



ANA LIFFEY
DRUG PROJECT

ANA LIFFEY DRUG PROJECT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I was talking the other day to a team member who said to me, "These are very exciting times for Ana Liffey; things are always changing and always moving forward" – and he's right with 2022 another year of incredible growth for the organisation in both Dublin and the Midwest Region.

The number of Ana Liffey staff members almost doubled. This was in response to the fact that we're increasingly involved in addressing a range of Inclusion Health issues, working with groups who are socially excluded – people who experience multiple overlapping risk factors for poor health, including poverty, violence and complex trauma.

In my frequent meetings with our team members, you can actually sense their enthusiasm for meeting people in their communities and working with them to bring about the best possible outcomes.

In listening to staff I have learnt that the journey through recovery might take days, months or years, but through conversations and the building of trust, they carefully help bring clients from some of the lowest points in their lives to a more stable place where recovery becomes tangible.

84% of the frontline workers consulted by Ana Liffey feel that improvements can be made in how harm reduction services contribute to building recovery capital

I was delighted in 2022 to witness the even greater levels of cooperation between us, the Health Service Executive, An Garda Síochána, Dublin Regional Homeless Executive, the Midwest Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum, the Probation Service and others.

All of us recognise the need for a joined-up approach – none of us can do it on our own. There is also the recognition that the focus must, whatever the circumstances, be on the client.

There are no moral judgements made. If help is needed, the team members will do their utmost to provide it.

A key part of my job as Chair of Ana Liffey Board is to provide our team members with the support to not just do their jobs, which can be incredibly stressful, but also to lead happy and healthy lives outside of their work. We continue to keep our focus and a watchful eye on this.

I'd like to thank all the staff, colleague board members and volunteers across the organisation for their hard work and commitment throughout 2022.



Ana Liffey Vice Chairperson Vivian Geiran; Lord Mayor of Dublin Caroline Conroy; and Ana Liffey Chairperson Eddie Matthews

On a personal note, myself and my family were surprised and genuinely honoured at the naming of Ana Liffey's Middle Abbey Street premises as The Matthews Building.

To have been a small part of Ana Liffey's forty years in Dublin and ten years in the Midwest Region is an immense privilege and dare I say one I have enjoyed.

EDDIE MATTHEWS

The Financial Year

With regard to our finances - in 2022, Ana Liffey Drug Project had an income of €3,760,266 (2021 - €2,421,430). It had expenditure of €3,731,973 (2021 - €2,437,371). At the end of the year the company had fixed assets of €843,993 (2021 - €843,993), current assets of €1,632,056 (2021 - €1,472,564) and current liabilities of €1,191,689 (2021 - €1,060,558). The net funds of the company amounted to €1,284,360 (2021 - €1,255,999) and the directors are satisfied with the level of retained reserves at the year end.

As we had done in 2021, our 2022 company financial statements were prepared in accordance with the FRS 102 Charities SORP, which we have adopted voluntarily as a matter of good practice. In addition to reporting in compliance with the charities SORP, the board keeps a critical view on financial matters with a financial update at every board meeting, as well as quarterly meetings of the Finance Sub-Committee. Ana Liffey Drug Project receives funding throughout the year from a number of statutory and non-statutory funders, as well as from public donations. We're very grateful to everyone who contributes to the running of the organisation. The company's full financial statements are publicly available on our website at aldp.ie

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

The integration of services, which the Ana Liffey is increasingly part of, isn't easy but whatever the challenges have been, I feel that ourselves and our partners have met them head on.

Drug treatment, mental health and homelessness services are so often intertwined, and our work reflects that on a daily basis. This is complex and demanding work. Thanks to Tony, Dawn, Leonie and the rest of the team's approach, Ana Liffey is seen as an honest, recognised and trusted partner by other agencies and service users alike.

During the COVID-19 pandemic other innovative ways of delivering services had to be found, and that innovative thinking extended into last year with the many different agencies maintaining their collaborative work practices.



