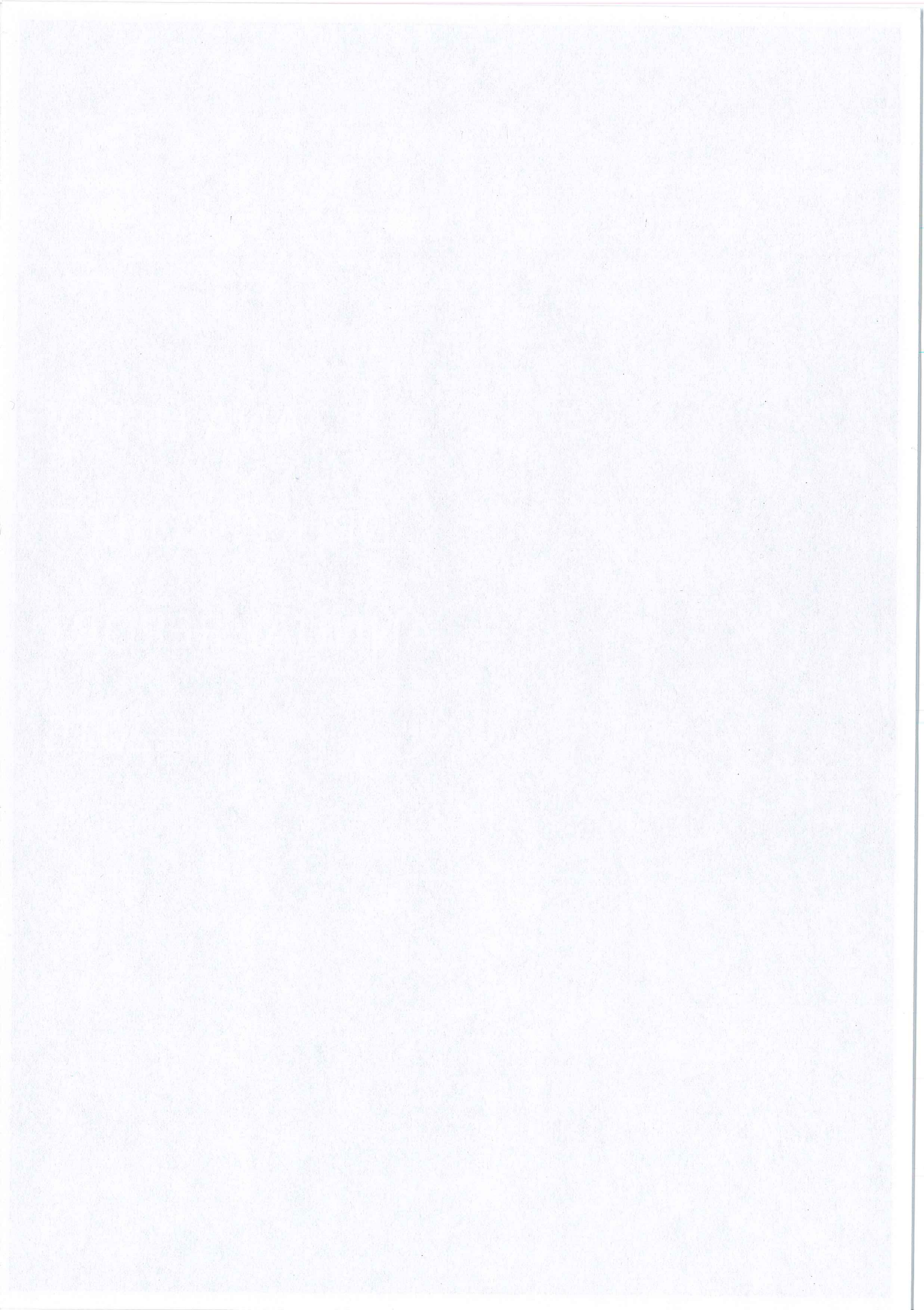


ANA LIFFEY
DRUG PROJECT
ANNUAL REPORT
2016



Chairperson's Report

2016 was another successful year for the Ana Liffey Drug Project; of course there were challenges, but that is nothing unusual for this vibrant organisation. I remain deeply impressed with the dedication and hard work of the employees and volunteers Involved at all levels of the day-to-day running of the charity.

