



ALCOHOL FORUM IRELAND



2024

**Building an Ireland where alcohol is no
longer a leading cause of harm**

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Section 1

ABOUT US

A Charity committed to hope, impact and change

Alcohol Forum Ireland (AFI) is an independent national charity that provides support, information and services to individuals, families and communities impacted by alcohol and other drug harm, while also working at the wider levels to change Ireland's problematic relationship with alcohol.

We believe real and sustainable change will only happen by working with communities to address the root causes of alcohol harm in Ireland. Our approach is shaped by evidence and is informed by the needs of the people and communities we work with across Ireland. Throughout the lifetime of our strategic plan (2024-2027), we will work to elevate community voices in policy discussions about laws, policies and programmes that impact on health and wellbeing. We will continue to work alongside people with lived and living experience of alcohol and other drug harm and communities and minority groups disproportionately impacted by alcohol harm to achieve change.



Where We Work

Headquarters: Letterkenny

Regional Office: Sligo

Regional Office: Cavan

National: Advocacy, Policy, Community Action, Research



What We Offer Others



Training, Learning & Development



Seminars, Events & Conferences



Advocacy & Media Campaigns



Quality Supports & Services



Tools & Resources



Research and Publications



1.1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

We exist as a charity to provide supports and services to individuals, families and communities impacted by alcohol harm while working to challenge and change Ireland's problematic relationship with alcohol.

With four deaths every day attributable to alcohol, as a Board we need to be confident that the work is having an impact. As chair, it is wonderful to reflect on the work and its impact in 2024. We have strengthened the Governance of the organisation and continue to improve the quality and safety of the services that we provide. We re-energised a number of our sub committees and established a new Quality and Safety committee, chaired by Dr Paul Armstrong who brings robust clinical experience and oversight to the work.

2024 was the first year of our new strategic plan that will inform the work from 2024-2027.

The four thematic priorities commit AFI to being an organisation that:

- (1) influences and challenges,
- (2) provides impactful and effective supports and services,
- (3) is research and data driven and
- (4) is strong and sustainable.

Having appointed a new CEO in 2023, we embarked on a process of restructuring and change. In 2024, this work continued and we put in place a strong leadership team, management and reporting structure. This included the review and restructuring of our Under 18s alcohol and drug service in Cavan and Monaghan; the only clinical service providing counselling and support to young people struggling with alcohol and other drug use and their family members in the two counties. The creation of a service manager role and the appointment of Patricia Boyle, a highly experienced addiction counsellor, was the first step in a full service review. Having paused the service for a period of months due to recruitment issues and to allow for the review, by year end, we had appointed two qualified counsellors and recommenced clinical work; building a solid foundation moving in to 2025.

The commitment to providing quality and effective supports and services remains central to our work. Supporting families directly impacted by alcohol and other drug harm in Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal involved the delivery of 7 family support programmes, where children and parents came together in groups to address the impact that alcohol and other drugs has had on their families. It was wonderful to see the increase in the numbers availing of our one to one supports, with numbers reaching 80 in 2024.

Our annual report does not capture in detail all of the work of the organisation, but rather it attempts to highlight some key areas of activity and progress during the year. As an organisation that began as a small local initiative in the North West and which is now a well respected national organisation, expanding the geographic and sectoral reach of our Board was important. In 2024, we welcomed two new members; Dr James Larkin, a senior post doctoral researcher in RCSI and Pamela Boyle, a member of the Irish Traveller Community with a special interest in the burden of alcohol harm in the Traveller community.

There are some challenges to being a national organisation based outside of the capital city, where Government sits, where most national media outlets are based and where disproportionately most national advocacy organisations are headquartered. However, our grassroots origins are a key strength, reflecting a commitment to working in a way which is inclusive of rural and urban communities across Ireland. The work of the Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network is a particular strength; demonstrated by our success in securing funding from the Dept. of Health for the Building SAFER Communities initiative, an ambitious project underway in 12 communities across Ireland with a combined population of just under half a million people.

Inclusion is an important value in the work of our charity, and it is strongly evident in our model of advocacy. In 2024, advocacy focused on the Sale of Alcohol Bill and a call for greater regulation of advertising of low and no alcohol products. The work of the i-Mark initiative, a movement that has attracted members from across the community, voluntary and youth work sectors in Ireland, is also underpinned by a collaborative and inclusive way of working. Our work on challenging the corrosive impact that alcohol industry activity on our health has attracted global attention, and our CEO has presented on the work at several international Conferences, including the European Alcohol Conference in Slovenia and the European Alcohol Policy Network Symposium in Barcelona. This annual report also outlines the contribution we are making to published research on the topic and the innovative ways in which we have been supporting communities to engage with large global challenges.

