



Annual Impact Report

2023

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Chairperson's Annual Report 2023

2023 was another successful year of considerable progress throughout SDVS.

We were excited with the news that Allison Graham, CEO, had given us in 2022, that she was expecting a baby in March 2023. Allison went on maternity leave in March and had a beautiful bouncing baby boy, Arthur.

We were fortunate then to be joined in March by interim CEO, Elena Sadoveanu who quickly settled into the role and put her stamp on the organisation throughout the year.

At the beginning of the year the Board set out its goals for 2023. Considerable progress was made in this regard, mostly through the board subcommittees: Audit & Finance, Governance & Risk, Staffing, Fundraising, and Strategic Plan Overview.

These accomplishments included reviews and updates to various policy documents and handbooks including the Risk Response Plan, the Risk Management System, the Employee Handbook, the Board Governance Handbook, the Financial Management and Procedures Policies update, and a comprehensive review of staff salaries and conditions.

In addition to the above the board commissioned a review of the management structure, a structure that has served the organisation well for many years, as a result of which we reconfigured both the organisation structure and the management structure. This included the introduction of the role of Director of Services and the role of HR Manager, both which will be filled in 2024.



David Laird
Chairperson & Director
of the Board

This will ensure that the quality of services we deliver to our clients will continue to be at the high standard we have set for the organisation. This restructure is designed to cater for the scale of the organisation as it is now, and also to provide for growth in the medium-term.

In the context of the Charities Regulator guidelines, we decided to change auditors for our 2023 accounts. I would like to thank our auditors for the past eight years, Kenny Whelan, for the valuable service and assistance they have given us during that time.

I would like to thank both Allison and Elena for their outstanding achievements in the role of CEO in 2023. In particular I would like to thank Elena for stepping into the breach and adapting so quickly to the role, which she always carried out with enthusiasm, professionalism, and impact. I would also like to thank all the staff of SDVS for their continued dedication to the organisation and to our clients. They always provide an exceptionally warm welcome to the women and children who avail of our services, and their kindness has no limits.

In addition, I would like to thank my fellow board members for their unwavering commitment throughout the year, at board meetings and subcommittee activities, in addition to the various inputs and expertise provided to assist the management. We were delighted to welcome two new members, Orlagh Woods and Eoin McDermott.

Throughout the year we continued to enjoy the firm support and ongoing encouragement of Tusla. The funding we receive from Tusla allows us to deliver the quality services to the many clients who benefit from their engagement with SDVS. I would like to thank Tusla for this as it is paramount to the organisation, and we appreciate the fact that Tusla have always been there to listen and work with us in the development of the organisation.

I would also like to express my gratitude on behalf of the board to the many other organisations and individuals who have provided us with financial support, grants, fundraising, and support-in-kind throughout the year. Your commitment and generosity are invaluable.

CEO Annual Report 2023

The past year has marked a period of significant progress and development for Saoirse Domestic Violence Services (SDVS). Our unwavering commitment to providing comprehensive support and resources for individuals affected by domestic violence and abuse has driven numerous achievements and service improvements.

I am sincerely grateful to David Laird, our Chairman of the Board, and Allison Graham, CEO, for affording me the opportunity to step into the role of Interim CEO at Saoirse Domestic Violence Services in March 2023. This moment marked the beginning of an incredible journey characterised by both challenges and significant achievements.

Working alongside the passionate and dedicated management team and staff of SDVS has been a true privilege, and I am profoundly thankful for their steadfast support throughout my tenure.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to David Laird, as well as to all the dedicated members of the Board, whose selfless contributions of expertise and unwavering support have been indispensable in advancing the mission and initiatives of SDVS. Their voluntary commitment significantly enhances our capacity to serve the community and achieve our organisational objectives.

To align with our organisational priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and facilitate growth, we engaged an external consultant to assist with our structural review efforts.



Elena Sadoveanu
Interim Chief
Executive Officer

Through consultations with the board, we have initiated a series of impactful transformations, for implementation in 2023-2024. These adjustments encompassed redefining roles, building on learning and experience and streamlining positions to strengthen our operational efficiency and sharpen our strategic direction.

Child & Youth Services Pillar

In 2023, we embarked on a significant initiative with the further development of our third dedicated pillar aimed at strengthening supports for children impacted by domestic violence and abuse. Formerly known as the Childcare Team, this pillar has been rebranded as the Child & Youth Services Team, marking a pivotal step in our commitment to enhancing care and intervention strategies for young individuals facing such challenges.



