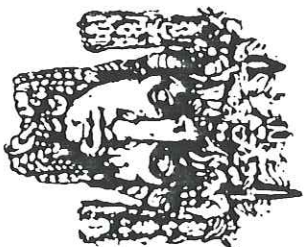




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**Ana Liffey Project**



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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**1987**

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## Special Areas of Concern for 1988

### Prison

Is prison more caring than the wider community, as some prisoners say? Is this why the transition from the institution called 'prison' to the institution called 'community' is so fraught with difficulty?

### A.I.D.S.

How can the community bridge these emotions of fear, disease and acceptance among themselves and with the drug users so as to create a more human society for those dying of A.I.D.S.?

### Women

The drug culture appears to leave women in the same role, as society at large — as secondary citizens. How can we meet their needs without positive discrimination which inevitably becomes negative.

### Outreach

A need to meet those drug users in a non-judgemental way, who are not involved with agencies so as to help them effect a better quality of life for themselves.

### Objectives in Treatment

Should our sole objective in treatment be abstinence. Should we not rather be talking of reducing the risks to health?

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## Introduction

The Ana Liffey Project was established in 1982 to provide what was missing in the range of services for drug users in the Dublin area.

Since the explosion of heroin onto the Dublin drug scene in 1979-1980 and society's failure to deal with the social problems which arose from this level of drug use, the problem has far from abated. There are no accurate figures for the number of intravenous drug users in Dublin at present but experts believe that the figure is between 3,000-6,000.

The advent of the A.I.D.S. virus especially among I.V. drug users has added a new urgency to the work of the Ana Liffey Project and its impact will be dealt with more fully later on in this report.

The history of the drug user is generally one of many attempts and failures to break the cycle of addiction before success is achieved. We believe that every attempt by the drug user to beat their addiction even if it ends in failure can be capitalised on and contribute to eventual success. We could draw an analogy with the number of cigarette smokers who manage to stop at their first attempt. For the eventual success of the drug-user in changing his or her lifestyle there has to be a varied number of services both specialist and general linked together to meet the needs of the drug user at various times. It is dangerous to stereotype drug users and our experience has been that they come from all social backgrounds and are all individuals with different needs and goals.

In this the fifth year of the Ana Liffey Project the ultimate goal for our work with the drug-user is not only that they become and remain drug-free but that they achieve a level of stability which will allow them to become responsible adults acceptable and contributing to society.

## Development of the Centre

With the virtual ending of the Department of Labour temporary employment schemes at the end of 1986 there has been a dramatic change in the staffing structure of the Project. We now employ a total staff of seven, six of whom work on a full-time basis. The Project has now achieved a level of stability which was heretofore missing due to circumstances beyond our control. We have developed a flexible appointment and drop-in based facility more suited to the needs of our clients. This is reflected in the percentage (50-90%) of clients who keep appointments which exceeds by far the levels achieved in British agencies of a similar nature. The high level of appointments kept would appear to contradict the often held view that people with drug problems are totally unable to organise their daily lives at any level. This re-organisation coincides with a marked and substantial increase in the number of clients participating in our programme in the past year.