An area of alcohol harm often overlooked is the devastating impact that alcohol has on the brain. While I am immensely proud that we are the only charity in Ireland that has a role dedicated to supporting people with an alcohol related brain injury and their families, it is important to recognise that this is just one staff member in just one county. We are proud to have supported 28 clients in Donegal in 2024 but greater service development is needed. Our first national conference on Alcohol Related Brain Injury in November was an important mechanism for elevating the call for policy and service development at a national level. We will continue this advocacy alongside the direct work on the ground in 2025, building on the work of the conference and its recommendations.

The company is primarily funded by HSE and Tusla. The ambition is to diversify and seek new sources of funding and income. Our 2024 budget included funding from HSE of €711,930 and from Tusla: €155,088. Our total income for 2024 was €897,130 and details are included in the audited accounts and financial statements.

The Audit and Risk committee met on five occasions, chaired by Dr Anne Burke whose financial acumen and background as an auditor have been key strengths at Board level. She too leaves the Board in 2025 when her third term comes to an end. The auditors report concluded that no uncertainties had been identified that might cast doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

As we look back and publish this report, time has passed and I am looking ahead to my last AGM. Together with long standing Board members Liam Ward, Anne Burke and Lorraine Thompson, it is time for us to move on, having served our time. I want to thank each of them for their outstanding commitment to the work of the charity. Almost 20,000 people in Ireland give their skills, time and energy serving on voluntary Boards in the charity sector. We have been lucky enough to have dedicated and passionate members on ours. As a new chapter begins, we wish our Board and staff continued success and we thank you all for your contribution.

Billy Bennett

**Chairperson,
August, 2025**



AFI Seminar, Donegal town, May 2024. 'Lifting the Lid on Child to Parent Violence'. Pictured (L-R) Judge Paul Kelly (President of the District Court), Aileen Hickey (CEO Parentline), Paula Leonard (CEO AFI), Dr Declan Coogan (University of Galway)

1.2 GOVERNANCE AT A GLANCE

Our Voluntary Board of Directors

Name	Organisation / Sector	Role/s
Dr Billy Bennett	Higher education / ATU	Chair
Dr Anne Burke	Accountancy / higher ed.(ATU)	Deputy Chair; Audit & Risk Committee (Chair)
Gordon Curley	Solicitor	Strategic Planning Committee (Chair); HR Committee (member)
John Hayes	Health sector management	Audit & Risk Committee (member)
Dr Paul Armstrong	GP & Health Sector	Quality & Safety Committee (Chair)
Liam Ward	Local Government	Company Secretary; Strategic Planning Committee (member)
Lorraine Thompson	Youth Work Sector	HR Committee (Chair)
Dr James Larkin	Research / Academia (RCSI)	Quality & Safety Committee
Pamela Boyle	Community development / Traveller inclusion	Board member

Retired from Board in 2024: Mary Hough

Sub-committee members external to the Board

Pat Harvey	Strategic Planning Committee
Patricia Boyle	Quality & Safety Committee (staff rep)

Specialist Advisors

- Professor Emeritus Thomas Babor (USA) – Building SAFER Communities
- Dr. Kenneth Wilson (UK) – Alcohol Related Brain Injury

Meetings in 2024

- 5

Board meetings
- 5

Audit & Risk Committee Meetings
- 3

Quality & Safety Committee Meetings

Newly established, June 2024
- 3

Strategic Planning Committee Meetings
- 4

HR Committee Meetings
- 1

AGM



1.3 STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE & POLICY

Having completed a reorganisation and restructuring of the charity in 2023, an important area of focus in 2024 was to strengthen the internal policy framework. In June, the first meeting of a Board Quality and Safety committee took place with representatives from the Board, a staff rep and a service user rep. A suite of new policy documents was developed (and / or updated) by the CEO and approved by the Board. Some activities in this area of work included:

- Development of a Board induction pack
- Development of a new Staff Handbook (2024)
- Submission of the Charities Governance Compliance report to the Charities regulator
- Development of a range of new policies including a Gifts policy, Disclosures policy, Complaints policy, Equality Policy, Representational policy, Parents leave policy, Domestic Violence leave policy