Damien Gagnevin at Ana Liffey's 40th Anniversary Conference in Dublin

During 2022 the organisation's growth and expansion continued to happen quickly, but we've never lost sight of what lies at the core of Ana Liffey Drug Project, which is our staff and their relationship with our service users. Some extraordinary work has been done – and will continue to be done – which everybody can be very proud of.

VIVIAN GEIRAN

Ana Liffey Drug Project's 2022

May saw the Ana Liffey in the Mid-West celebrating its 10th birthday and reflecting on another year of providing the region with a low threshold, community-based service.

In 2021, our team registered 145 new service users and worked with 352 people from across the Mid-West.

"Many of the people we are working with are polydrug users and cannot meet the criteria for local drug treatment services due to their complex needs," reflects Rachel O'Donoghue, Ana Liffey Mid-West Team Leader since its inception. "Indeed, we refer people to Beaumont Hospital in Dublin 9, which is over 200km away. When a bed becomes available there, two members of our team drive the five-hour round trip to bring the person for their initial assessment and again, weeks later, for admission, to ensure that the person who is in need of stabilisation or detox makes it there on time."

[More info here](#)

CEO'S REPORT

Twenty twenty-two saw Ana Liffey Drug Project reach two major milestones – the 40th anniversary of the organisation being founded in Dublin by Frank Brady and Mara de Lacy, and ten years since the launch in Limerick of Ana Liffey in the Midwest Region.

Both are testament to the dedication and hard work of Ana Liffey's team members past and present, and the positive way in which service users have chosen to engage with them.

Service users were to the fore at our daylong events in Dublin and Limerick to mark these anniversaries, sharing their lived experiences and giving us invaluable feedback on our services and how they're delivered.

The language of 'harm reduction' as we now understand it didn't exist in 1982, but Frank and Mara's desire to help and work with people peer-to-peer, whilst innovating and expanding the organisation, remains at the heart of everything Ana Liffey does.

With COVID-19 still a significant issue at the start of 2022, the majority of our work was conducted on an outreach basis, with team members going into Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA) and the likes of The Granby Clinic, where we liaised in situ with other agencies.

Prior to the pandemic, Ana Liffey was renowned for its open access drop-in service whereas now the emphasis is on us working with service users in community settings.

Ana Liffey Mid-West provided **17,000** syringes over the course of 2022



Eddie Matthews Chairperson and Tony Duffin CEO at the renaming of Ana Liffey's 48 Middle Abbey Street premises as The Matthews Building



What remains the same is our Low Threshold ethos and determination to reach people; to provide effective case management; to look for solutions to their problems; to afford our teams the time and resources to do that; and to generally provide better outcomes for service users.

No one is excluded: we continue to work with people who have multiple, complex needs wherever that support is needed.

In all of our conversations with service users, the key questions are, "What can we do for you? What goals do you have and how do we help you achieve them?"

Last year also saw further expansion of the Law Engagement & Assisted Recovery (LEAR) programme into Dublin's Northeast Inner City. This has had great success in identifying a cohort of people, mainly men, whose cocaine use impacts on the community in terms of not only their use, but also drug dealing, drug intimidation and other associated antisocial behaviour.

One of the cornerstones of the programme is recognising the links which often exist between drug use, mental health and homelessness, and working alongside the likes of the HSE and An Garda Síochána to bring about positive outcomes.

The number of referrals and case management work within the area has significantly increased, paving the way for further expansion of the LEAR project in 2023.

In a significant diversification of our work, the Ana Liffey was asked by the HSE to help Ukrainian refugees access services and to generally settle into life in Ireland.

Thanks to the work of Rachel O'Donoghue and her team, Ana Liffey in the Midwest Region has continued to thrive and expand. The relationships they've fostered with the HSE, Limerick County Council, An Garda Síochána and other stakeholders are extremely strong, with the Minister of State for Skills and Further Education, Niall Collins TD, demonstrating his support for the service by attending its 10th anniversary event in May 2022.

We were all delighted when a woman we knew, stood up at the event and thanked Ana Liffey for the help we had given her and explained that she is now a fulltime member of staff for another agency locally.

