leaving, or have been separated for a long time.
- The outreach worker meets each person where they are on their journey, offering support that reflects their needs and pace.

The community service spans across North Dublin, from the inner city to North County Dublin, with offices in Coolock, Smithfield, Swords, and Balbriggan. Services are also delivered through several satellite clinics in accessible locations across Dublin. In addition to supporting women and children affected by domestic abuse in the community, we provide targeted and therapeutic support tailored to individual needs.

“

We see the care you give, the resilience you show, and the difference you make. We hope this season brings you rest, warmth, and moments to breathe – time to reconnect, recharge, and feel the same support you so generously give to others.

Client, 2025

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Dochas Programme

The Dochas programme was created specifically for incarcerated women who have experienced domestic violence. The initiative has fostered courage, healing, and personal growth, as participants rebuild confidence, regain their voices, and develop tools for empowerment. It provides a vital safe, supportive space for learning and transformation.



Aspire Programme

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.



These last 12 weeks have been life changing. I was so apprehensive and didn't think there was such a place where I would be so accepted after what I've been through. It exists. Thank you Hannah, thank you Aoibhneas. I feel more prepared for the world now after experiencing domestic abuse.



This programme didn't just change my life, it revolutionised it!



I was lost, confused, and searching for guidance when I joined, and those 12 weeks turned out to be the best weeks of my life. I looked forward to every Wednesday session with excitement.



Freedom Programme

The Freedom Programme is a supportive, facilitator-led course designed to help women understand and recover from experiences of abuse over the course of 10 weeks. It provides a safe space to learn about different forms of abuse, recognise the behaviours and tactics used by perpetrators, and rebuild confidence and self-esteem. The programme also focuses on developing healthy relationship skills. Through shared experiences and peer support, participants gain knowledge, encouragement, and a renewed sense of personal strength.



Refuge Accommodation

We provide access to safe, short-term crisis accommodation through self-contained units in our purpose-built centre in Dublin. Our accommodation offers women and children safety, respite, and comfort, alongside tailored support that responds to their individual needs.



Drop-in service

We provide access to a safe, confidential space to talk and work through experiences and difficulties.

Current locations:

- St Helenas Resource Centre, Finglas,
- IPAS Centre, Baleskin,



Court Preparation and Accompaniment Service

Through this service support is offered in the following areas:

- Advice on legal orders, court process, court application process.
- Court accompaniment – (application/ court hearing) in District, Circuit and High Court.
- Court preparation-assistance formulating, preparing and delivering case.
- 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.





Training and Networking

We provide specialist training to statutory groups, non-statutory groups, family resource centres, women's groups, workplaces and specialist domestic violence services responding to domestic violence.

We deliver a positive relationships programme, which is delivered to Secondary Schools and Youthreach.

Training provided by Aoibhneas is tailored to meet the identified needs of those requesting the training.



Child/Youth Specific Services

We provide a range of services to support children in access to.

- Childcare (supervised).
- Want to Talk? – our website for young people experiencing domestic abuse.
- Homework/after-school support.
- Breakfast club.
- Developmental play.
- Play and art therapy.
- 1:1 Therapeutic work
- Group programmes.
- Holistic and therapeutic interventions



Want to Talk?: Website for Youth

A support service designed specifically for young people, aged 12-18, who are experiencing domestic abuse at home or in their dating relationship.

Includes:

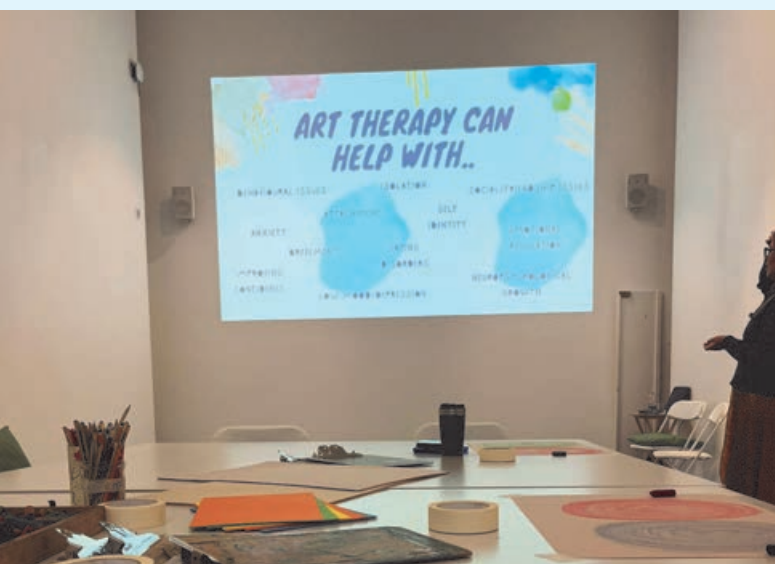
- Live chat
- Resources on domestic abuse
- Built-in safety tools
- Practical tips and resources
- Information on how and where to access help

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Case Study:

Cara's Story

At just 18 years old, *Cara* came to Aoibhneas seeking safety after experiencing prolonged abuse within her home. Having recently reached adulthood, she was referred to our service following concerns raised by her school, with support from An Garda Síochána.

