



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering and Supporting
Male Victims of Domestic
Violence in Ireland



A message from our Chairperson



On behalf of our team and my fellow Board of Directors I would like to present our 2024 annual report.

As Chairperson honoured and proud to lead the team at Men's Aid Ireland and to share our achievements in 2024.

In 2024 Men's Aid embraced a best practice, evidence based approach that emphasised an empathic, empowering and supportive service for male victims and their families experiencing Domestic Violence and Coercive Control in line with the goals and objectives of Zero Tolerance, the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

We are informed from research undertaken in 2024 in conjunction with Dr Melissa Corbally and Trinity College Dublin, that emotional and psychological factors are a significant part of the male victim's experience. Following on from this research Men's Aid launched our "Guide for Practitioners" an inhouse document to ensure best practice and continuity of service while keeping the victim at the heart of everything we do. Men's Aid recognises the hurt and pain that all victims of domestic violence and coercive control experience.

Victims and survivors who contacted Men's Aid are represented across every demographic of Irish society including age, class, socio-economic status, educational

achievement, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual preference, religion, physical ability, or employment status.

In 2024 we worked closely and collaborated with other services including, CUAN, LGBTQ+ service providers, An Garda Síochána, Tusla, The Department of Justice, DKIT RiVeR Project, Breaking the Taboo Louth, court services, Youthreach, Local Drug & Alcohol Task Forces, second and third level institutions and other NGO services in the area of Domestic, sexual and Gender Based Violence.

I would like to thank our funders, donors and all our supporters without whom we could not have achieved our mission which is to "Empower and Support Men, their Children and Families who are experiencing Domestic Violence and Coercive Control to be safe".

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the establishment of CUAN at the end of last year, and the ongoing efforts within the Department of Justice to achieve Zero Tolerance against Domestic, sexual and Gender Based Violence. I would like to thank our funders, donors, collaborators and supporters as we work together in achieving the objectives of the National Strategy, leading to profound societal change and the elimination of these forms of violence.

Go raibh mile maith agat,
Seamus Scott - Chairperson of Men's Aid Ireland.

A Message from our Clinical Manager



I would like to welcome you to our 2024 Annual Report where the theme for me was **collaboration**.

I would firstly like to acknowledge and recognise the dedicated and professional team at Men's Aid Ireland. I am extremely proud to work alongside all of them. They are key and central to all our achievements in 2024. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to each and every one of them for their unwavering commitment to delivering an empathic, caring and victim centric service.

As I reflect on 2024 there are many standout moments for me. One of the main highlights was our collaboration with all services in the area of Domestic, Sexual, Gender-based Violence, including our colleagues in the academic sphere, Dr Melissa Corbally from Trinity College Dublin, Dr Edel Heely and Dr Kathleen Nallen from the Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) River Project along with all the excellent experts involved from whom I and our dedicated team at Men's Aid Ireland have learned so much. These academic collaborations are extremely valuable to us as everything we do is evidence and research based.

To achieve our mission "Empowering and supporting Men and their Families Experiencing Domestic Violence and Coercive Control to be Safe" we have adopted the four strategic pillars from both the Istanbul Convention and the National

Zero Tolerance Strategy (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Policy

Coordination) and we strive to frame and guide all our work and everything we do using Zero Tolerance, the national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence as our foundation.

We have worked extremely hard to foster a safe, supportive and empowering space for everyone who has connected with our support service. We could not accomplish this without the partnerships we have developed and continued to grow with CUAN, Tusla, The Courts Services, An Garda Siochana, and all our colleagues within the NGO sector.

I would like to thank all of you who reached out and trusted us to help and support you through the extremes that are Domestic Violence and Coercive Control and we will continue to support you on your pathways to safety with dedication and professionalism.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in 2024 and for taking the time to read our annual report.

I will leave you with some inspirational words.

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful" - Malala Yousafzai

Andrea Mc Dermott

Mission, Vision, Values

Our Mission

To empower and support men, their children and families who are experiencing domestic abuse / violence to be safe.