Of course, frontline service delivery is not the only area of the organisation where people work. I am, as always, grateful for the support and contribution of my colleagues on the Board. We are fortunate to have an active voluntary Board, full of people who make genuine and informed contributions, and we are a better organisation as a result. In 2016, we welcomed Greg Ward to the Board. We also saw a number of people step down from the Board in 2016 - Richard Guiney, Patricia Conway, Louise Mahoney, Joan O'Flynn and Deirdre Canavan. Their hard work and commitment towards achieving the strategic aims and ensuring good governance of the charity over many years is much appreciated and not forgotten. We continue to work towards full and meaningful compliance with the Governance Code, and also with the charities SORP on financial reporting.

One aspect of our work which deserves a particular mention is the support of the Irish Management Institute (IMI) who named us as their charity of the year for 2016. This enabled five staff members to receive cutting-edge management training during the year. IMI also ran a number of events throughout the year in support of the Ana Liffey. We are extremely grateful for their support.

Looking forward to the coming year, there is, at last, a more positive feeling about the economy and prospects for Ireland, a sharp contrast with the decade past. Against this backdrop, we are committed to developing our services for our clients, delivering value for money for our funders, and creating a great place to work for our staff. With the support of our many external partners Ana Liffey will continue to 'punch above our weight' as we have done for the past four decades.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who makes the Ana Liffey what it is – from those who use our services to those who fund them. In particular, I'd like to thank all our staff on behalf of the Board. As an organisation, the Ana Liffey has a strong ethos of accessible, harm reduction service delivery, which is shared by all. I'm proud to say that all of our staff carry that ethos with them in everything they do – many thanks to you all.

Eddie Matthews

Chairperson

October 2017

Treasurer's Report

I would like to start with a brief introduction, as I am new to the Ana Liffey and to the role of Treasurer, having joined in November 2016. My name is Greg Ward, and I'm an actuary. In my professional life, I work on Lower Abbey Street, not far from where the first Ana Liffey premises was. I very much believe in the Ana Liffey's low threshold ethos – it's always important to keep people engaged with your services, rather than making things too complicated and pushing them away. I'm looking forward to contributing to the organisation in the months and years ahead.

Financially, 2016 saw the company receive income of €2.02m, slightly down on 2015, where we received €2.07m. The company recorded a small loss on the year as a whole, being overspent by €16,328 at year end.

In addition to our own audit, the company underwent an independent audit supported by one of our funders in late 2016 and I'm pleased to report that this process noted that the organisation has appropriate financial procedures currently in place. Nonetheless, there is always more to do, and the Finance Committee meets quarterly to carry out its work plan, further developing our processes and policies.

I'd like to end by noting a special thanks to a number of people and institutions. First, to the staff in Ana Liffey and particularly to Leonie Blyth for marshalling the finance function so capably. Second, to our auditors Donal Ryan and Associates, and in particular to Donal and Paula. Finally, to our funders; Ana Liffey is almost entirely dependent on the state for support, and for this we are very grateful. An itemised breakdown of all the funding we receive and how we spend it is available in our audited accounts.

Greg Ward

Treasurer

October 2017

CEO's Report

As is always the case, 2016 brought change across the organisation. The organisation took a decision to wind down the services we had provided in the Midlands for the previous number of years. I'd like to recognise the hard work and commitment of all our staff, volunteers and partner agencies in the region – many thanks to all of you. I'd also like to personally thank the people who used our services in the Midlands over the last few years. As is the case wherever we are based, it is you that make the Ana Liffey who we are.