Cara had experienced severe physical, emotional, and financial abuse, alongside controlling behaviours that impacted every aspect of her daily life. She described being denied access to basic needs, including food and personal space, and living with ongoing fear due to threats made against her.

At the point of entering refuge, *Cara* was in an extremely vulnerable position. She had recently completed her school year but was facing significant uncertainty about her future. In addition to the trauma she had experienced, she also encountered a number of systemic barriers that made it difficult to move forward.

Cara had no access to identification documents and was unclear about her immigration status, creating immediate challenges in accessing income supports, education pathways, and housing options.

A Coordinated Response

Aoibhneas worked intensively with *Cara*, providing both immediate and ongoing support.

This included:

- Access to safe refuge accommodation
- Financial supports for everyday needs such as food and transport
- Advocacy with social welfare services, resulting in an emergency payment

Ongoing engagement with a wide network of services, including education supports, legal advice, and migrant support organisations

Our team worked closely with multiple agencies to ensure *Cara* had access to a coordinated support system, recognising the complexity of her situation and the range of barriers she faced.

At the point of entering refuge, Cara was in an extremely vulnerable position. She had recently completed her school year but was facing significant uncertainty about her future.



Barriers to Progress

Despite strong multi-agency engagement, significant barriers remained.

Cara's lack of documentation and uncertain immigration status delayed access to stable income and housing. Ongoing engagement with housing services did not immediately result in a viable move-on option, highlighting broader systemic challenges affecting young people in crisis.

Her situation also required an exceptional extension of refuge stay, as there were no safe or appropriate alternatives available at the time.

Continuing the Journey

Cara remained in refuge for an extended period, with ongoing advocacy to secure safe, appropriate accommodation and long-term supports.

Her case reflects the realities faced by many young women experiencing domestic abuse, where safety is only the first step, and where recovery is shaped by access to housing, legal status, and sustained support.

Impact

Cara's story highlights:

- The importance of early identification and referral, particularly through schools and frontline services
- The complexity of cases involving immigration status and lack of documentation
- The need for flexible refuge provision, including extended stays in exceptional circumstances
- The critical role of multi-agency collaboration and advocacy in supporting recovery

This story is anonymised and shared with consent for the purpose of illustrating the experiences of women accessing Aoibhneas services.

Case Study:

Ana's Story

Ana is a young mother who came to Aoibhneas seeking safety for herself and her one-year-old child after experiencing escalating domestic abuse.

Originally referred by An Garda Síochána, Ana had previously accessed refuge support in another county. However, following assurances from her partner that it was safe to return home, she made the difficult decision to go back. Unfortunately, these assurances were not upheld, and the abuse intensified.

Ana had experienced physical, emotional, and financial abuse throughout her relationship, including violence that required medical attention. She had no family or support network in Ireland and arrived at refuge with very few belongings, requiring immediate support for both herself and her child.

Supporting Immediate Needs

Upon arrival, Aoibhneas provided safe accommodation and essential provisions, ensuring that both Ana and her child had access to basic necessities.

Alongside crisis support, significant work focused on stabilising Ana's situation and supporting her next steps, including:

- Assisting with access to income supports
- Supporting the renewal of her immigration status under domestic violence provisions
- Engaging with local authorities to secure post-refuge housing options

Barriers and System Challenges

Despite these efforts, Ana encountered significant systemic barriers.

The housing application process proved complex and prolonged, with repeated requests for documentation, including legal affidavits and proof of separation. These requirements placed additional financial and emotional strain on Ana during an already vulnerable period.

Local authority decisions also limited her housing options, restricting her access to longer-term housing pathways and leaving her dependent on short-term and emergency accommodation.

...following assurances from her partner that it was safe to return home, she made the difficult decision to go back. Unfortunately, these assurances were not upheld, and the abuse intensified.



Experiencing Instability

Following her time in refuge, *Ana* was placed in emergency accommodation, often having to move between locations with her young child. In some instances, she was required to vacate accommodation during the day and reapply for a place each evening, creating significant instability and uncertainty.

Throughout this period, Aoibhneas continued to provide support, including:

- Advocacy with housing providers
- Collaboration with partner organisations such as Crosscare
- Practical assistance, including transport and ongoing contact

Continuing Support and Advocacy

Following continued advocacy, *Ana* was eventually placed in more stable accommodation. She remains engaged with Aoibhneas, receiving ongoing support as she works to access long-term, sustainable housing and rebuild stability for herself and her child.

Impact

Ana's experience highlights:

- The risks associated with returning to abusive environments due to lack of viable alternatives
- The significant barriers faced by migrant women, particularly in relation to immigration status and housing access
- The ongoing challenges within housing systems that result in instability and repeated displacement
- The importance of sustained, multi-agency support and advocacy in supporting recovery

This story is anonymised and shared with consent to reflect the experiences of women accessing Aoibhneas services.



Go Purple Day 2025



Governance & Structure





Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

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
- Strategic Subcommittee
- Risk Management 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.

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.

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.