This expansion saw the team now include five dedicated Child & Youth Key Workers, with plans underway to augment this further by adding two Child & Youth Outreach Workers. Following an extensive recruitment process, we were pleased to welcome Katie O’Keeffe, as the new Child & Youth Services Manager in mid-2023, promptly initiating plans to expand the team's presence across Tallaght and Rathcoole refuges.

Introduction of the HR Manager Role

To oversee Priority 2 – Organisation & People, we commenced recruitment of the HR Manager. This position focuses on the development and implementation of HR strategies that foster a productive, engaged, and well-supported workforce.

Introduction of Child & Youth Outreach Workers

In order to offer specialised assistance to children affected by domestic violence and abuse in our communities, we have commenced recruitment of the role of Child & Youth Outreach Workers. These dedicated professionals play a crucial role in reaching out to young individuals facing such challenges, providing them with essential support and guidance during difficult times. Their primary objective is to ensure that these children receive the necessary care and resources to cope with the trauma they have experienced.



Introduction of Financial Administrator

To ensure efficient financial operations and support our sustainable funding goals, we commenced recruitment of the Financial Administrator as support to the Financial Controller. This position is responsible for managing our financial transactions, maintaining accurate financial records, and supporting budget management processes.

These enhancements reflect our commitment to strategic growth and the effective utilisation of our resources. The new roles and adjustments are designed to better align our organisation and people with our strategic priorities, ultimately enhancing our ability to serve our community and achieve our long-term objectives. We aim to have these roles in situ by the first quarter in 2024.

Securing Additional Premises

In early 2023, we successfully secured two additional premises under licence from the South Dublin County Council. These properties are crucial to expanding our step-down accommodation options, a vital component in addressing the significant challenges surrounding housing for women experiencing domestic violence and abuse. This expansion allows us to offer more transitional housing solutions, helping women move from crisis situations towards independent living in a supportive environment.

Difference Days Project



In October 2023, we had the privilege of participating in the Difference Days Project, a remarkable initiative supported by Avolon Volunteers and led by the difference Days Team. Through this project, one of our safe houses underwent a complete renovation and refurbishment. This transformation is not just about improving the physical space; it plays a crucial role in enhancing the psychological well-being of the residents.

Step-Down Accommodation

The refurbishment of our safe house properties is pivotal. A well-maintained, welcoming environment fosters feelings of hope, self-worth, dignity, and determination—essential elements for women rebuilding their lives after experiencing domestic violence. A refreshed living space can significantly impact their journey towards healing and empowerment, providing them with a sense of stability and a foundation for success.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the Difference Days and Avolon team members who contributed to the success of this project. Their dedication and hard work have made a tangible difference in the lives of the women we support, demonstrating the profound impact that community collaboration and volunteerism can have on addressing domestic violence and abuse.

By continuing to expand and improve our step-down accommodation, we are making meaningful strides towards offering comprehensive support and fostering resilient, hopeful futures for the women we serve.

Charity Partnership

We were honoured to be chosen by the Intervarsity Law Summit Committee as their Charity Partner for the 2023 Summit in Dublin. The Intervarsity Summit is the biggest student-run legal event in Ireland, the eight Irish Law Schools coming together for this event are - UCC, Trinity, UCD, Queens Belfast, NUIG, UL, Maynooth and DCU. The event was a fantastic opportunity for SDVS to raise awareness of the prevalence of the crime of domestic violence in Irish Society, with our legal professionals of the future, as well as helping us raise much needed funds. Guest Speaker at the summit was former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson.



Enhanced Benefits for our Team

In the fourth quarter of 2023, we diligently focused on enhancing our suite of benefits, aimed at strengthening the wellbeing and professional development of our current and future employees, effective from January 1, 2024. These enhancements mark a significant milestone in our commitment to supporting our team holistically. Here's an overview of the key achievements:

✓ Standardised Annual Leave:

All general staff will benefit from a new policy granting 25 days of annual leave, ensuring consistency and fairness across our workforce.

✓ Annual Leave Purchase Scheme:

We are introducing a new scheme allowing employees to purchase up to 4 additional days of annual leave per year, providing greater flexibility to manage work-life balance.