Our Vision

We will provide a Domestic Violence service underpinned by a Children First principle and victim centric / human rights proofed approach aimed at ensuring all victims of Domestic Violence / Coercive Control receive the required support to be safe. Our service is specific to support male victims, their children and families.

Our Values

1. Professionalism

We always conduct our duties in a professional manner.

2. Respect

We demonstrate ethical behavior and act responsibly amongst our community in the DSGBV and amongst wider stakeholders.

3. Empathy

We are empathetic, listen with sensitivity and without judgment or prejudice and support each other and those we support.

4. Integrity

We will deliver our service in a non-discriminative way, doing the right thing even when no one is watching. We will act in a manner that reflects equality, inclusion, transparency, and fairness.

5. Accountability & Transparency

We are accountable and responsible for all our actions when representing the organization locally, nationally, and internationally.

Our Clinical Services

Helpline 01 554 3811

Hello@mensaid.ie

1. National Helpline

Our Helpline is staffed by highly experienced and trained support workers. The Helpline is the first point of contact to Men's Aid services and from the moment a victim calls, they are listened to and supported.

Each caller is given the time and

understanding to talk about their

experience in a safe confidential space.

For most men, making the first telephone call to our service is the first step towards their pathway to safety. Picking up the phone, dialling our number and speaking about the abuse experienced, sometimes for the first time, can be the most daunting and frightening moment, we know this and we understand this.





2. Court Support & Information clinics

Our court support and information clinics were available in Dublin, Galway, Waterford, Dundalk and Drogheda in 2024.

Our service includes:

- Supporting and listening
- Developing Trust & Promoting confidence
- Identifying potential risks
- Providing risk and safety planning options
- Help to navigate our court systems
- Informing victims of their rights
- Explaining court protective orders
- Information on access, custody, guardianship
- Referral to specific support services if needed

Our Waterford Court Support & Information Clinic is kindly funded by Community Foundation Ireland.

This new part time role commenced in the summer of 2022, during which time

Claire, our support worker covering Waterford and the South East supporting male victims of domestic violence. The Community Foundation Ireland kindly granted an extension on this important role and funding continues until April 2025 for which we are very grateful.

3. Counselling Appointments

Our team of therapists are all qualified and fully trained psychotherapists. They have additional years of experience and specialist training in the area of supporting male victims of domestic violence including coercive control.

We provide 1:1 in person and online counselling support for victims of domestic violence, partner violence, familial abuse including coercive control. Counselling currently takes place in Navan, Co. Meath. We are hoping to expand this service subject to funding.

4. Peer Support Group

Our peer group meet in person once a month in Navan, Co. Meath.

Clinical Support Team – Highlights of 2024

The work of the Clinical Support Team is guided by the goals and objectives of Zero Tolerance, the current National Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence Strategy.

The highlights of the work of the Clinical Team started in January with the Inaugural Community of Events conference organised by DKIT. In March we took part in the Prof. Stephanie Holt Focus Group at Trinity College Dublin. This event was specifically organised for professionals working with male victims of domestic violence.

In April we attended the launch of the annual garda initiative, “Go Purple” day which raises awareness of domestic violence all across Ireland. This event was held at Navan Garda Station and attended by Minister for justice Helen McEntee.

In September, Men’s Aid took part in the Court Service Civic Forum and a busy year was brought to a close in November when members of the Clinical Support Team attended the launch of “Breaking the Taboo” a conference organised by Louth as part of the sixteen days of action against domestic violence.

And of course, how could we forget taking part in the bike, car and tractor run, a fundraiser for Men’s Aid Ireland organised by East Cavan Bikers in September.

Collaborating with the Courts Service in creating the new court forms – Family law – DV

In 2024 Men’s Aid were honoured to be asked to participate in a collaboration led by The Courts Service “**the Civic Society Forum**”. One of the early objectives was the development of a service user focused Domestic Violence application form. Working in collaboration with our colleagues across the various services was truly inspiring as was the outcome which is a newly revised form which is now in daily use .

The new forms are easy to navigate, written in plain English, have clear guides and eligibility checkers for applicants, and feature links to supporting information and services.