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

Directors	AGM	Board Meeting	Finance and Audit	Strategic	Risk Management	Staffing	Refugee Development
Aimée Millar	Yes	6/7	1/1	4/4			1/1
Biola Wyrwas	Yes	4/7		1/4			
Bláthnaid Evans	Yes	3/7					
Ciara Savage		4/7			5/5	4/4	1/1
Fiona Little	Yes	7/7		4/4			1/1
Nickie Fowler	Yes	7/7	5/5	3/4			1/1
Selene Alford	Yes	6/7			4/5		1/1
Valerie Campion		6/6	4/4				1/1
William Fagan		1/1					

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. Details of these providers are noted in the Director's information page of the financial statements. Any other professional services used by the company are used for purposes of them fulfilling the objectives of running the company.

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I was introduced to Aoibhneas, and met with an outreach worker who is now your CEO, and she saved me, 100% saved me, and her little bits of advice were leave a bag of clothes with a safety net, with a friend you could trust, and I think that was when I truly realised how serious my situation I was living in, how dangerous it was, and the only way from there was up, so we came to Refuge, and began our new life, tried to figure out who we were, and built a new life together. So, from rock bottom, you keep only moving upwards and onwards. When you're a survivor, you can get through absolutely anything over time, and it does take some time.

Client Testimonial

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Service Highlights





Children and Youth Services Upgrade

One of the most exciting and meaningful developments in 2025 was, quite literally, laying the foundations for the transformation of our Children and Youth Service. The result is an exceptional space that has already been tested and warmly approved by our most important stakeholders, the children themselves.

The upgraded facilities include:

- A refurbished and extended playroom, incorporating new kitchen and bathroom facilities
- A transformed courtyard, linking indoor and outdoor therapeutic environments
- A purpose-built Teen Pod, designed to support therapeutic engagement, relaxation, and recreation for young people

The upgraded facilities include a refurbished and extended playroom incorporating new kitchen and bathroom facilities, a redesigned courtyard that links indoor and outdoor therapeutic environments, and a purpose-built Teen Pod to support therapeutic engagement, relaxation, and recreation.

The delivery of this project was particularly notable given that the service remained fully operational throughout the construction period, despite the complexity and scale of the works. This ensured continuity of care for all families accessing the refuge.

The project was funded through a combination of fundraising initiatives and targeted grant funding. Additional enhancements were supported by Walls Construction and their partners. Reddy Architecture + Urbanism provided pro bono design services, guiding the project from initial concept through to completion. The collaboration between all partners ensured that the design and functionality of the space are closely aligned with the needs of the children and young people supported by the service.

Throughout the construction phase, service delivery remained uninterrupted. Core activities, including therapeutic sessions, the breakfast club, and the intake of new families, continued as normal. This was made possible by the commitment, adaptability, and collaborative approach of the refuge team.

The completed development represents a significant investment in the quality, safety, and therapeutic environment available within the service, supporting improved outcomes for children and young people and enhancing their opportunities for recovery and development.







Refuge Development

Significant progress was made on refuge development during the year. Key milestones achieved include:

- Approval at CAS Stage 2
- Commencement of the Part 8 planning process
- Advancement of detailed design toward delivery

Importantly, the design process was shaped by the voices of those with lived experience. Focus groups with former clients- women and children provided invaluable insight into what matters most in a refuge setting. In addition, targeted community engagement ensured meaningful input from harder-to-reach and particularly vulnerable groups.





Engagement and Innovation

In 2025, Aoibhneas prioritised meaningful engagement with children and young people, placing their voices at the centre of service design and development. Through targeted consultation, youth focus groups, and creative engagement approaches, young people directly shaped the development of supports tailored to their needs.

This work culminated with the launch of two innovative, youth-led initiatives: “Want to Talk”, a digital platform supporting young people to access information and help in a safe and accessible way, and “I Jumped So High”, a co-created children’s publication celebrating lived experience, creativity, and resilience.

Together, these initiatives represent a significant step forward in embedding participation, accessibility, and youth voice across Aoibhneas’ services.

“

I think one of the happiest times that we had after Refuge, starting to rebuild a life, starting to get some sort of normality, was our very first Christmas. So we were in our safe house, the fear was going, and we weren’t as, I suppose, stuck. Again with the help of Aoibhneas, we had our first Christmas, we had help getting kids toys, and we made it all work. We had a bockety old Christmas tree from a charity shop, and we made it work. We put all our heart and soul into having the best family Christmas that we had in our new family home. So that really reminds me of a really happy time after sadness.

Client Testimonial

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Children and Young People Engagement

