

# Annual Report 2019



# Chairperson's Statement

Welcome to the Ana Liffey Drug Project's Annual Report for 2019. During 2019, we continued to make progress with 'Safer From Harm', the Strategic Plan of Ana Liffey Drug Project for 2018-2020. The strategic plan is available for download from our website [aldp.ie](http://aldp.ie).

From the point of view of the board, 2019 was a positive year for Ana Liffey Drug Project. In terms of direct service delivery with people who use drugs, we delivered direct services in the Dublin, Midwest and Northeast Region, where we had a number of teams focused on direct service delivery. We continued our work on drug policy, participating in projects and forums at home and abroad. We also carried out work on governance as we work towards full compliance with the Governance Code.

As always, I'd like to take this opportunity to express a few words of thanks. First, to all those who make the choice to access our services it is an honour for us to know and serve you. Second, to all our staff, volunteers, interns, and students - thank you for all your hard work during 2019 providing services that meet the needs of the people we serve. Thirdly, to all those who support us - our funders and donors - without your support it would not be possible to deliver the full range of services we do. Thank you for your confidence and trust. Thanks also to my colleagues on the Board - your ongoing commitment to Ana Liffey is much appreciated and your time and expertise adds considerably to the running of the organisation. Lastly, I'd also like to extend our sincere thanks to Mark Mitchell and Paul Downes who both stepped down from the

Board in 2019; both of whom played a significant part in the development of Ana Liffey during their terms as Directors of the company - thank you.

At Ana Liffey, one of our values is that we neither promote nor denounce substance use, but we seek to respond to problems associated with it. This informs our work in a very real way; and means that on a day-to-day basis we are able to support people to reduce the harm that their drug use causes. We work with many people who have unimaginably difficult lives. Often people have given up on themselves, but at Ana Liffey we recognise the potential of everyone we work with; there are no lost causes. We work to identify and meet people's needs; this is not an easy task and the team works hard to be creative and find innovative ways of working with people. The interventions we deliver are evidence informed responses and this is important to ensure that we do our best by people at all times.

Finally, although we are reporting on our activities in 2019, this document was written in 2020, and it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of Ana Liffey Drug Project. Across the organisation the teams have worked imaginatively, flexibly and solidly since the crisis began in mid-March 2020. I wish to thank all staff who went above and beyond the call of duty - their work has saved lives and helped to reduce the spread of COVID19.

Eddie Matthews  
Chairperson





## Treasurer's Report

In 2019, Ana Liffey Drug Project had an income of €1,861,085 (2018 - €2,020,117). It had expenditure of €1,833,050 (2018 - €1,979,786 excl. exceptional expenses).

At the end of the year the company had fixed assets of €843,993 (2018: €846,042), current assets of € 668,761 (2018 €775,314) and current liabilities of €250,049 (2018: €386,686). The net funds of the company amounted to €1,262,705 (2018: €1,234,670) and the directors are satisfied with the level of retained reserves at the year end.

As we had done in 2018, our 2019 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 keep a 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.

I'd also like to express my thanks to the management team of the organisation, and in particular to Leonie Blyth, and also to our auditors, Donal Ryan and Associates, and in particular to Donal and Paula for their work during the year in ensuring the company monitors and reports accurately on financial matters.

Finally, the company's full financial statements are publicly available on our website at [aldp.ie](http://aldp.ie)

Greg Ward  
Treasurer

# CEO's Report

We started 2019 as 2018 had ended – focused on change and adaptation amid a challenging external environment - and I am pleased to report that the organisation as a whole rose to the challenge. As our Chairperson notes above we had boots on the ground in Dublin, the Midwest and the Northeast regions of Ireland in 2019, as well as being active in a variety of policy settings.

## SERVICE DELIVERY:

The following section sets out a summary of our activities and performance in each area:

### DUBLIN SERVICES

An overview of our work in Dublin during 2019 includes - the open access service provided services to 574 individuals who attended the service 11,374 times. The majority of people were homeless and many were poly drug users with comorbid mental and physical health challenges. We provided key working or case management to 151 individuals; 423 people attended treatment options groups 1,139 times; 261 individuals availed of the needle and syringe programme, receiving 912 interventions. We also provided in-reach services to Mountjoy Prison and 54 individuals attended groups run in this setting.