1.4 BUILDING OUR TEAM OF STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Building and supporting our dedicated team of staff and volunteers was an important priority in 2024, and included:

- **WHO European Office, Communications training as part of EDIV-ACTION project** - two day training programme attended by CEO in Copenhagen
- **European Union Prevention Curriculum** - Our Community action lead was one of the first group in Ireland to complete the 2 day European Union Prevention Curriculum Training in Dublin delivered by the Drugs Policy Unit in the Department of Health
- **ARBI related training** - Our ARBI resource officer completed a range of relevant training including; Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (Brain Tree Training, 6 Modules, Better Brain Blueprint and The Science of Mental and Cognitive Wellness (USA)
- **Resonance Factor Training** - This specialised training for practitioners working with those who use alcohol/ other drugs was completed by our MaCYSS Service Manager
- **M-PACT Training for Trainers** - 14 staff, volunteers and representatives from other organisations we work with completed the 4 day training training for trainers
- **5 step training** - Completed by new member of our Family Support Team ensuring our staff are all trained and appropriately accredited
- **NVR training** - 5 staff and facilitators completed the training in Non Violent Resistance, including one of our new staff team in Cavan Monaghan, Peter Keaveney, allowing us to extend our work in NVR to the MaCYSS service.
- **Hidden Harm special award, ATU** - Completed by service lead in Sligo office.

1.5 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The work of AFI is underpinned by an understanding that alcohol harm is a significant health equality issue. Groups that experience social exclusion, marginalisation and discrimination are at an increased risk of poor health outcomes, including alcohol harm. In 2024, AFI developed and adopted a new policy on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Policy, however, must be reflected in action and below is a short summary of some of the work of the charity to support progress towards a more inclusive Ireland in 2024.

New Equality Policy for AFI developed

Training day on alcohol & health equality delivered by CEO to Donegal Travellers Project

Series of Recovery, Diversity & inclusion events

This included a 'Making Recovery Visible in a Diverse World' workshop in May attended by 25 participants, followed by 2 planning meetings to co-create and organise the 'Building Recovery Together' seminar attended by 64 people in Letterkenny to mark Recovery month in September.

Member of the Irish Traveller Community appointed to the Board

Members of Polish & Traveller communities completed M-Pact facilitator training in January

Consultative workshop on development of new alcohol, self harm & suicide training held

Donegal Intercultural Platform & Pavee point representatives participated

Participation in Letterkenny Pride Parade

Networking, collaboration and relationship building

Throughout 2024, CEO collaborated with range of organisations & individuals to progress the equality agenda including, Polish Alcohol Service, Vision Ireland, the Disability Federation of Ireland

Use of interpreting supports

AFI family support service benefitted from support through Tusla to engage language support services for our work with a number of clients.

'There are just so many barriers for people with sensory disabilities....As a blind person, there are so many things services could do better. I had to get my neighbours to read my first appointment letter for alcohol counselling - I'd asked them to send an email. I can read those myself; they wouldn't do it.....the stigma & shame would just stop most people even looking for help'.

Speaker at Building Recovery Together Seminar, Sept 27th

OUR NATIONAL WORK

2.1 RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Contributing to research that increases understanding of alcohol harm, what is driving it and how to prevent it is an important strategic objective of AFI. During 2024, the CEO contributed to a number of journal publications:

Prioritising research on marketing and consumption of No and Low (NoLo) alcoholic beverages in Ireland

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0955395925000933>

Big alcohol: Universities and schools urged to throw out industry-funded public health advice BMJ 2024; 385 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.q851> (Published 24 April 2024) BMJ 2024;385:q851

'The commercial determinants of health in Ireland: fueling an industrial epidemic at home and abroad' Mialon, Méliissa; Larkin, James; Patton, Clare; Tatlow-Golden, Mimi; Reilly, Kathryn; Leonard, Paula; Walsh, Malvina; Campbell, Norah

During 2024, the work on the i-Mark was cited as an example of good practice in a set of training materials endorsed by the Association of Directors of Public Health (England)

Commercial Determinants of Health Essentials | Association of Directors of Public Health (UK)

<https://www.adph.org.uk/resources/cdoh-essentials/>

Commissioning the research for an independent three year evaluation of the Building SAFER Communities Project was also a significant piece of work in 2024, with the tender document developed by the Scientific Advisory Committee for the SAFER project; comprising Professor Emeritus Thomas Babor, Anne Doyle (HRB), Marie Lawless (ICAAN and Ballymun Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force), Orla Fagan (AFI) and Paula Leonard (AFI)