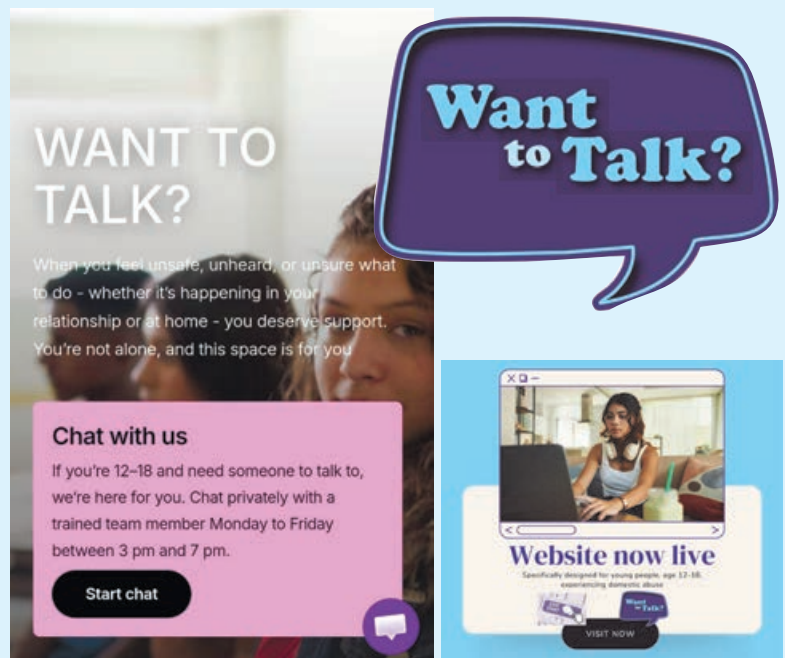
A strong strategic focus was placed on enhancing children and youth services across the organisation, improving visibility, participation, and outcomes. Youth focus groups played a central role in this work, ensuring that young people's voices directly informed service development and delivery.

Want to Talk

The “Want to Talk” digital platform was designed and developed for young people aged 12–18, supported by dedicated TikTok and Instagram channels. The platform provides accessible, age-appropriate information and support on topics such as relationships, family, and wellbeing.

Shaped through direct engagement with young people, the content is designed to speak to them rather than for them, resulting in a platform that is authentic, relevant, and genuinely accessible.

This initiative was made possible through targeted funding received from Daphne Child and Eurochild.



I Jumped So High

“I Jumped So High” is a children's book co-created with child residents and service users, celebrating creativity, voice, and lived experience.

Through this project, participants expressed both the challenges of their experiences and moments of joy, connection, and friendship. The book reflects resilience and demonstrates the powerful role of creativity in supporting healing and self-expression.

Both initiatives are grounded in principles of reach and accessibility, ensuring that young people can feel seen, understood, and supported. Their quality and impact are reflected in external recognition, including a publishing award for the book and national recognition through An Garda Síochána for youth participants involved in the digital initiative.

We are incredibly proud of all who contributed. Their honesty, courage, and creativity have created lasting resources that will benefit young people into the future.

The project was delivered through a collaborative partnership with Kids' Own Publishing Partnership.





Photovoice – In Her Words: Voices Uncensored

In 2025, Aoibhneas completed an extensive programme of engagement with adult survivors of domestic abuse and frontline professionals, culminating in the development of In Her Words: Voices Uncensored, a powerful Photovoice project.

Through photography and storytelling, participants shared deeply personal insights into coercive control, the realities of navigating support systems, and the journey from survival to recovery.

By bringing together survivor and practitioner perspectives, the project captures both lived experience and the challenges within response systems.

This work was formally launched in 2026, creating a public platform where voices can be shared openly and authentically. The exhibition highlights participants not only as survivors and professionals, but as storytellers and agents of change, shaping understanding and informing future responses to domestic abuse.



Team Growth & Culture

Strategic investment in people and culture strengthened organisational capacity during the year:

- New roles in HR, Communications, and Digital Support enhanced both internal operations and external engagement
- The introduction of the Champions Initiative, alongside team events, fostered a positive, collaborative culture and supported staff engagement and wellbeing



Service Delivery & Quality

A strong focus on quality and consistency led to significant improvements across service delivery:

- Enhanced case management and supervision structures, improving consistency in client support
- Organisation-wide clinical supervision training, building internal expertise and confidence
- Implementation of a clearly defined case management framework, aligned with the eSafe database
- Improvements in data quality, reporting, and decision-making processes

Taken together, these developments reflect Aoibhneas' continued commitment to innovation, collaboration, and excellence in delivering safe, responsive, and high-quality services to women and children.



Service Delivery





Service Delivery

Service delivery in 2025 reflects sustained growth in demand across all service areas, alongside increasingly complex client needs. These challenges are compounded by significant housing pressures impacting outcomes and high levels of multi-agency involvement, reinforcing the critical importance of early intervention and child-focused supports.

Aoibhneas continues to respond with a flexible, trauma-informed, and client-centred approach, ensuring that women and children receive the support necessary to achieve safety, recovery, and long-term wellbeing.

In 2025, Aoibhneas delivered a significant increase in service activity, reflecting growing demand and the increasing complexity of client needs.

- 163,886 interventions were delivered to women (5% increase on 2024)
- 66,038 interventions were delivered to children (93.8% increase)
- Helpline demand more than doubled, with a 104.5% increase, rising to 11,792 calls

We supported women and children from 47 countries of origin, highlighting the global nature of domestic abuse within our diverse community. While the majority of clients were from Ireland (73.5%), we also supported individuals from a wide range of international backgrounds, including Romania, Brazil, Nigeria, and Latvia. This growing diversity continues to shape our service delivery, requiring culturally responsive and adaptable approaches.

“

I feel truly honoured and lucky to have met and learned from guests and attendees. Aspire has given me practical tools and insights I'll carry for life. I wish from the bottom of my heart all the best for the programme continuation.

Client 2025

”



Client Profile and Complexity of Need

The diversity of our client base reflects the widespread and complex nature of domestic abuse in contemporary society. As this diversity has grown, Aoibhneas has continued to adapt its services to ensure accessibility and relevance for women and children from all backgrounds.