### MIDWEST SERVICES

We served a similar cohort of people in the Midwest, with 356 people registered with the service in 2019. Of these, 58 individuals attended our Open Access service; 78 individuals accessed our case management service; 278 people accessed our needle & syringe programme; and 193 received brief interventions from the team whilst on outreach.

### NORTHEAST SERVICES

We provided a Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) in the Northeast Region, primarily in Navan, Dundalk and Drogheda. The project provided sterile injecting and smoking paraphernalia to people who use drugs in the Northeast Region, over a period of 6 months (July 2018 to January 2019) as a support to the HSE in the area.

## VOLUNTEERISM

95 people volunteered their time with the organisation in 2019 across all front line services, central office and festival welfare services.

## POLICY AND PARTICIPATION

We also continued to advocate for progressive drug policies nationally and internationally in 2019. In an innovative development, we worked with the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the Health Research Board and the School of Public Health at University College Cork to carry out a study on street tablets using the EMCDDA's Trendspotter methodology.

We also continued our work on civil society participation, remaining active members of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs, and coordinating a project to support the work of CFSD. We continued to advocate for the decriminalisation of people who use drugs; providing policy analysis and public engagement activities. As part of this work, we held a seminar on 'Policing in Changing Policy Environments' in June, with leading people from both the domestic and international drug policy sector contributing. Finally, in the last quarter of 2019, we started work on a project focused on Drug Related Intimidation in the North East Inner City of Dublin, which comprises both research and service delivery components.

As always, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to Ana Liffey in anyway – our funders, our staff, our board and other volunteers, our interns and students, and, most importantly, the people for whom we provides services – thank you all. It is a great pleasure to know, and work alongside, such a fantastic group of people.

Tony Duffin  
CEO





# Who We Are

## BOARD

*The Board (as at 31 st December 2019) was:*

- Alice O'Flynn
- Brian Patrick Dalton
- Catherine Comiskey
- Edward Matthews
- Greg Ward
- Jack Nolan
- Roderick Maguire
- Mark Mitchell  
(Resigned 10 April 2019)
- Paul Downes  
(Resigned 3 September 2019)

The Board met 5 times in 2019. The Board has three subgroups – on Finance, Clinical Governance and Governance and HR – all of which meet 4 times annually, and are supported by the management team.

The membership of each group is set out below:

Finance Greg Ward (Chair)  
Edward Matthews

Clinical Governance  
Alice O'Flynn (Chair)  
Mike Scully (External)

Governance and HR  
Roderick Maguire (Chair)  
Brian Dalton



**THE STAFF TEAM (AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019) WAS:**

Tony Duffin	Chief Executive Officer
Dawn Russell	Head of Services
Marcus Keane	Head of Policy
Leonie Blyth	Head of Finance
Jacqueline Kenny	Office Administrator
Sarahjane McCreery	DRII Project Coordinator
Melissa Scharwey	Policy Support Worker
Rachel O'Donoghue	Team Leader
Aoife Marshall	Project Worker
Pat Galligan	Project Worker
Lynn Collopy	Project Worker
Tris O'Loughlin	Project Worker
Brian O'Reilly	Project Worker
Natasha Gannon	Project Worker
Alison Harte	Project Worker
Dean Furlong	Project Worker
JM Burr	Team Leader
Jade McGroarty-Barry	RGN
Lena Kattendick	Project Worker
Suzanne Walkin	Project Worker
Sue White	Project Worker
Rory More-O'Ferrall	Project Worker
Rebecca Doyle	Project Worker
Miranda O'Sullivan	Project Worker
John Sullivan	Project Worker
John Burke	Project Worker
Celine Green	Project Worker
Leah Fitzgerald	Project Worker
Peter Bennewith	Project Worker
Denise Joy	Project Worker
Damien Gagnevin	Project Worker



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CHY (Revenue) No: 6775  
Registered Charity No: 20013301  
Company No.: 109034

Sole Patron: Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland







**ANA LIFFEY**  
DRUG PROJECT