Law Engagement & Assisted Recovery (LEAR) Team



As part of the expansion of Ana Liffey's work in Dublin's North East Inner City, our Assertive Case Management initiative was relaunched in **June as the Law Engagement & Assisted Recovery (LEAR) project.**

Operationally led by Ana Liffey, the frontline multidisciplinary team also includes members of the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive and An Garda Síochána whose Store Street, Pearse Street and Kevin Street stations are all represented.

The result is now even more boots on the ground in areas requiring the provision of intensive case management services to people entrenched in street life.

[More info here](#)

As a result of JP McManus' generous funding of a new mobile unit, affectionately known as the 'VanaLiffey', our team members can now travel to any part of the Midwest and offer a full range of interventions, including needle exchange, in the back of the vehicle.

As highlighted elsewhere in this report, our Head of Services, Dawn Russell, and our teams ramped up our Naloxone training programme and, with the support of the HSE and peer-to-peer organisations like UISCE and EuroNPUD, made this opiate reversal drug as widely available as possible to clients and partner organisations.

The Ana Liffey has also continued to conduct and commission ground-breaking research, as detailed on page 11, which has received international recognition and will help shape future service provision.

Along with our team members, I'd like to thank Ana Liffey's Board for their support. Also, for the wise counsel I have received from the Chair, Eddie Matthews.

Working with us as a governance-level volunteer over many years, Eddie's huge contribution to the organisation was recognised last year by the naming of our Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1 premises as The Matthews Building.

In conclusion, I'm proud to say that in 2022, the Ana Liffey team members rose to all challenges in a manner that was as compassionate as it was professional.

TONY DUFFIN

To mark International Overdose Awareness Day on **August 31st**, Ana Liffey highlighted the importance of improved availability of Naloxone, a medication used to block and reverse the effects of heroin and other opioids.

Chris, a Mid-West Region service user who's undergone Ana Liffey Naloxone training, spoke about administering it recently to a young person who'd overdosed.

"I panicked at first and didn't know where I'd left the Naloxone," he recounts. "When I found it, I used it straight away and called an ambulance. The ambulance driver said I saved that kid's life. I felt very proud. Naloxone should be in vending machines all over the city."

We couldn't agree more!

[More info here](#)

Ana Liffey was part of the HSE CH09 Social Inclusion (Homeless Services) team that in **September won the Improving Patient Experience category at the 2022 HSE's Health Services Excellence Awards.**

As a Section 39 funded service working in partnership with our colleagues in CHO9 we are proud to say that we played a significant role in the delivery of the winning project: 'Rapid COVID-19 LAMP Testing In Dublin Homeless Services'.

[More info here](#)



Members of the HSE and Ana Liffey at the 2022 Health Services Excellence Awards

HEAD OF SERVICES' REPORT

Twenty twenty-two was about Ana Liffey consolidating and improving the model that we had developed during COVID-19. This saw us deliver almost all of our work via-outreach and inreach, bringing the services to the people who need them in the environment which suited them best.

In 2022 our teams further improved our model of going into communities and offering help not only in relation to drugs, but also their parallel social and health issues.

We knew by the feedback from our frontline staff that this model was working, but now we had the outcomes, feedback from service users and other data to properly evidence this way of doing things.

The Law Engagement & Assisted Recovery (LEAR) programme, which had been running for eight years, really came of age in 2022 with increased cooperation between ourselves and An Garda Síochána who committed more time and effort to it than ever before.

In April 2022, we expanded LEAR into Dublin's Northeast Inner City with four additional staff and two more Garda stations in Mountjoy and Fitzgibbon Street coming on board.

In the Northeast Inner City, our staff were able to build relationships with the community and with key community Gardaí to build trust in the LEAR programme.