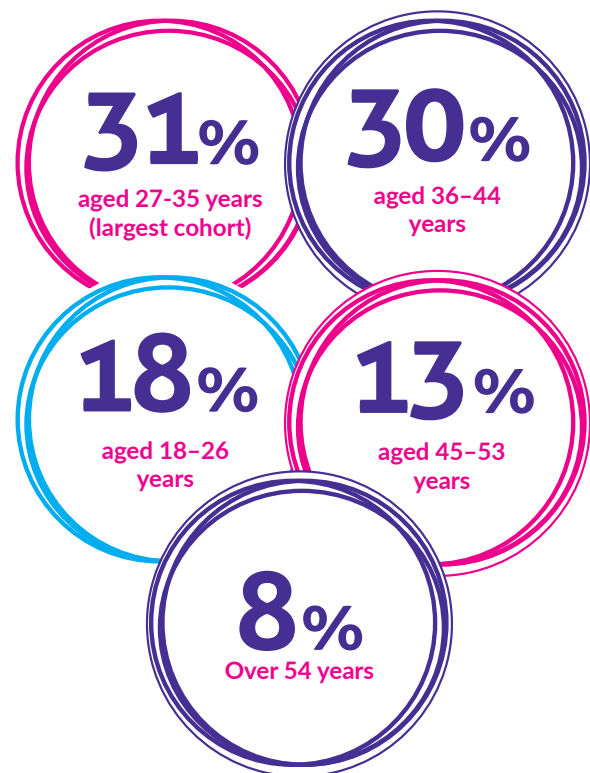
- 67% of clients identified as Irish nationals
- 19.4% identified as EU citizens
- 14% required support relating to immigration status
- 4% identified as members of the Traveller community

These figures highlight both increasing diversity and the growing complexity of client presentations, requiring integrated and culturally sensitive responses.



Age Profile of Clients

Domestic abuse affects individuals across all age groups. In 2025, Aoibhneas supported clients ranging from 17 to 75 years of age. The largest cohorts were:



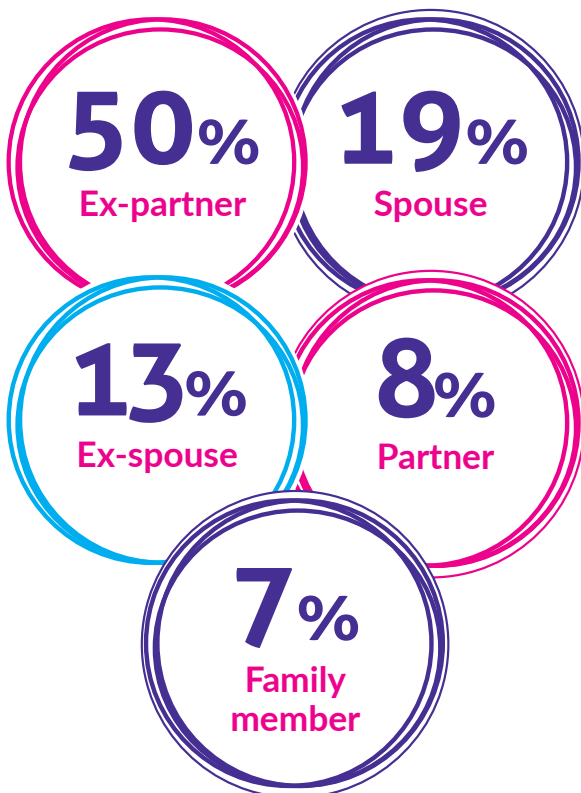


Relationship to Perpetrator

Domestic abuse continues to be predominantly linked to intimate partner relationships:

- 63% of women disclosed abuse by an ex-partner, ex-spouse, or ex-boyfriend
- 28% identified a current partner, spouse, or boyfriend
- 8% reported abuse by a family member

These figures demonstrate that abuse most commonly occurs within intimate relationships, while also highlighting a growing trend in familial abuse, including adult child-to-parent violence and the involvement of extended family members.



“

You are that person that holds it altogether, and we wear masks, and it just reminded me that you can look in that mirror, and you can remove your mask and take it off and become your authentic self, and only then can you heal. I don't think you can heal before you lose the mask. I think when you lose the mask and you become yourself, you heal 100%, and you grow in your journey.

Client 2025

”

“

So you can have one room when you're in refuge, like I was 16 years ago, or you can have four rooms, it doesn't matter how many there are, it's what you put into that to make your home a home. (Client)

”



Refuge and Housing Needs

Aoibhneas refuge services responded to complex and urgent needs where women and families were unable to remain safely in their homes. The majority of clients are from Dublin local authority areas, with Dublin City Council (34%), Fingal County Council (23%), South Dublin County Council, DunLaoghaire Rathdown (25) accounting for 76% of all cases.

We also supported family's seeking refuge and fleeing counties Louth (8%), Wicklow (5%), Kildare (4%), Meath (4%), Galway (2%), Laois (1%), Offaly (1%), Roscommon (1%), demonstrating our wider regional reach.