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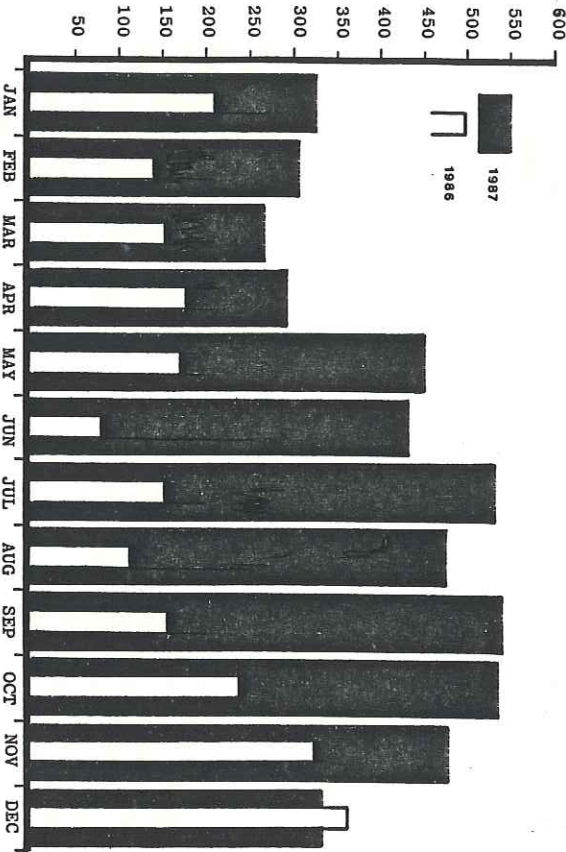


The change of staffing and structure within the building has done a lot to remove the level of stress for those working in the Project. Over the past year, the existing team has worked well, and became a good resource both for itself and the clients. It has also taken away the fear of constantly changing staff which we have always felt was a disadvantage in working with those who are presently only on the periphery of a drug free life and as such have not made any real moves forward yet. However, it must be acknowledged that even with their drawbacks, the Department of Labour temporary employment schemes have been a great benefit for the Project both in sustaining it in those first crucial years and also by helping us explore various methods of working with clients so that we can state with conviction that the way we operate today is most suited to the needs of our client population.

## The Centre

Our drop-in centre where the greater part of our work takes place has been consistently in demand by both old and new clients. Since we attempt to tailor our programme to the needs of the individual client, this allows us a flexibility and freedom which would be lacking in a less client-orientated agency. Clients attend between one and five times per week for individual counselling. We actively encourage our clients to attend Narcotics

### Counselling Interventions per Month



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## The Anna Liffey Project

(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Extracts from Audited Accounts for year ending 31 December 1987

<b>Operating Income</b>	1987
Charitable Donations	£ 41,290
State Grants and Youth Employment Schemes	35,565
Other Grants	7,500
Other Income	3,061
	<u>87,436</u>

<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	
Staff Salaries and Overheads	70,719
Transfer to Capital Reserve	16,717
	<u>87,436</u>

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	
Fixed Assets, Net Book Value	24,843
Net Current Assets	28,301
	<u>53,144</u>
funded from Cumulative Reserves	<u>53,144</u>

### Auditors' Report

The above is an extract from the Accounts on which we reported without qualification.

*Alphard J. V.*  
 MAHON & COMPANY,  
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
 21 January 1988

**Patron**  
MRS MAEVE HILLERY

**Board of Sponsors**  
DAVID KENNEDY  
JACK HAYES  
DAVID KINGSTON  
MICK LALLY  
DAVID WENT

**Management Council 1987**

Michael Mernagh O.S.A., *Chairperson*  
David Poole, *Deputy Chairperson*  
Carol Matthews, *Secretary*  
Mary Curran, *Treasurer*  
Frank Brady S.J., *Director*  
Mara de Lacy, *Administrator*  
Matt Bowden  
Declan Burke  
Shane Butler  
Thurlo Butterley  
Bill Gentes  
Michael Gill  
Paddy Malone  
Dr Fiona Mulcahy  
Brid Nic Aodha Bhui'  
Ethna O'Donovan  
Donal O'Sullivan  
Renee Rutledge  
Michael Ryan  
Joe Sheppard

**Address:**  
13 Lower Abbey Street,  
Dublin 1.  
Telephone (01) 786899.

*The Ana Liffey Project is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.*

1) Individual clients seen per year

1987	-	387
1986	-	237
1985	-	129
1984	-	127

2) Referrals (i.e. new clients) to Ana Liffey per year

1987	-	167
1986	-	102
1985	-	62
1984	-	113

3) The number of counselling sessions with our clients per year (approx)

1987	-	5000
1986	-	2300