✓ HSF Assist:

To be launched as our new Employee Assistance Program (EAP), designed to offer comprehensive support for personal and professional challenges, reinforcing our commitment to employee wellbeing.

✓ Wellbeing Committee Initiatives:

We have established a Wellbeing Committee tasked with organising various activities throughout the year, which will commence in 2024. These initiatives are aimed at promoting the physical and mental health of our employees, fostering a supportive and engaging workplace culture.

These initiatives underscore our dedication to creating an environment where our employees can thrive personally and professionally. We are excited about the positive impact these enhancements will have on our team's overall satisfaction and success.

IT Systems & Workstation Upgrades

After conducting a thorough Visual Display Unit (VDU) assessment, we have invested in new IT equipment to enhance our workplace infrastructure. This includes the acquisition of complete workstations for all staff members, which are essential for sustaining high levels of productivity. Additionally, we have procured new laptops to ensure our employees have the necessary tools to perform efficiently. This strategic upgrade underscores our commitment to maintaining an optimal working environment.

In the fourth quarter of 2023, our organisation initiated the preliminary phases of planning for the implementation of the eSafe system, slated for early 2024. This system is poised to become our new client database, with one of its key functionalities of generating comprehensive reports.

New Policy Implementation & Policy Update



Implementation of Saoirse Domestic Violence Policy

In 2023, we successfully rolled out the Saoirse Domestic Violence Policy aimed at establishing a comprehensive framework to support our staff. This policy standardises our response and enhances support mechanisms, ensuring uniform and effective assistance aligned with current legislation. By implementing this robust policy, we aim to foster a safe and supportive environment for all employees facing domestic violence.

Policy Update

During the latter half of 2023, extensive initiatives were undertaken to revise our Referral, Admission, and Exit Policy, alongside our Drug & Alcohol Policy. These revisions were conducted through thorough consultations with both our internal team and external stakeholders. This reflects our unwavering commitment to upholding best practices in our support for clients affected by domestic violence and abuse.

The process of finalising and implementing these updated policies is well underway, with plans to complete this endeavour by the first quarter of 2024. These efforts underscore our organisation's proactive approach to ensuring that our policies remain responsive to the evolving needs of those we serve.



Saoirse Domestic Violence Services has marked a year of remarkable progress in both service delivery and organisational growth. Our achievements stand as a testament to the unwavering commitment of our staff and the invaluable support of our stakeholders.

Every day, our team goes above and beyond, demonstrating a profound commitment to actively listening to, believing in, supporting, and empowering women. Through these efforts, they contribute significantly to fostering a safer and more inclusive society. Looking ahead, our dedication to enhancing services and broadening our reach remains steadfast, driven by our mission to better serve individuals affected by domestic violence and abuse.

While celebrating our successes, we recognise there is still much work to be done. We deeply appreciate the steadfast support from our statutory, non-statutory, and public supporters, whose backing is pivotal to our ongoing efforts. We are fully committed to honouring this support by continuously improving and innovating our essential services, striving to maximise our positive impact on the community.

To all our supporters, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment. With your continued support, we eagerly anticipate another year of progress and meaningful change at SDVS. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by domestic violence, fostering a future where safety, respect, and empowerment are accessible to all.

Child & Youth Services Report 2023

2023 was a landmark year for Saoirse Domestic Violence Services dedicated child and youth service with a number of significant developments which I am delighted to present for the first year in my position of Child & Youth Services Manager.

The focus of the year for the team was to review, refine and enhance our supports to tackle childhood domestic violence and abuse, ensuring that mothers, children and young person clients of SDVS receive quality, evidence-based interventions that will support their holistic needs and recovery from trauma.



Katie O'Keeffe,
Child & Youth Services
Manager

2023 Statistics

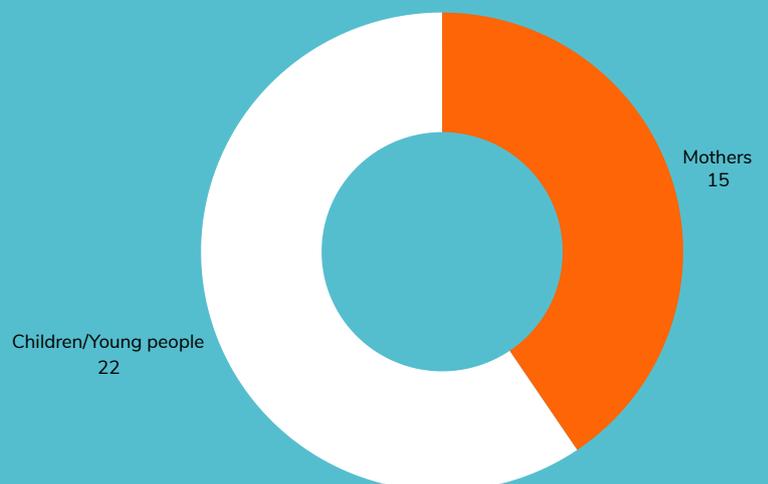
134

children accessed emergency accommodation.