33 people who smoke and/or inject crack cocaine provided data for the *Doing More – The Health And Social Impacts Of Crack Cocaine Use In Limerick City* study



Eddie Mathews with colleagues, family and friends at the renaming of Ana Liffey's 48 Middle Abbey Street premises as The Matthews Building

On **November 10th**, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Caroline Conroy, presided over the renaming of Ana Liffey's 48 Middle Abbey Street premises as The Matthews Building – in honour of Eddie Matthews and his many years of dedicated voluntary work on behalf of the Board of Ana Liffey.

Addressing the large gathering of colleagues, family and friends, the Lord Mayor said that, “Eddie has been a member of Ana Liffey’s Board since 2011 and he has played a key role during that time – including acting as Chairperson. Indeed, Eddie led the Board through the years of austerity, following the global economic collapse; through

the intervening years until the next global crisis, COVID-19. The pandemic saw Ana Liffey expand its services to support and protect people experiencing homelessness and who have complicated health issues – like addiction, mental health issues and physical health issues.”

[More info here](#)

Soon, people were signing up to our service. These included young men, particularly, who use and sell drugs and have historically not engaged because of those trust issues. Very quickly they were reaching out to us and asking for supports, which goes against a commonly held perception of people not wanting help because they’re involved in criminality.

They were not only signing themselves up, but also referring their friends to us. We were able to go back to the Gardaí and the HSE and say, “People in this area, among them those who are often perceived to be without hope or the capacity to change, are actively working on their treatment with us.” It’s very positive! This model will likely work in other parts of the country where there are drug-dealing hotspots.

We also facilitated training on Overdose Prevention and Naloxone use for hundreds of staff working in Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA) and for people who use drugs.

We identified peer workers who we trained up to roll out Naloxone training to other peers, which is especially important in rural areas where people can be quite isolated. Crucially, these peer workers were all compensated for the time they gave to training others.

The importance of people with lived experience was highlighted again at Ana Liffey’s Midwest 10th anniversary event where, on the back of one such person getting up and speaking, a philanthropic fund who heard her offered Ana Liffey support. It hadn’t been planned, but that was the effect their feedback had.



Noel Earlie of JP McManus Fund; and Rachel O'Donoghue of Ana Liffey Mid-West

Twenty twenty-two also saw the establishment of the Private Emergency Accommodation Case Management Team (PACT) in partnership with the HSE, Dublin City Council, Focus Ireland and Coolmine. PACT builds on the inreach case management which Ana Liffey has been providing in PEAs since 2020, bringing even more expertise and resources through a multi-agency approach. Through PACT there is close cooperation, and a determination to further refine a model of work that focuses on clients, and which provides a cohesive response to their health and housing needs.

Again, this advocacy on the frontline was dependent on the dedication and professionalism of the twenty-five Ana Liffey staff (nurses and project workers) who are going into over thirty-five PEA settings in North County Dublin.

The skill-sets of these team members reflect the increasingly multidisciplinary nature of Ana Liffey's work which, in addition to drugs, now more than ever addresses issues arising from general health, housing, domestic violence, dual diagnosis and a range of other issues.

I offer my thanks to them, all the other hard working Ana Liffey team members, our donors and our service users for making 2022 such a positive year.

DAWN RUSSELL

According to the latest official figures, there were **786** drug-related deaths in Ireland over a twelve-month period



Cutting the cake at Ana Liffey Mid-West's 10th anniversary celebration

Also in **November**, Limerick County TD and Minister of State for Skills and Further Education, Niall Collins, commended Ana Liffey Mid-West for being the only drugs outreach team working on the streets of Limerick City during the COVID-19 restrictions.

"When fear and uncertainty were permeating society across Ireland; and no one knew what was going to happen... this small team adapted quickly, stayed out there, and continued to meet the needs of those they serve," he said. "Maintaining contact with people; busting myths about COVID-19; and providing people with equipment and advice to keep them as safe and healthy as could be."

Speaking at an event in the Clayton Hotel to mark the service's 10th birthday, he also welcomed the allocation of money from the State's Community Services Enhancement Fund, which will enable Ana Liffey to employ two addiction outreach workers in the Midwest – one of them specialising in reaching, and case managing, members of the LGBTQI+ community; and the other with a similar function focussing on the Traveller Community.