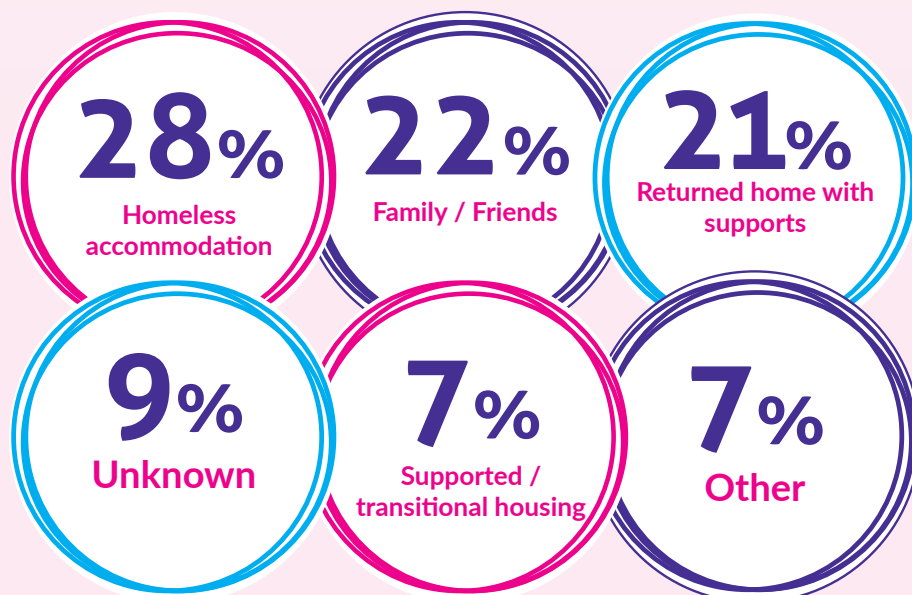
Demand for refuge significantly exceeded capacity. In 2025, we were unable to accommodate 845 families (up from 564 in 2024). To mitigate this, we continued to work collaboratively with seven domestic abuse providers using a real-time bed availability system, ensuring families could be referred quickly and safely to alternative accommodation.

Housing pressures remain a critical challenge:

- 28% of clients moved to homeless or emergency accommodation
- 22% relied on family or friends
- 21% returned home with supports
- Only a small percentage accessed long-term housing solutions

The average refuge stay was 31 days, with limited move-on options impacting both client outcomes and service capacity. Increasingly, clients experience "hidden homelessness," including couch surfing or returning to unsafe or unstable environments.

Outcome / Accommodation Type



“

I came away understanding, that I need to be in a healthy relationship and not a toxic one. Stay focused, do what's important and prioritise you, because life is too short to waste it on someone that doesn't appreciate you, doesn't value you and doesn't make you happy. At Aoibhneas everyone helped me heal, they were helpful, friendly, and very understanding.

Client Testimonial

”



Experiences of Abuse

Clients reported multiple and overlapping forms of abuse, highlighting the complexity and layered nature of coercive control.

While emotional abuse remains almost universal, notable increases in both sexual and digital abuse reflect evolving patterns of control and disclosure.

Digital abuse continues to rise and is often intensified at the point of separation. Clients described experiences including online harassment, persistent monitoring, and threats via social media and messaging platforms.

Physical abuse ranged from bruising and cuts to more severe injuries such as head trauma, broken

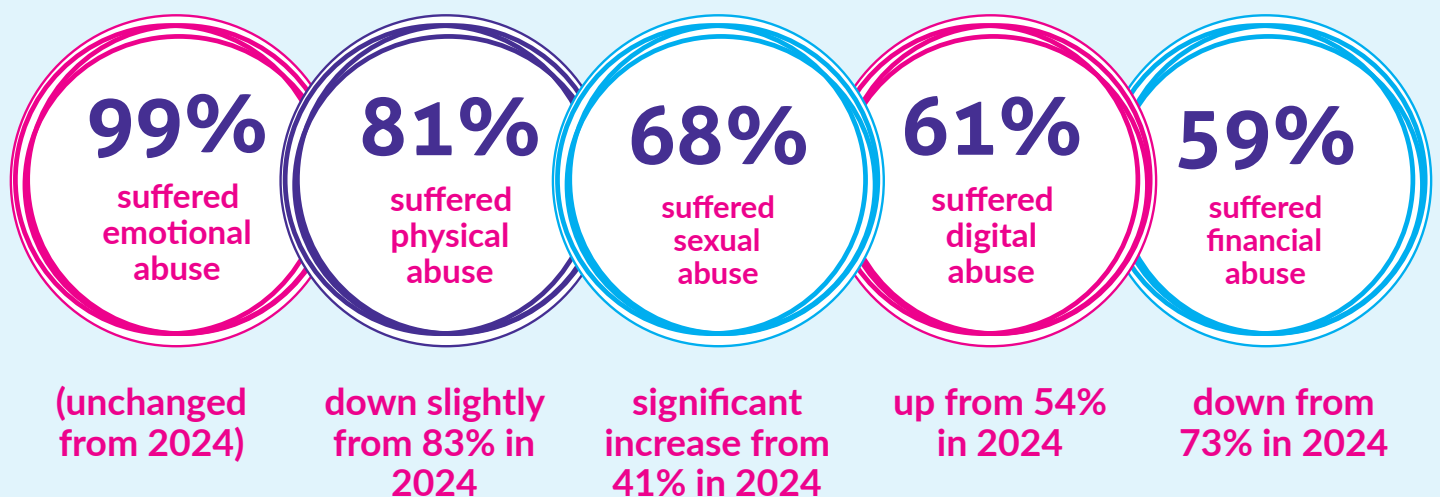
bones, and strangulation, illustrating the serious and sometimes life-threatening nature of violence experienced.