Tender for Evaluation of Building SAFER Communities Initiative – awarded to Trinity College Dublin

2.2 WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

A SERIES OF NATIONAL WEBINARS BRINGING AWARENESS & EDUCATION TO A WIDE AUDIENCE

AFI is committed to supporting a range of stakeholders to increase their understanding of alcohol and other drug harm and how to respond to, reduce and prevent it. In 2024, one mechanism through which we achieved that was the organisation and delivery of a Wednesday Webinar series, offering short 1-2 hour sessions with a range of experts from Ireland and across the globe.

April 3rd 57 PARTICIPANTS	'Moving Beyond the Individual – Why Families Matter in Alcohol and Other Drug Use'	Jennifer Mc Kinney, QUB, who has over 20 years of experience working with children & families; specialises in trauma informed approaches,
June 5th 55 PARTICIPANTS	'Doing What Works: Why evidence matters in reducing alcohol & other drug harm'	Dr Gregor Burkhart, Principal Scientific Analyst, European Monitoring Committee on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) where he has been responsible for prevention responses since 1996
May 27th 32 PARTICIPANTS	'The Alcohol industry and our health: I-Mark training for community, voluntary and youth work organisations'	Paula Leonard, CEO Alcohol Forum Ireland
JULY 12TH 80 PARTICIPANTS	'It's a No Brainer, A Brain Health Approach to supporting individuals with an alcohol use disorder'	Dr Ken Wilson, retired Professor of Psychiatry (University of Liverpool), leading expert on ARBD/ARBI
DEC 4TH 61 PARTICIPANTS	'Improving Support & Outcomes for those Affected & Bereaved by Another's Substance Use'	Lorna Templeton, has published widely on addiction and its impact on families for over 25 years (incl evaluations of M-Pact and 5 step)

2.3 COMMUNITY ACTION

Supporting Communities across Ireland to prevent & reduce alcohol harm

Community Action on Alcohol is a public health and evidence-based approach to preventing and reducing alcohol harm. It requires community leadership and locally based action and is underpinned by community development principles. The environmental prevention model of community action on alcohol emerging across Ireland over the past number of years is guided by evidence and grounded in communities. Led by Alcohol Forum Ireland, the key success factor is the local leadership through Regional and Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces. Action 1.1.1 of the National Drugs Strategy (2017), 'Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery' which commits to 'promoting the use of evidence-based approaches to mobilising community action on alcohol'.

The Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network

In 2024, AFI continued to support the work of ICAAN, a national learning and best practice network established to support collective action on reducing and preventing alcohol harm. Membership comprises 14 Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces and in 2024, five ICAAN meetings took place. Supporting membership included convening meetings, one to one support to ICAAN members, advocacy, campaigning and events.

Throughout 2024, the Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network worked in close collaboration and partnership with Alcohol Forum Ireland on a number of joint initiatives which are outlined in the following sections of this report:

- The Building SAFER Communities Initiative
- Advocacy – which included community campaigning on the Sale of Alcohol Bill, the need for greater regulation of teenage discos and the need for greater restrictions on the advertising of low and no alcohol products
- The I-Mark: Building communities free from alcohol industry influence – since its inception, the i-Mark has been a joint initiative with Alcohol Forum Ireland and ICAAN members have been champions promoting its uptake, raising awareness within communities about alcohol industry conflicts of interest and in 2024, organising a series of webinars and events.

'For us, working in partnership with ICAAN, its member organisations and the passionate advocates involved, who work at community level in Task Forces across Ireland, enables us to do policy and advocacy work that is both informed by and grounded in communities'
Paula Leonard, CEO AFI.