There was ministerial praise too for the *Doing More - The Health And Social Impacts Of Crack Cocaine Use In Limerick City* research carried out by Ana Liffey Mid-West in association with the University of Limerick.

Parked outside the Clayton was the new Ana Liffey Midwest Mobile Health Unit, AKA the Vanaliffey, purchased with a grant from the JP McManus Benevolent Fund.

[More info here](#)

HEAD OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

The expansion of the Private Emergency Accommodation Case Management Team (PACT) and the Law Engagement & Assisted Recovery (LEAR) programmes lead to the addition in 2022 of 26 full-time staff members in the Dublin area, funded by CH09 HSE North Dublin.

Twenty-two of these were project workers and nurses who joined PACT between July and September with four further project workers joining LEAR in March.

Overseen by our Head of Services, Dawn Russell, the recruitment process ran very smoothly and benefitted from the fact that, within the sector, Ana Liffey has the reputation of being a good place to work and is highly attractive to graduates.

Outside of helping to get those staff up and running, we managed during 2022 to diversify our range of funders so as not to be totally reliant on our existing ones.

COVID-19 resulted in us working more closely than ever with our funders and partner organisations who have recognised and supported the diversification of our services. As challenging as the pandemic was, those day-to-day meetings over Zoom or, when possible, in person, resulted in

strengthened relationships and increased levels of trust which we continue to enjoy now that the pandemic is over.

HSE CHO 9 also funded a new 'Vanaliffey' mobile unit to add to the one they supported us with in 2021. In this vehicle we carry out needle exchanges and provide other medical supports in Dublin city centre.

Also, in the Midwest, a grant from the Rethink Ireland Social Innovation Fund enabled us to expand the team by 1.5 staff for a twelve-month project starting in May 2022. This afforded Ana Liffey the opportunity to reach out to even more people in the region.

This was further supported by a grant from the JP McManus Benevolent Fund that enabled the purchase and conversion of another van to be used as a mobile service in the Midwest.

Finally, I'd like to say how wonderful it is to be writing this in The Matthews Building, which is a fitting tribute to all the wonderful work that Eddie has done on behalf of Ana Liffey Drug Project. It really is the people that makes this such a special organisation.

LEONIE BLYTH

December 8th was another red letter day for the Ana Liffey as we celebrated our 40th year by holding the day-long *We Are Innovative* conference in Dublin's Radisson Blu Hotel.

Among the circa 140 participants were the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD, who delivered the welcoming address; members of Ana Liffey Dublin and Mid-West Region teams; colleagues from the Department of Health, Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána; representatives from the Scottish Drugs Forum, CityWide, EuroNPUD, UISCE and other ally NGOs; academics working in the field of drug research from Ulster University and the University of Limerick; drug reform activists; peer workers and clients from both Dublin and the Mid-West whose contributions were key to the success of the event.

In a letter of congratulation read out by our CEO Tony Duffin, Ana Liffey's sole patron, President Michael D. Higgins, proffered that, "There is no doubt that many lives have been saved by the successful, coordinated response by groups such as Ana Liffey, working in partnership with the HSE, Gardaí, local government and NGOs. May I commend your organisation too, for your response and leadership shown during the pandemic in ensuring a successful roll-out of the vaccination to at-risk groups, such as those experiencing substance abuse. I suggest that measures taken in response to the pandemic could provide a basis for improved service delivery across society."

[More info here](#)



Preparing for a panel discussion at Ana Liffey's 40th Anniversary Conference



Minister Paschal Donohoe at Ana Liffey's 40th Anniversary Conference



Delegates at Ana Liffey's 40th Anniversary Conference

WHO WE ARE

For more information about who we are please click [here](#)

OUR SERVICES

For more information about our services please click [here](#)

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022

To view our audited financial statement for 2022 please click [here](#)



Ana Liffey's Sole Patron, President Michael D. Higgins, with Ana Liffey team members



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