Elsewhere, there was more positive change. Our services in Dublin and the Midwest supported over 1,800 people in 2016. Our work through the Online and Digital Services Team continued apace, with over 600 entries to the National Youth Media Awards. Also, in 2016, our innovative work with An Garda Síochána, HSE and Dublin City Council through the Assertive Case Management Team was subjected to an independent evaluation which was very positive. We continued to develop our work in the area of drug policy, and worked with a number of international partners on transnational projects. Internally, the Poole Volunteer Programme continues to provide the organisation with high quality volunteers and we work to ensure that the people who give their time to Ana Liffey benefit from the experience. In this regard, I am pleased to note that five previous participants on our volunteer programme were successful in gaining employment with us in 2016. As our Chairperson points out above – the Ana Liffey does punch above its weight, but this would not be possible if it weren't for our many collaborators and I would like to thank everyone who worked with us during 2016...there are too many to mention, but you know who you are!

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the public servants and civil servants who the organisation engages with to ensure that the much needed state funding continues to be provided for the activities of the Ana Liffey. I would also like to thank Minister of State Catherine Byrne TD and her predecessor Senator Aodhan O'Riordan for their work during 2016 on progressing the legislative framework for the provision of Supervised Injecting Facilities in Ireland. Also, I work very closely with two people and it would be remiss of me not to thank them wholeheartedly – Dawn Russell (Head of Services) and Marcus Keane (Head of Policy) – their dedication to the work of the Ana Liffey is immense.

I wish to thank the people who use our services for meaningfully engaging with us in 2016; and thank everyone that supported them – the volunteers, staff and Board. The Ana Liffey is greater than the sum of its parts; and it is an honour and a privilege to lead such an outstanding group of people who use their compassion, pragmatism and intellect to help people who often feel forgotten and outcast by society to make healthier choices in their lives. Ana Liffey has always had a policy of inclusion and I know that we will never leave anyone behind.

Tony Duffin

CEO

Emma's Story

Emma* is in her mid-20s and is engaged with the Ana Liffey Drug Project in Limerick. Emma sought support around her benzo use, she was using non-prescribed benzodiazepines on a daily basis and would often use alcohol in excess at weekends. In 2016 Emma had reached a low point - she placed her son into the care of TUSLA as she felt unable to provide for him whilst trying to combat her dependency upon tablets. Emma was also homeless, going between family and friends to find a place stay each night.

Emma had never been in residential treatment before, but she had family members who had and who were familiar with the process. Emma never saw residential treatment as a viable option as her son had always been in her care; she was in fear of losing him and his trust in her as his mother if she went into residential treatment. Also, Emma's use of benzodiazepines was too high for her to access treatment in most centres so she needed to reduce her use to be considered for treatment. Emma met with her key worker in Ana Liffey on a regular basis and began to slowly make positive changes in her life, including working towards meeting the entry criteria for residential treatment. Emma and her keyworker remained in regular contact with the social worker allocated to her son to keep them informed of her plans of treatment. Emma relied heavily on the support of Ana Liffey when engaging with the social work team. Emma found the process of speaking with social workers stressful; but, with support from Ana Liffey, Emma was able to maintain regular and positive contact with them. This helped Emma remain focused and she got to a point of being ready for treatment. Emma had decided prior to her reducing her use that Cuan Mhuire was where she would like to access treatment. Emma was assessed and allocated a bed within a month.

Two staff from Ana Liffey picked up Emma and brought her to treatment for her first time. Emma was informed that her detox from tablets would be finished within two weeks and then she'd have 5 months of treatment. One month into treatment Emma was discharged due to unexpected circumstances. Emma remained in regular contact with Ana Liffey throughout this period and is no longer using non-prescribed drugs. Her young son and daughter are living with her, and she attends aftercare supports and remains engaged with her keyworker in Ana Liffey.

*not her real name

Yasmine's Story

My name is Yasmine Bellwald and I had the chance to complete an internship in the Ana Liffey. During my time I got an insight into a lot of interesting areas of work. I had the possibility to see a lot of different approaches and I was very welcome and supported by everyone. I really enjoyed working together with a great team. I was supported and encouraged to work alongside everyone and I always felt that my opinion and work got respected. It was my first time to work in this area, so I had the chance to really meet and get to know people who use drugs for the first time. I learned a lot about their lives and difficulties and what I can do to support them.