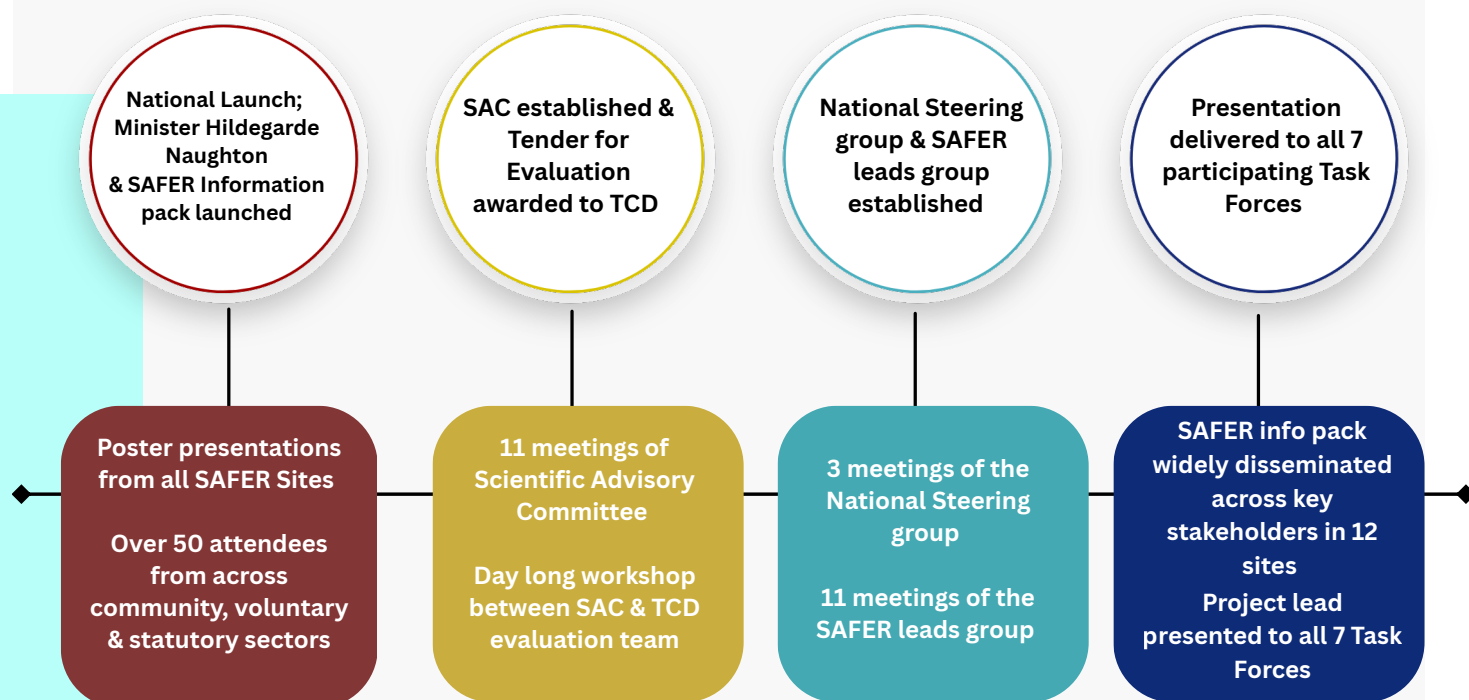
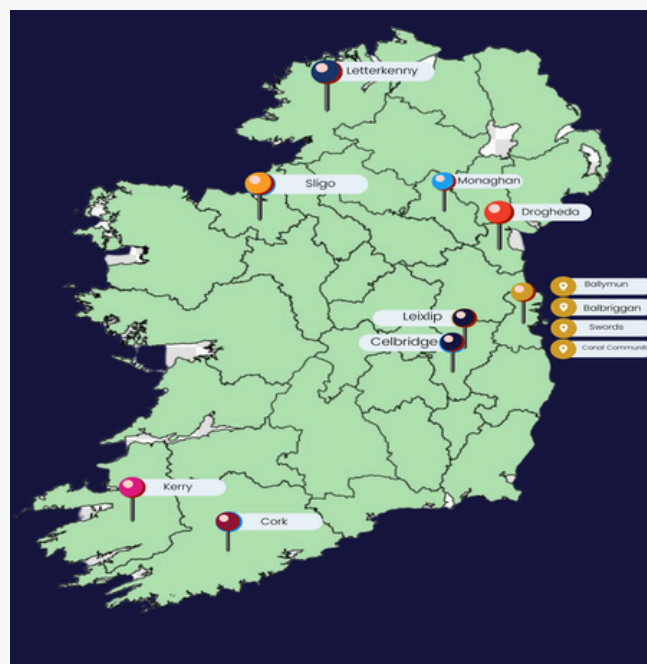


2.4 BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Building Safer Communities Initiative is one of 5 national projects funded by the Department of Health under a new education & prevention funding stream. The project funding of 300k over a period of three and a half years primarily allows for the employment of a part time project administrator and an independent evaluation. The work at community level is supported by seven participating local and regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces without any additional resources.