22

were able to stay at home while their mothers received support in refuge centres.

Outreach



Rebrand

With the much-needed creation of a third pillar in SDVS dedicated to children's supports the decision was made to rebrand from 'Childcare Services' to 'Child & Youth Services'. This was necessary to clearly define the social care service to parents and children rather than traditional childcare services which are sourced for children externally in experienced early years services.



The INSPIRE Family Project

We name our family support model - used in both refuge and outreach settings.

The INSPIRE Family Project provided tailored interventions to 93 families, including wraparound support, service advocacy, parent support, keywork with children, and theraplay-informed sessions. Families also participated in seasonal activities such as Christmas, Easter and Summer Projects. While piloting the project in an Outreach capacity was beneficial for the children/young people, balancing the needs of both outreach and refuge families was challenging for Child & Youth Keyworkers, prompting efforts to secure funding for dedicated outreach workers.

I NCLUSION
N URTURING RELATIONSHIPS
S AFETY
P OTENTIAL
I NTERACTIONS
R ESILIENCE
E MPOWERING CHILDREN AND MOTHERS



Learning & Development

To implement the evidence-based programming, the team underwent a robust learning and development initiative funded by the Katherine Howard Foundation Children's Promise Grant. This grant provided funding for:



7 staff to train as accredited Parents Under Pressure (PUP) Therapists and 1 PUP Supervisor.



5 staff to train in Level 1 Theraplay training and an implementation session with Joanna Fortune to embed it into our practice in SDVS.



3 staff completed a QQI Level 5 in Family Support to complement their degrees.

Other trainings in 2023 included:

TLC Kidz Project, Suicidal Ideation and Self-Harm in Young People, Non-Violence Resistance Training, Meitheal, Online Safety

Child & Youth Refuge Services

We have enhanced our refuge services for children & young people with the extension of service hours and the introduction of a breakfast club. This supported mothers during the stressful morning routine, promoted school/early years attendance, built children's life skills, and provided nutritious meals. It has given extra opportunity for positive connections and we aim to build on our evening support services for children in 2024.



254

young people who engaged
in **Healthy Relationships
Workshops.**

Healthy Relationships

In 2023, we delivered Healthy Relationships School Talks to promote an early intervention and prevention approach to domestic violence and abuse. The workshops promote an early intervention and prevention approach to domestic violence and abuse by exploring 'healthy' versus 'unhealthy' relationships. We also began planning a review and enhancement of the workshops to encourage youth participation during sessions.



Summary

While it was a year of many highs - it was not without its challenges. We found that the families that were entering refuge or engaging through community supports were experiencing multiple and complex needs requiring specialised multi-agency support.

With a national crisis such as homelessness, lack of early years placements and pressure on vital services such as Public Health Nurses, Social Work, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, Children's Disability, Therapeutic Supports etc. putting additional pressures on the team to co-ordinate wraparound services.

We also found child poverty, in particular food provision, a growing demand that parents needed support with and we were delighted to successfully receive funding from the Children's Rights Alliance to provide food vouchers to 138 families in December 2023.

Going into 2024, we are excited to continue expanding our team to increase our provision of early intervention and prevention support in the hopes of breaking the cycle of domestic violence and abuse for generations to come.

Outreach, Prevention & Training Services Report 2023

It is with immense gratitude and pride that I present the annual report for the Outreach, Prevention & Training Services department of Saoirse Domestic Violence Services for the year 2023. This report encapsulates our collective efforts, triumphs, and challenges as we continue our mission to combat domestic violence and support survivors.

The year 2023 marked another significant milestone for Saoirse Domestic Violence Services. Despite facing unprecedented obstacles, we remained steadfast in our commitment to promoting awareness, education, and advocacy against domestic violence.