In addition, I got to know more about the drug situation in Dublin and in general. I also learnt about drug policies; about the different substances; about group work; about various approaches; and most importantly how I can engage with and support the people Ana Liffey works with.

I also learned a lot about myself, because it was a totally new experience for me. I faced some difficulties during my internship, for example the language barrier in the beginning, but I reflected a lot and got much support from the staff.

I am really thankful that I was a part of the Ana Liffey, I met a lot of new and inspirational people and have a clearer vision about my future regarding my career in social work.

Our Staff and Board

As at October 2017:

Patron

- President Michael D. Higgins - Sole Patron

Board members

- Eddie Matthews - Chair
- Greg Ward - Treasurer
- Mark Mitchell
- Paul Downes
- Austin O'Carroll
- Roderick Maguire
- Alice O'Flynn
- Brian Dalton
- Jack Nolan

- Catherine Comiskey

Board Subcommittees:

Finance Subcommittee

- Greg Ward (Chair)
- Eddie Matthews
- Tony Duffin (attends)
- Leonie Blyth (attends)
- Marcus Keane (attends)

Clinical Governance Subcommittee

- Alice O'Flynn (Chair)
- Austin O'Carroll
- Mike Scully (external)
- Tony Duffin (attends)
- Dawn Russell (attends)

Governance and Human Resources Subcommittee:

- Roderick Maguire (Chair)
- Brian Dalton
- Tony Duffin (attends)
- Dawn Russell (attends)

Senior Management Team

- Tony Duffin - CEO
- Dawn Russell - Head of Services
- Marcus Keane - Head of Policy

Central office

- Leonie Blyth - Finance Manager
- Jacqueline Kenny - Office Administrator
- Lauren Crook - Volunteer Coordinator

Assertive Case Management Teams

- Paul Duff - Team Leader (Dublin city)
- Annette Kenna - Project Worker (Dublin city)

- Rebecca Doyle - Project Worker (Dublin city)
- Martina Bergin - Team Leader (North East Inner City)
- Natasha Gannon - Project Worker (North East Inner City)
- Stuart Geelon - Project Worker (North East Inner City)

Online and Digital Services Team

- Nicki Killeen - Team Leader
- David Oglesby - Project Worker
- Vacant - Assistant Project Worker

Dublin Team

- JM Burr - Team Leader
- Peter Bennewith - Project Worker
- John Burke - Project Worker
- Leanne Byrne - Project Worker
- Rachel Fayne - Project Worker
- Ross McNulty - Team Leader
- Lena Kattendick - Project Worker
- Rory More-O'Ferrall - Project Worker
- Kay Mylrea – Project Worker
- John O'Meara - Project Worker
- Miranda O'Sullivan - Project Worker
- Evonne Mushonga – Project Worker
- Jade McGroarty-Barry – Nurse

Mid-West Team

- Rachel O'Donoghue - Team Leader
- Pat Galligan - Project Worker
- Lynn Collopy - Project Worker
- Aoife Marshall - Project Worker
- Shane Laffan - Project Worker

2016 In Numbers

Dublin services:

- 1063 individuals attended the open-access
- 249 individuals participated in group work
- 171 individuals completed assessments for Coolmine with our staff
- 292 individuals access the needle and syringe programme
- 84 individuals accessed case management through the Assertive Case Management team

Midwest services:

- 89 individuals received case management support
- 98 individuals received key working supports
- 41 individuals attended the open access service
- 84 individuals accessed the needle and syringe programme

Midlands services:

- 121 individuals attended the open access service in Mullingar
- 197 individuals accessed the Outreach Case Management team across the Midlands

Online and Digital Services Team

- The drugs.ie site received a total of 1,243,861 unique visits in 2016.
- The total unique Irish visits for the same period were 167,434.
- There were 676 calls to the Livehelper service
- 4 campaigns were launched in partnership – What's in the Powder, Pregabalin, 'G' and Ask Snowblow