The project, funded from Nov 2023- June 2027, aims to develop, test and evaluate a prevention model of community based action to prevent and reduce alcohol harm modelled on the WHO's SAFER package of interventions. The project is being implemented in 12 communities with a combined population of just under a half million people.

Below is a summary of some of the key activities carried out in 2024, laying the foundation for project implementation from 2025-2027.



Building capacity for SAFER - Training

Building capacity, understanding and awareness of the SAFER package of effective and affordable high impact policy measures is an key goal of the Building SAFER Communities initiative. In 2024, this involved the design and delivery of a series of 5 webinars modelled on the WHO's SAFER interventions. These were delivered by national and international experts across the different policy areas. While the webinars were live, they were designed as a resource for the 12 SAFER communities, were recorded and will be available on the SAFER website in 2025.

Also in 2024, work was completed on the design of a specialised SAFER Certificate with Atlantic Technological University which has been submitted for the formal accreditation process by the end of the year.

DEC 2nd , 39 participants	THE S OF SAFER Strengthening Restrictions on Alcohol Availability. Dag Rekve, Senior Technical Officer & Acting Head of Unit Alcohol, Drugs & Addictive Behaviours. Chief Superintendent, Pauraic Jones & Dr Frank Houghton (TUS)
Dec 5th 36 participants	THE A OF SAFER 'Advance & Enforce Drink Driving Counter Measures', with Velma Burns, Research Manager, RSA & Desmond O'Neill, Trinity College
Dec 10th 28 participants	THE F OF SAFER 'Facilitate access to screening, brief intervention & treatment', With Nicola Corrigan, Project co-ordinator, Screening and Brief Intervention, HSE & Stephanie O'Kane, North East Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
Dec 12th 21 participants	THE E OF SAFER 'Enforce bans & comprehensive restrictions on alcohol advertising, sponsorship & promotion' With Prof. Emeritus Tom Babor & Paula Leonard, CEO AFI
Dec 17th 18 participants	THE R OF SAFER 'Raise prices on alcohol through excise taxes and pricing policies'. With Colin Angus, Research Fellow, Sheffield University

Sharing the learning

British Irish Council, Jan 2024

The Department of Health hosted a meeting of the British Irish Council focusing on alcohol and other drugs in Dublin in Jan. 2024. Our CEO and National Lead for Community Action, attended, presented a poster and participated in the event. The British Irish Council is a key inter governmental structure, established after Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

INEBRIA conference, Barcelona, Nov. 2024

The 20th INEBRIA Conference took place in Barcelona in November, organised by the International Network of Screening and Brief Intervention for Alcohol and other Drugs. Our project lead, Orla Fagan, presented the work sharing the learning, specifically highlighting the importance of grounding policy at the local community level.

2.5 ADVOCACY

Communities Demand change on alcohol licensing

The general scheme of the Sale of Alcohol Bill (2022) was proposed by the Irish Government's Department of Justice in 2022, based on the assumption that extending the hours that alcohol can be sold and increasing the number of alcohol licenses would stimulate the night-time economy in Ireland's cities and towns. Throughout 2024, AFI & ICAAN continued campaigning for changes to the legislation. This work involved:

Community Campaigning on the Sale of Alcohol Bill

AFI believes that community and locally based advocacy are key to an inclusive model of advocacy, grounded in participatory practice. In 2024, political briefings on the SAB included the following:

- Donegal briefing for Politicians & key stakeholders, Feb 2nd
- Sligo briefing for Politicians & Key stakeholders, Feb 9th
- Cavan Monaghan briefing for Politicians in collaboration with North East Regional Drug Task Force, Feb 28th
- Briefing for Minister for Public Health & the National Drugs Strategy, Colm Burke TD in collaboration with the Southern Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
- Sinn Fein briefing

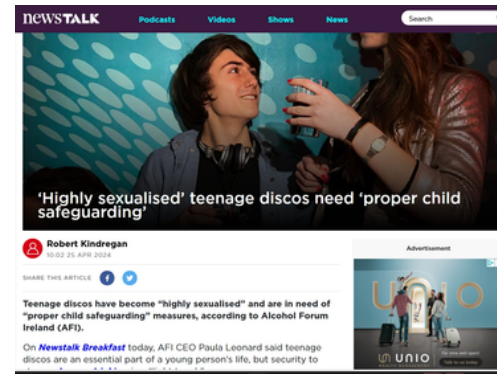
AFI and ICAAN also wrote to all Oireachtas members outlining key concerns about the proposed legislation and sharing the three policy reports published across 2023 and 2024.