Additionally:

- 6% of clients reported being pregnant at the time of refuge intake
- Many clients described escalation of abuse during key life transitions, particularly pregnancy and separation

Sexual abuse remains underreported and is frequently disclosed only after trust and rapport have been established. This underscores the importance of sustained engagement and trauma-informed practice in fully understanding the extent of clients' experiences.

Forms of abuse experienced by clients



Multi-Agency Involvement

Domestic abuse cases frequently involve multiple services prior to engagement with Aoibhneas:

- 50% of clients had previously sought assistance from An Garda Síochána
- 35% had engagement with Tusla, Child and Family Agency
- 37% reported child protection concerns
- 23% reported child welfare concerns

These figures demonstrate that domestic abuse is often part of a prolonged and complex process. Leaving an abusive relationship does not mark the end of abuse, reinforcing the need for coordinated, long-term, multi-agency support.





Children and Young People

In 2025, Aoibhneas provided direct or indirect support to 584 children across refuge and community services.

Service delivery is designed to respond flexibly to changing age profiles and needs, particularly within refuge settings where demographics fluctuate.



Community Services

- 65% of children supported were aged under 12
- Engagement decreases with age, particularly among older teenagers



Refuge Services

- 63% of children were aged under 10
- Strong emphasis on early childhood and family-focused interventions

Overall, 56% of children supported were male and 44% female.

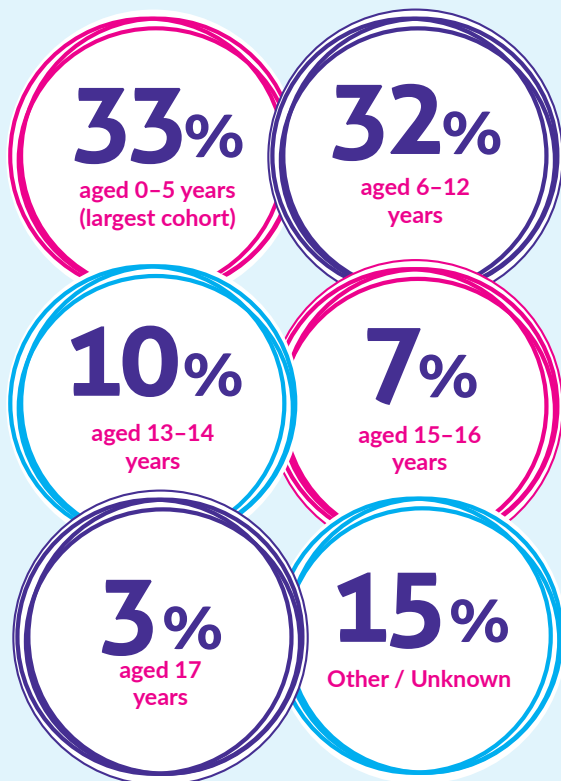
Supports provided included:

- Play and art therapy
- Family-based therapeutic interventions
- Homework and breakfast clubs
- Parenting support
- Mindfulness and resilience-building activities

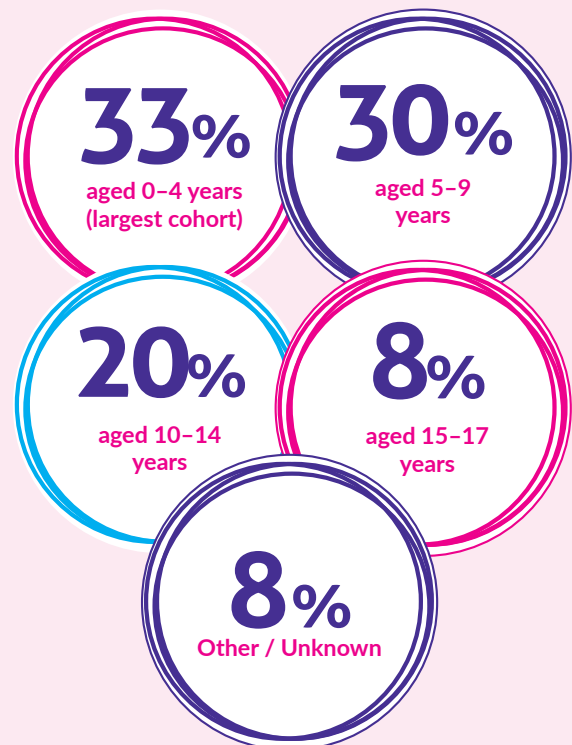
These services aim to promote recovery, emotional wellbeing, and stability for children experiencing the impacts of domestic abuse.



Children & Young People – Community Services



Children & Young People – Refuge Services



Our Strategic Priorities 2023-2027





Our Strategic Priorities 2023-2027

Aoibhneas's 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.