RiVeR Project in 2024

A large part of Men’s Aid collaboration in 2024 was being part of DKIT’s RiVeR Project on their steering committee. The RiVeR project has helped place a spotlight on all victims of Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. For Men’s Aid the collaboration, the learnings and the invaluable opportunity to share both the victims and practitioners unique experience has rewarded us in many ways - we have developed an even deeper understanding of complexities of domestic violence and coercive control, and further we continue to enhance

our understanding of the needs of the victim with particular regard to assisting them with pathways to safety and support.

This meaningful collaboration with all other NGOs on the RiVeR project has helped forge strong professional relationships which will assist all victims going forward.

Men's Aid were also privileged to be part of RiVeR project's "In Their Shoes" committee. This programme is an experiential learning

activity that can be used as a training tool in the area of Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence. This experiential training activity gives the student an insight into the complexities of being a victim of Domestic Violence and Coercive Control while walking in the shoes of the various characters. The students gain a deep and powerful understanding of the difficulties a victim faces on a daily basis when they are surviving domestic violence and abuse.

Education & Training Programme

The work of our Education & Training Programme is rooted in evidence-based models which are in line with the goal of the **Prevention Pillar** of the Government's Zero tolerance strategy to work towards the eradication of social and cultural norms that underpin and contribute to DSGBV in Ireland.

As such, our work in Education and Training, which takes us the length and breadth of Ireland, is guided by all 8 objectives of the Prevention Pillar of the National Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based strategy.

In 2024 the Education & Training Programme developed a suite of lectures and workshops which included;

1. Prevention Programme
2. Male Victim Programme
3. LGBTQ+ Programme
4. ChemSex Programme
5. Lunch & Learn Programme

The Education and Training team also embarked on the development of a

Universities Programme which it is hoped, will be rolled out in 2025.

"Intersectionality has become an increasingly relevant term and is a useful lens for understanding oppression and privilege in our society, especially regarding the needs of more excluded identity groups (that include Travellers, other ethnic minorities, migrants, individuals with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ+ communities and others)"

Zero Tolerance, National Domestic, Sexual & Gender-based Violence Strategy (2022)

LGBTQ+ Programme

If there is one word that would sum up the LGBTQ+ Education Programme in 2024, it would be "Potential". The obvious recognition of this was that the programme was made a permanent feature of the work of Men's Aid in May of 2024.

As we continued to develop and roll-out the suite of training options, the LGBTQ+

Education Officer engaged with a wide range of organisations and went on the road to travel to a number of Pride Events around the country, establishing relationships and building connections for the expansion and development of the LGBTQ+ Education Programme.

Once again, the continued development of the IPA Service Providers Network stands as one of the major achievements of the LGBTQ+ Education programme as over 30 LGBTQ+ and Domestic Violence Services from all over the country, meet on a regular basis to improve service provision, develop education and awareness responses, challenge structural inequalities and inform policy in relation to the LGBTQ+ experience of Intimate Partner Violence and Coercive Control.

Another ground-breaking initiative of the LGBTQ+ programme is the new ChemSex half-day seminar, which is delivered in partnership with Graham Ryall, Senior Counsellor with the Rialto Community Drug Team. This programme has been delivered to a number of local drugs task forces and Garda Protection Units across the country.

The expansion of options in the overall suite of training, such as the “online” and “Lunch & Learn” options has also helped the programme to meet the needs of organisations which seek to learn more about the LGBTQ+ experience of domestic violence and coercive control in Ireland.

Initiatives

1. The Practitioner's Guide

The creation of Men's Aid “A Guide for Practitioners” is one of the many highlights for Men's Aid in 2024 - The aim of the document is to provide guidance for all those who make up the Men's Aid support team and are designed to assist all our practitioners' as they support victims of domestic violence and coercive control.

The central objective in developing this guide was to ensure a uniformed and consistent approach in the delivery of a victim centric support service in terms of meeting the needs of the victim, it requires us to tailor our services and in order to do this we must listen to the victim.

Throughout the document there is reference to the views of the victim. There is also considerable attention to assisting our support team in this

area in the form of relevant contemporary information regarding law, policy and practice in Ireland. The guide has a victim centric approach supporting the victim while gathering and assessing data so we are continuously learning and growing our knowledge in this ever-changing landscape, through best practice, data gathering and research and engagement with our service users.