Nadine O'Brien
Outreach & Prevention
Manager

2023 Statistics



Our outreach
programmes reached

500

individuals across various
communities



We also provided

345

accompaniments to court
supporting individuals to access
legal supports



Training Rollouts

When promoting and implementing of our Domestic Violence and Abuse Training rollout, our focus was on advertising and promoting our accredited training packages online and through our networks.

Our training sessions enhanced participants' ability to identify, respond to, and support survivors of domestic violence.

Accredited Training Packages

We conducted **10 training sessions, reaching more than 100 professionals.** Agencies such as Garda Siochana Ombudsman Commission, Notion HQ, Walkers Global and Clondalkin Tus Nua Addiction Service engaged with our training department.



Garda
Ombudsman
INQUIRY INDEPENDENCE IMPARTIALITY



Walkers

Clondalkin Tus Nua



Notion

2023 Highlights

Prevention Initiatives

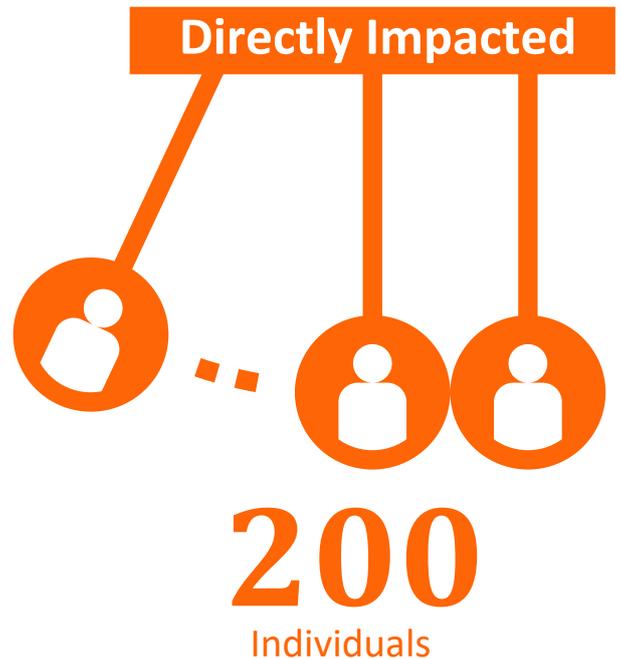
Through workshops, seminars, and campaigns, we engaged with colleges, workplaces, community centres and art galleries to educate and empower individuals to prevent domestic violence before it occurs.

Our prevention efforts directly impacted over 200 individuals, equipping them with the knowledge and resources to break the cycle of abuse.

Our collaborative partnerships include:



arttherapyireland



Freedom Support Group

The Freedom programme support group is a free support programme for women who are victim/survivors of domestic abuse. The formal programme is a psychoeducational group process run in weekly 2-hour sessions over a 12-week period. The empowerment programme is offered to women who have left an abusive relationship and are recovering from the trauma of that experience.

Skilled Facilitators

SDVS completed 2 programmes during 2023. We plan to expand this programme over the duration of our strategy. We will do this by increasing our number of skilled facilitators to deliver the programme being offered on a more frequent basis across more community locations.



Collaborative Fundraising

We are grateful for the unwavering support of our donors; whose contributions directly impact the lives of survivors and their communities. To name but a few, Festival Mna, Tuath Holistic, Intervarsity Law Summit Alexandra College, Difference Days, Avolon, Coffee at the Edge, AWS, Artist Ian Delaney, Mentor Amanda Delaney and Credit Union Tallaght West.

We strengthened collaborations with local government agencies, non-profit organisations, and corporate partners to maximise our impact and resources.

These partnerships enabled us to expand our reach, increase funding opportunities, and enhance the effectiveness of our programmes.

Special thanks to TD Mary Lou McDonald, TD Mark Ward who visited our services.



Summary

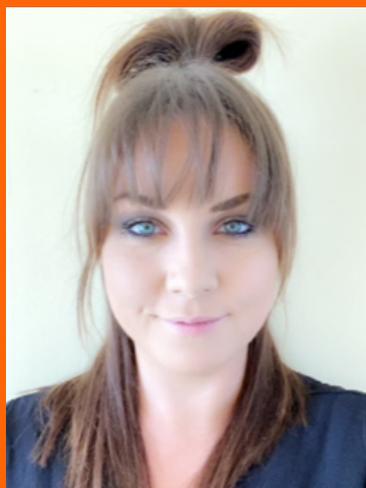
While we celebrate our achievements, we acknowledge the persistent challenges that continue to hinder our efforts to eradicate domestic violence.