Financial Overview



AOIBHNEAS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

For the financial year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 €	Restricted Funds 2025 €	Total 2025 €	Unrestricted Funds 2024 €	Restricted Funds 2024 €	Total 2024 €
Income	€	€	€	€	€	€
Donations and legacies	77,484	-	77,484	99,636	-	99,636
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Grants from governments and other co-funders and other charitable activities	6,411	2,074,999	2,081,410	7,883	1,830,361	1,838,244
Other income	1,275	1,924	3,199	3,109	1,000	4,109
Total income	85,170	2,076,923	2,162,093	110,628	1,831,361	1,941,989
Expenditure						
Charitable activities	71,065	2,103,727	2,174,792	17,443	1,819,947	1,837,390
Net income/ (expenditure)	14,105	(26,804)	(12,699)	93,185	11,414	104,599
Transfers between funds	(16,390)	16,390	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year	(2,285)	(10,414)	(12,699)	94,185	10,414	104,599
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds beginning of the year	1,221,275	10,414	1,231,689	1,127,090	-	1,127,090
Total funds at the end of the year	1,218,990	-	1,218,990	1,221,275	10,414	1,231,689

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 8 June 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Nicola Fowler
Director

Valerie Campion
Director

AOIBHNEAS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 €	2024 €
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	964,304	416,116
Current Assets		
Debtors	18,463	13,681
Cash at bank and in hand	909,084	1,449,318
	927,547	1,462,999
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(231,015)	(393,529)
Net Current Assets		
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	696,532	1,069,470
	1,660,836	1,485,586
Government grants	(441,846)	(253,897)
Total Net Assets Funds	1,218,990	1,231,689
Restricted funds	-	10,414
Designated funds (Unrestricted)	257,680	607,680
General fund (unrestricted)	961,310	613,595
Total funds	1,218,990	1,231,689

Approved by the Board of Directors on 8 June 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Nicola Fowler
Director

Valerie Campion
Director

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 €	2024 €
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movement in funds	(12,699)	104,599
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	24,975	22,951
Interest receivable and similar income	(1,275)	(1,280)
Amortisation of capital grants received	(1,000)	(1,000)
	10,001	125,270
Movements in working capital:		
Movement in debtors	(4,782)	1,276
Movement in creditors	(161,514)	164,541
Cash generated from operations	(156,295)	291,087
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	1,275	1,280
Payments to acquire tangible assets	(573,163)	(224,239)
Net cash used in investment activities	(571,888)	(222,959)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Government grants	187,949	208,897
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(540,234)	277,025
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,449,318	1,172,293
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	909,084	1,449,318

Extract from Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Aoibhneas CLG

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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 2025 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" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

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 2025 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 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 4 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.

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' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements;
- the Directors' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014; and

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.

Note

A full copy of Aoibhneas CLG Annual Report and Financial Statements 2025 can be obtained through the Companies Registration Office (www.cro.ie) and the Charities Regulator (www.charitiesregulator.ie)

Thanks & Acknowledgements





Funders, Supporters and Collaborators – 2025

Aoibhneas extends its deepest gratitude to all those who made our work possible in 2025. 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 core 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 priorities and survivor-led best practice.

Donors and Grant Funders

We are profoundly thankful for the generosity of our individual donors, corporate sponsors, and philanthropic partners, whose contributions have made a direct and meaningful impact on the lives of the women and children we support.

A special acknowledgement is extended to PIMCO, whose grant funding supported the design, development, and delivery of the ASPIRE Programme—an innovative, survivor-led initiative that supports women on their journey from recovery to long-term empowerment and independence.

We also wish to recognise Daphne Child, Eurochild for their valued support and commitment to advancing the rights and wellbeing of children and young people, which has further strengthened our work and impact through Want to Talk?



Aoibhneas extends its deepest gratitude to all those who made our work possible in 2025. Your support has been vital in enabling us to provide life-saving and life-changing services to women and children affected by domestic abuse.



Pro Bono and In-Kind Support

We extend our sincere thanks to Reddy Architecture + Urbanism and Walls Construction for their generous pro bono contributions in 2025.

Their expertise and commitment were instrumental in the refurbishment of our Children and Youth play spaces and in the design of our new Children's Centre—ensuring that our youngest service users are welcomed into safe, engaging, and therapeutic environments.

Collaborators and Community Partners

Aoibhneas is proud to work in close collaboration with a wide range of statutory agencies, housing providers, specialist domestic abuse services, and community and voluntary organisations.

Together, we form a vital network of care that strengthens referral pathways, enhances crisis response, and supports women and children through every stage of recovery and healing.

This collaborative approach also extends to creative partnerships, including with Kids' Own Publishing Partnership, whose involvement was instrumental in making the "I Jumped So High" book publication possible. Through partnerships like these, we are able to amplify voices, foster creativity, and deliver meaningful, lasting impact.

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 strong, resilient, and forward-looking organisation.

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

To our volunteers, who give so generously of their time and energy, your commitment and spirit of service inspire us and truly 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

“

Aoibhneas is proud to work in close collaboration with a wide range of statutory agencies, housing providers, specialist domestic abuse services, and community and voluntary organisations.

Together, we form a vital network of care that strengthens referral pathways, enhances crisis response, and supports women and children through every stage of recovery and healing.

”





CUAN

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



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

Daphne  **CHILD**



Co-funded by
the European Union