Men's Aid is committed to working and collaborating with all our colleagues in the Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence sector and working towards Zero Tolerance of crimes associated with domestic violence and coercive control in line with the Third National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

2. The LGBTQ+ ChemSex Programme

ChemSex is a term which is used to describe a practice by gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men (gbMSM) of engaging in prolonged private house parties that can last for days where a wide range of drugs or “chems” are used to heighten the sexual experience.

Issues of coercive control and sexual violence can be part of the negative experience of those who engage in ChemSex. Understanding the correlation between substance misuse and risk taking during sex are important issues to understand and develop appropriate support responses that are based in harm-reduction, non-judgemental approaches.

In January of 2024, the LGBTQ+ Programme Coordinator teamed up with Graham Ryall of the Rialto Community Drug Team to develop and deliver a half-day seminar on ChemSex among gbMSM from the perspective Intimate Partner Violence, Coercive Control and Addiction.

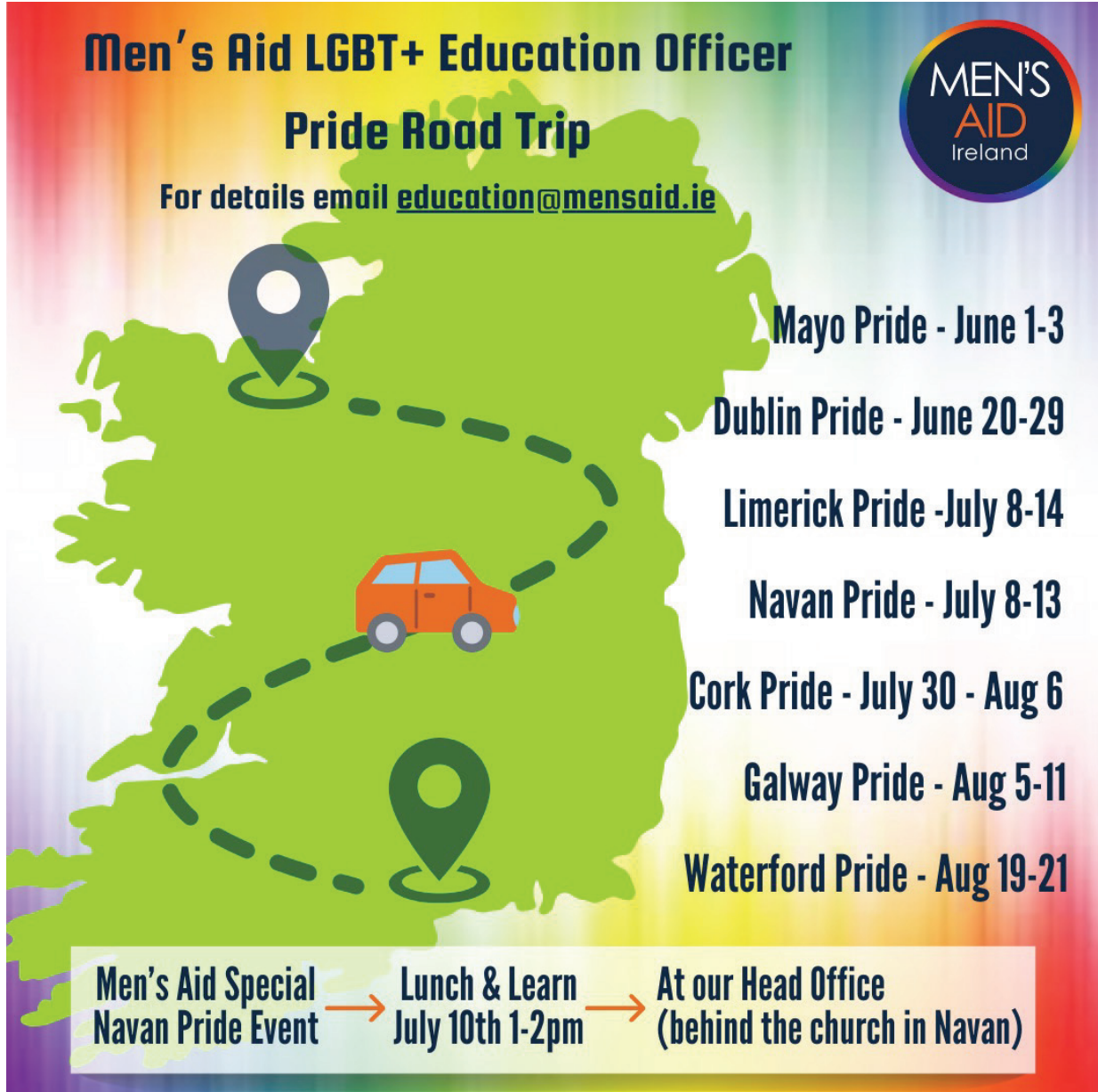
The ChemSex programme was rolled out in January 2024 with the Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force. In that year, five seminars were delivered to a total of three Local Drugs & Alcohol Task Forces in Dublin and two were delivered to Gardai in the Dublin Metropolitan District and Cork City.