Limited resources, societal stigma, and systemic barriers remain significant obstacles in our quest for social change.

However, we remain optimistic and resolute in our belief that by working together, we can create a future free from violence

Refuge Services Report 2023

In 2023, Saoirse Domestic Violence Services (SDVS) continued its mission to provide safety, support, and empowerment to victim survivors of domestic abuse through the provision of crisis accommodation across our Tallaght and Rathcoole refuges.



Sarah Moynihan & Cora McCann
Assistant Refuge Managers

2023 Statistics



SDVS provides crisis accommodation for up to 11 families at one time



Availing of Temporary Step Down Accommodation meant we were able to accommodate 4 more families from Sept-December 2023



In 2023 there was:

3107 helpline calls

814 calls for refuge

32% callers were provided with accommodation

68% could not be accommodated due to lack of space

Housing Crisis



In 2023 68% of callers to our helpline could not be accommodated due to lack of space. Unfortunately the shortage of refuge accommodation spaces is a pressing issue that leaves many individuals and families in vulnerable situations without adequate support. The current housing crisis has been a major factor in 2023 adding to the list of barriers faced by women leaving abusive situations finding themselves homeless, having no move on options post refuge. The teams across both refuges worked tirelessly engaging with community and statutory agencies building relationships to help bridge these gaps and offer wraparound supports for the families accessing our services.

In 2022, the Dalata Hotel Initiative offered an increase in room availability for families in need of refuge, but unable to access refuge immediately due to the lack of availability. Families were able to avail of hotel accommodation through the Dalata Group, and domestic violence agencies could support the victim survivors in accessing safe accommodation from there. This initiative rolled out for a short period into 2023, but has since come to an end. After this, SDVS struggled to accommodate all callers looking for refuge. Lack of spaces and move on options then highlighted the need for additional Step Down Accommodation to afford clients time to search for a more permanent residence post.

Temporary Step Down Accommodation

In early 2023 the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans), reached out to SDVS to support our services. We were able to avail of one of their vacant properties for short-term, StepDown Accommodation for some of the families who struggled to secure a safe move on option. The house is in a secure gated community and has been an invaluable asset in supporting victim survivors in a safe environment, empowering them to find freedom from the abuse they had endured.



Since September 2023, we were able to accommodate four families, and have found the Spiritans to be incredibly generous and understanding of SDVS client's situations, offering whatever support they can.

The team in refuge continued to support these clients with advance planning, it meant keyworking sessions were able to happen outside of the refuge base. Often with clients in refuge, the team do not get to see the impact of the supports outside crisis accommodation. This facilitated invaluable experience for refuge staff to provide these supports. Encouraging the team to support these families in a community setting really helped them to see what an incredible support they can be to women and the impact they have made to individuals, now living free from violence.

2023 Highlights



Art Therapy Initiative

In May 2023, SDVS were able to collaborate with a project run by the National Gallery of Ireland. The project consisted of ten in-house art therapy sessions for the families in refuge accommodation. We were very fortunate that this project was co-ordinated by a past staff member of SDVS, Andrea Plunkett, who trained in Art Psychotherapy. Alongside the therapy sessions for women, the project also provided art sessions for children. Childcare is a huge barrier to women accessing supports, so it was fantastic to have the opportunity for the children themselves to do their own piece of work alongside mothers engaging in sessions on site. There was huge engagement in the project which was a great success.

This is something we hope to roll out again in 2024 in collaboration with The National Gallery of Ireland. Following the completion of the project, The NGI invited staff to Experiential CPD - creative workshop in Cultural Art Therapy. This was a one-day workshop, facilitated in the Gallery to learn about what Art Therapy is, engage in different forms of art therapy, learn about the benefits, and experience the Gallery and how powerful creative expression can be in someone's healing journey.