3. The LGBTQ+ Pride Road Show

In the Summer of 2024, the LGBTQ+ Education Officer took part in pride events all over the country to raise awareness of the

issue among the LGBTQ+ communities and to share information on the workshops we deliver and current supports.



**Men's Aid LGBTQ+ Education Officer
Pride Road Trip**

For details email education@mensaid.ie

Mayo Pride - June 1-3

Dublin Pride - June 20-29

Limerick Pride - July 8-14

Navan Pride - July 8-13

Cork Pride - July 30 - Aug 6

Galway Pride - Aug 5-11

Waterford Pride - Aug 19-21

Men's Aid Special Navan Pride Event → **Lunch & Learn July 10th 1-2pm** → **At our Head Office (behind the church in Navan)**

MEN'S AID Ireland

Impact statements

Court Support

Mens Aid has been able to help me navigate through my emotions at a time when things felt that they were at rock bottom. Mens aid were there to listen to me and help me and I fully believe that this service is literally saving lives!

Helpline

With the guidance and counselling of the wonderful staff at Mensaid I know the outcome would have been terrifyingly different. I still attend the meetings when I can after all these years and hopefully will continue to do so going forward.

Counselling

Throughout this terrible period in my life, Family, friends and Mensaid guided and supported me through it. The professionalism of the staff are sincerely and truly genuine and amazing. I was never once made feel I was on my own.

LGBTQ+ Training Programme 2024

We were delighted to have been invited on this training. A lot of the focus on our part is the crimes the students/clients have committed. We found it very informative and a good reminder to consider the trauma they have also faced. I have recommended you to our staff training department and hopefully in the future this area will feature more in our staff learning & development programme.

Statistics 2024

Total Number of Calls
to Helpline

2943

(INCLUDING REPEAT CALLS)

Representing a total of

6470*

engagements to our service

(Engagements = counselling appointments,
court support and training participants)

How many were first time callers

2188

73 men

attended our 1:1 counselling service.

Total engagements
with Court Support
Services

949

(INCLUDING REPEAT ENGAGEMENTS)

33 men

attended our peer support group.

Types of Abuse: in order
of highest disclosed

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

COERCIVE CONTROL

PHYSICAL ABUSE

PARENTAL ALIENATION

ECONOMIC ABUSE

*SECOND WAVE ABUSE

SEXUAL ABUSE

ONLINE ABUSE

(Second wave abuse occurs where a couple
remain together but a third party or agency
is involved in the abuse by the perpetrator)

Total
Education
and Training
workshops
delivered

54

What the statistics show is
that there is a continuing need
for services and intervention
efforts for the specifics of the
male victim which Men's Aid
Ireland provides.

Our team work passionately to represent the voice of male Victims and survivors through our work in advocacy, policy and research.

We advocate for better supports and service provision for male victims by representing their experiences and those of their children and families at a national and strategic level. We contribute at Government level through, submissions, Oireachtas appearances and key stakeholder meetings.

Men's Aid – Advisory Panel and members of the following collaborative groups:

- Department of Justice – DSGBV National Stakeholder Group
- Department of Justice – Zero Tolerance Strategy Implementation Group
- Department of Justice - Victims Forum Group
- Family Law Courts Practitioners Forum – Dolphin House, Dublin
Family Law Courts
- Family Law Justice Reform Group
- Dundalk Court Forum
- Legal Aid Consultative Panel
- ECP Legal Aid Group
- County Louth & County Meath Working Group – Domestic
Violence Resource Park
- Tackling Domestic Violence in Louth – “Breaking the Taboo”
Group
- Men's Health Forum, HSE
- LGBTQ+ Service Providers IPA Network
- Gay Health Network (GHN)

Detailed Profit and Loss Account

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

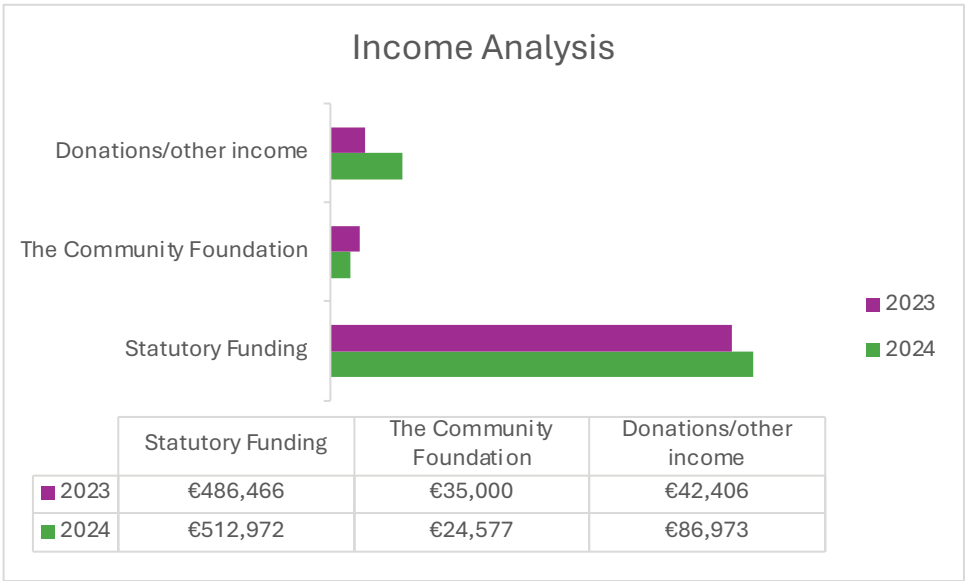
	2024 €	2023 €
Incoming resources		
Tusla	388,857	365,966
Department of Justice	124,115	120,500
Counselling contributions	2,870	2,140
Donations - unrestricted	54,730	40,266
Community Foundation Ireland	35,000	35,000
Deferred income - Community Foundation Ireland	(10,423)	0
Other income	29,331	0
	<u>624,522</u>	<u>563,872</u>
Administrative expenses		
Salaries	(367,765)	(370,706)
Er PRSI	(35,860)	(35,787)
Transport and travel	(6,108)	(7,094)
Rent	(12,880)	(13,750)
Insurance	(8,576)	(8,499)
Repairs and maintenance	(1,708)	(2,270)
Phones	(8,881)	(7,523)
Printing, postage and stationery	(3,688)	(5,410)
Staff training costs	(6,413)	(12,270)
Auditors' remuneration	(4,345)	(4,325)
Contractors' fees	(22,555)	(6,614)
Professional fees	(79,779)	(5,145)
Annual report	(431)	(2,416)
Canteen and cleaning	(3,742)	(3,558)
Computer costs	(14,062)	(13,268)
Subscriptions	(205)	(400)
Supervision	(3,565)	(4,465)
Bank charges	(180)	(208)
Marketing, PR and advocacy	(4,365)	(1,248)
General expenses	(866)	(143)
Stripe/iDonate charges	(209)	(462)
Recruitment	(2,965)	0
Depreciation	(5,519)	(4,918)
Counselling costs	(18,066)	(18,754)
Peer group	(7,650)	(5,400)
	<u>(620,383)</u>	<u>(534,633)</u>
Surplus	<u><u>4,139</u></u>	<u><u>29,239</u></u>