SDVS Drug and Alcohol Policy

2023 saw a much-needed review of the SDVS Drug and Alcohol Policy. Evidence shows a very clear correlation between domestic violence and substance use. During this process we engaged local community drug projects to ensure we got it right. The changes to policy will allow us provide support to Women with a history of addiction and actively using substances to access our crisis accommodation. To ensure we had a clear, comprehensive policy we engaged the staff team to hear feedback on their experience thus far working with clients with dual competing needs. This allowed us to identify what the team needed to facilitate the policy change. With this feedback, it was evident that as a service, we wanted to ensure we were accessible to anyone experiencing Domestic Abuse, but training and clear policy guidelines were needed.



Trish Quinn - Thanks and Farewell

In November 2023 we said goodbye to our long-standing Refuge Manager and colleague Trish Quinn. Trish played a major part in the expansion of SDVS services over the years and particularly the planning and development of a second Refuge in 2019 which allows us to provide crisis accommodation for an additional 5 families. Trish's legacy with SDVS will always be recognised and she is sorely missed by the team. We wish Trish all the best with future endeavours.

Finance Report 2023

Saoirse Domestic Violence Services, dedicated to supporting women and children affected by domestic violence, has experienced significant organisational growth. The year 2023 continued this trend with numerous achievements and milestones.

In 2023, support from major funders was crucial. Contributions from Tusla sustained our core services, funding from the Victims of Crime under the Department of Justice addressed critical needs, and grants in kind from the South Dublin County Council enhanced our service delivery.

Additionally, private donations from individuals, groups, corporate donors, and other charitable organisations were vital despite the challenges posed by the cost-of-living crisis.

We extend our gratitude to the Board of Directors for their guidance and strategic oversight, the Audit & Finance Committee for their diligent review and assurance of financial integrity, and our dedicated management team and staff for their unwavering commitment, support and professionalism. Our commitment to openness and transparency, supported by robust internal policies and a hands-on approach from our leadership, remains paramount. Our department remains focused on transparency in financial reporting and ensuring efficient use of resources. These principles are fundamental to our operations and governance.



**Ade Ogundipe,
Financial Controller**

In 2023, we successfully adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) reporting framework fully, enhancing transparency and aligning our financial reporting with best practices for charities. This adoption included the revaluation of one property, significantly impacting our financial results. It is important to note that this revaluation had no impact on our cash flow.

Total Income 2023 Period

Total income: €2,816,473.00

Total Expenses: €3,068,220.00

Deficit of (€251,728.00) due to
revaluation of property

The cost-of-living crisis significantly impacted all sectors of the economy, including ours, leading to a notable reduction in donation receipts for 2023 compared to previous years, however we are looking ahead with optimism and initiatives to expanding our fundraising capabilities.

Looking ahead to 2024, our strategic goals include continued adherence to SORP reporting standards and integration of best practices, investing in people and technology, continuous monitoring of the economic landscape, and being proactive in our approach. Our funding in 2024 will move from Tusla, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth to Cuan, the newly established agency under the Department of Justice, for the sector.

Summary

In summary, 2023 was a transformative year for Saoirse, marked by significant advancements in financial transparency and community service expansion, demonstrating commitment to our stakeholders through continued service delivery and support initiatives.

Our adoption of the SORP reporting framework underscores our dedication to accountability and community empowerment. Despite challenges such as the cost-of-living crisis, we achieved numerous milestones and remained committed to our mission. As we move forward into 2024, we remain dedicated to effectively utilising resources to support victims of domestic violence and promote lasting positive change.

Independent Auditors Report

To the Members of Saoirse Housing Association CLG

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the charity financial statement of Saorise Housing Association CLG ('the charity') for the financial year 31 December 2023 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 2.¹ 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, applying Section 1A of that Standard 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 Charity as at 31 December 2023 and of its deficit for the financial year ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and
- have properly been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards of 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 statement section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standards 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 in note 3¹

1. Notes can be accessed in the filled financial statements

Independent Auditors Report

note 3¹ 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.

Conclusion 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 charity'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 the report.

Other information

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

Our responsibilities is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

1. Notes can be accessed in the filled financial statements

If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report the fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

- Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:
- in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements;
- in our opinion the Directors' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014; and
- the accounting records of the charity were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements
- are in agreement with the accounting records.

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

Independent Auditors Report

To the Members of Saoirse Housing Association CLG

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors Annual Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not complied with by the charity, we have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 12,¹ the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statement, the directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operation, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue as Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not guaranteed that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

1. Notes can be accessed in the filled financial statements

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

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

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

Independent Auditors Report

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieve fair presentation.