Directors' Report

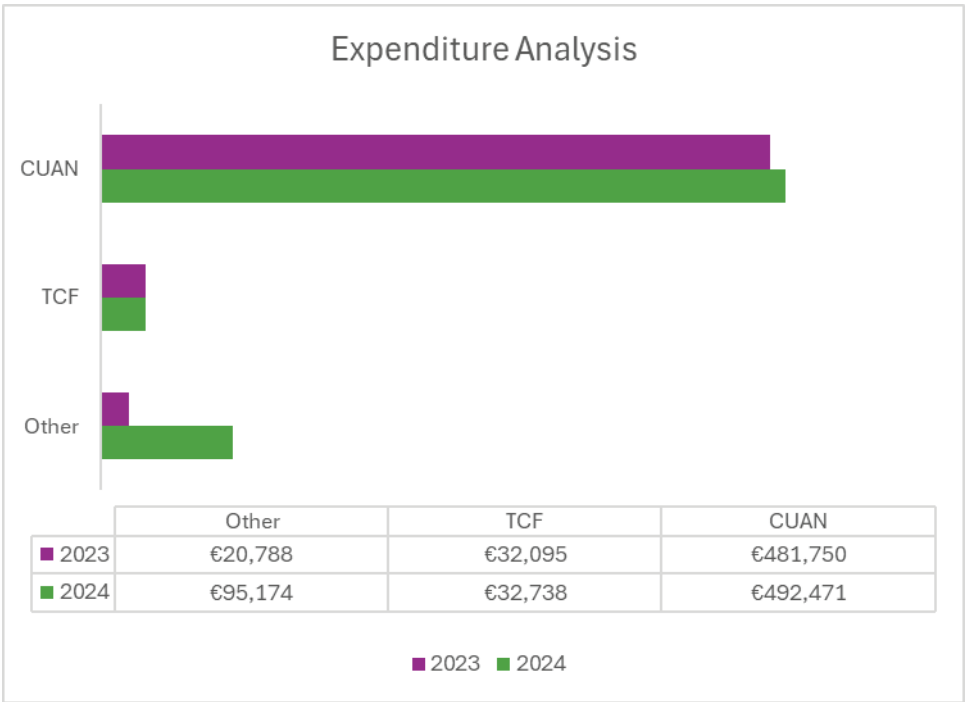
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3. Finance Review - 2024

- The 2024 financial results are set out on page 15. The surplus for the year amounted to €4,139 (2023: €29,239).
- Total income of €624,522 increased by 10.7% on 2023.



- Total expenditure for the year amounted to €620,383 (2023: €534,633) the main increases being in staff costs and staff training.



- Reserves
 - o Restricted funds

Our restricted funds amounted to €28,215 (2023: €25,874). These funds represent underspends which occurred during the year and will be expended in accordance with the respective funders' agreement.
 - o Unrestricted funds

Our unrestricted funds amount to €135,828 (2023: €144,028). As the title implies there are no specific restrictions attaching to these funds. However, the directors have determined that in the (albeit) unlikely event that the State funding should cease certain obligations would fall on the board. We would be unable to continue to employ all our staff and certain financial obligations would arise. Furthermore, we would still remain under a moral obligation to continue counselling and support services for a period of time. It was therefore considered that a reserve amount to 90 days income would be sufficient to meet these obligations. In monetary terms this would equate to €137,658 for 2025.
- Financial outlook
 - o Positive relations continue among our funders and the organisation continues to grow from year to year and it remains an objective of the board to continue developing the awareness of the organisation and the supports we offer.
 - o Financial controls and governance continue to be a priority for the board. Men's Aid Ireland strives to continually improve and ensure that essential services are operate cost effectively without compromising the quality of those services. The board if continually aware of the inflationary environment in which we must operate and will act at all times to minimise this impact on the finance of the organisation.
- Further information:
 - o Men's Aid Ireland is made up of a Board of Directors who give their expertise and time free of charge in a voluntary capacity. The voluntary Board maintains oversight and guides the strategic direction of the organisation. We have a suite of policies in line with which the organisation operates and also in line with the policies which govern the operating practices of not- for-

profit organisations in the charity sector. These policies are regularly updated to keep in line with any changes in regulation within the charities sector and all of them can be viewed upon request. These policies meet with the standards set by the Charity Regulator in Ireland.

Men's Aid Ireland is an independent not-for-profit organisation that provides essential support services to men, their children and families affected by domestic abuse and violence.

- o As an organisation:

We are accountable to our clients to respect their individual experiences, provide effective supports and work towards achieving the best outcomes possible.

We are accountable to the public and our funders for the monies we receive and how these funds are spent.

We are accountable to our partners to work together to produce the best outcomes possible for the men and families we support.

We are committed to Safeguard all people we support and treating everyone with dignity and respect.

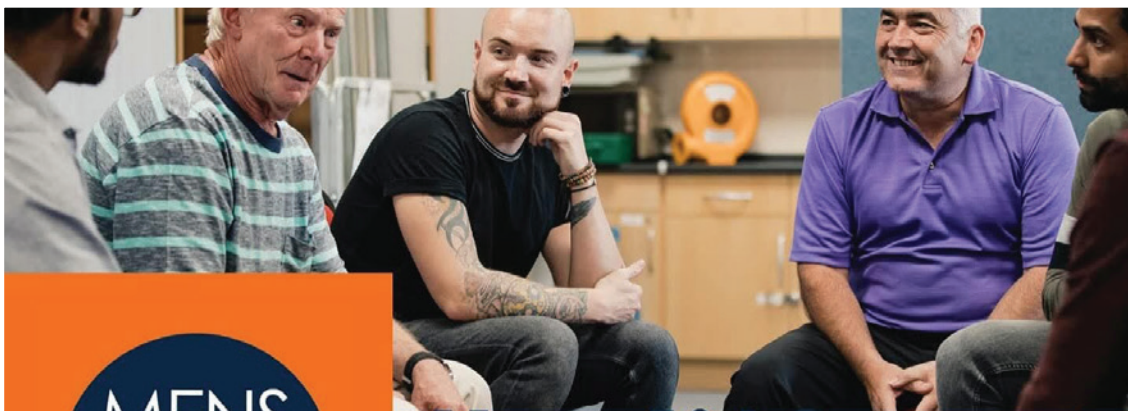
- o Accounting Records - The Board believes that they have complied with the requirements of Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to accounting records by employing personnel with appropriate expertise and by providing adequate resources to the financial function.
- o Income from Other Geographical Areas – No income was received from other geographical markets and, as a result, no disclosure is required under the Companies Act 2014, Schedule 3, Part IV 65 (2).
- o Post balance Sheet Events – There have been no events subsequent to the year-end that require an adjustment to or additional disclosures in the financial statements.
- o Men's Aid Ireland complies with Circular 44/2006 "Tax Clearance Procedures Grants, Subsidies and Similar Type Payments" by providing the tax clearance access number, to grant providers when requested.



Name:	Men's Aid Ireland CLG
Registered Address:	St. Anne's Resource Centre, Railway Street, Navan C15 W0YX, Co. Meath
Chairperson:	Seamus Scott
Treasurer:	Tomas Hyland
Secretary:	Tommy O'Donoghue BL
Auditors:	F.D.C. & Associates Ltd., FDC House, Wellington Road, Cork
Bankers:	AIB, Navan, Co. Meath.
Phone Helpline:	01 554 3811
Email:	Hello@mensaid.ie
Website:	www.mensaid.ie
Social Media:	   

The images in the photos used in this publication are not images of the persons who are referenced in the stories or service users of Men's Aid Ireland

CRO No. 489263 | Registered Charity No. 20039479 | CHY No. 13025



MensAid Support Group

Many men can benefit from support groups as it can be used with aspects such as wellbeing, hope, self-esteem, acceptance, and relationships.

**Bring People together with shared experience
Provide a space where you feel accepted and understood
Treat everyone's experiences as being equally important
Involve both giving and receiving support**



Navan and Dublin



Once A Month



7-9pm



015543811



Any Donations Accepted