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

To the Members of Saoirse Housing Association CLG

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

Darren Carrick FCA

For and behalf of

WHELAN DOWLING & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm

Block 1, Unit 1 & 4,

Northwood Court,

Santry

D09E438

19 June 2024

Saoirse Housing Association CLG

Statement of Financial Activities

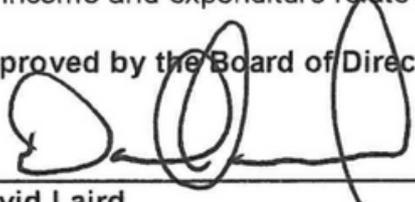
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022
		€	€	€	€	€	€
Income	Notes						
Donations and legacies							
Charitable activities	5.1	55,365	-	55,365	164,978	-	164,978
-Grants from the governments and other co-funders	5.2	21,201	2,735,322	2,756,523	20,120	2,414,534	2,434,654
Other Income	5.3	4,585	19	4,604	98	100	198
Total Income		81,151	2,735,341	2,816,492	185,196	2,414,634	2,599,830
Expenditure		54,045	3,014,175	3,068,220	196,942	2,395,898	2,592,840
Charitable activities	6.1	27,106	(278,834)	(251,728)	(11,746)	18,736	6,990
Net Income/ (Expenditure)							
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for financial year		27,106	(278,834)	(251,728)	(11,746)	18,736	6,990
Reconciliation of funds:		546,075	532,809	1,078,887	557,824	514,073	1,071,897
Total funds beginning of the year	16						
Total funds at the end of the year		573,184	253,975	827,159	546,075	532,809	1,071,897

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 19 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


David Laird
Director


Eoin McDermott
Director

1. Notes can be accessed in the filled financial statements

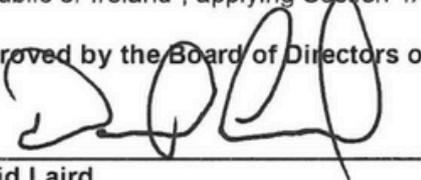
Saoirse Housing Association CLG

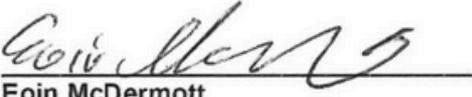
Balance Sheet (as at 31 December 2023)

		2023	2022
	Notes	€	€
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	10	759,301	979,793
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	190,495	47,572
Cash at bank and in hand	12	557,942	665,426
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		748,437	712,998
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(265,077)	(184,471)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Current Assets		483,360	528,527
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		1,242,661	1,508,320
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(415,502)	(429,433)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Net Assets		827,159	1,078,887
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Funds			
Restricted Funds		253,975	532,809
General fund (unrestricted)	16	573,184	546,075
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Funds		827,159	1,078,887
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 19 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


 David Laird
 Director


 Eoin McDermott
 Director

Saoirse Housing Association CLG

Statement of Cash Flow

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Cash Flows from operating activities		(251,728)	6,990
Net movement in funds		258,363	25,673
Adjustments for:		(19)	-
Depreciation & Revaluations		6,553	6,779
Interest receivable and similar income			
Interest payable and similar expenses		<u>13,169</u>	<u>39,442</u>
Movements in working capital:		(142,923)	(17,710)
Movements in debtors		80,398	(184,546)
Movements in Creditors			
Cash used in operations		<u>(49,356)</u>	<u>(162,814)</u>
Interest paid		<u>(6,553)</u>	<u>(6,779)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(55,909)</u>	<u>(169,593)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		19	-
Payments to acquire tangible assets		<u>(37,871)</u>	<u>(6,535)</u>
Net cash used in investments activities		<u>(37,852)</u>	<u>(6,535)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
New long-term loan		-	1
Repayment of long-term loan		<u>(13,723)</u>	<u>(13,520)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(13,723)</u>	<u>(13,520)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(107,484)	(189,648)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	12	<u>665,426</u>	<u>855,426</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		<u><u>557,942</u></u>	<u><u>665,426</u></u>

1. Notes can be accessed in the filled financial statements



Saoirse Housing Association CLG,
PO Box 10819, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Call : 01-4630400 Email: admin@sdvs.ie

Saoirse Housing Association CLG trading as Saoirse Domestic Violence Services,
is a registered charity (Charity Reg. No. 20058296); Companies Registration
Office number 390584; Revenue CHY number 16281.