Dancing at the Disco – Call for increased safety & safeguarding of teenage discos on licensed premises

Largely ignored in policy, media any by public health advocates, the health and safety risks for young people attending large scale under 18s events on licensed premises is something that many communities have been expressing concern about for several years. In 2024, AFI published a research and policy report on risks associated with teenage discos with Dr Grainne Ketelaar from ATU. Two launch events, in Monaghan and in Letterkenny were organised in collaboration with a range of stakeholders and were attended by over 60 people. The report was circulated to all Oireachtas members and national media coverage was achieved. (Claire Byrne Show (RTE), Irish Independent, Newstalk, Highland Radio, Donegal News)

Community campaign for better regulation of advertising of lo and no alcohol products

As with all of our campaigns, the need for change is identified by communities across Ireland. This campaign was a direct response to concerns about the sharp increase in aggressive marketing of zero alcohol products and the impact of this on children and young people.. With ICAAN, we ran a postcard campaign 'Does this look like alcohol advertising to you' calling on the Minister for Health (Stephen Donnelly) to extend the definition of Advertising in the Public Health Alcohol Act to to prevent such stealth advertising and alibi marketing.



Irish Independent News Opinion Business Sport Life Style Enter
Home / Irish News

Teenage discos 'need tighter regulations' in interest of child welfare, says alcohol action group



2.6 THE i-MARK



Making a mark on challenging the alcohol industry in Ireland & beyond

There is now substantial evidence that the alcohol industry, its tactics, its interference in health policy, and its efforts to block, delay or derail effective prevention policies worldwide is having an impact on global efforts to reduce and prevent alcohol harm. Local communities can feel powerless against the damage that the alcohol industry is doing to health given their considerable wealth, power and resources. In March 2022, AFI and ICAAN launched the 'i-Mark initiative: Supporting communities free from alcohol industry influence'. The i-Mark was designed to make the complex and largely hidden strategies of the alcohol industry visible to ordinary people and to take the conversation out of the pages of journals and conference auditoriums down to community level.

Throughout 2024, the i-Mark movement continued to grow, with new groups signing up to the i-Mark and in doing so committing to not collaborate or accept funding from the alcohol industry and to raise awareness of the corrosive impact that the practices of the alcohol industry have on health and well being. i-Mark champions training was delivered online and several presentations were given to interested organisations as part of the ongoing awareness and education element of the i-Mark initiative. Outlined below is a short overview of some of the i-Mark related events which took place during 2024.

Dirty little secrets, Donegal March 22nd

Campaign with 10 key messages on alcohol, women's health & the corrosive impact of alcohol industry activity.

Collaboration with i-Mark member, Donegal Women's Centre. Social media campaign widely disseminated, event attended by 26, local print media and radio coverage achieved.

i-Mark Webinar, May 22nd, Online

CEO facilitated online i-Mark webinar for community, voluntary & youth organisations in Ireland. With 32 participants, this webinar complimented the presentations delivered to 4 organisations who expressed an interest in adoption.

Hey Corporations Leave those Kids Alone, Dublin June 17th

Collaboration with ICAAN, Foroige and Commercial Determinants Research Group this event for young people, youth work organisations, ICAAN members and other stakeholders had 37 participants.

10th European Alcohol Policy Conference; 'Challenging Big Industry Narratives', Ljubljana, June

CEO as speaker & co-facilitator of a workshop on community action & the i-Mark, in collaboration with the Youth Health Organisation

Priorities for Future Research on Marketing & Consumption of Low and No Alcoholic Beverages; Sept 5th, UCD, Dublin.

Collaborative event with Ass. Professor Emeka Dunbili, potential risks associated with the marketing of low and no alcohol drinks.

Section 3

MaCYSS

Monaghan & Cavan Youth Substance Support



MaCYSS is a specialised alcohol and other drug (AOD) service that delivers youth (12–18 years) and family support across Cavan and Monaghan in partnership with HSE, TUSLA and the North-East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force. MaCYSS promotes a philosophy of inter-agency collaboration and community development to support, engage, and build capacity across Cavan and Monaghan to reduce and prevent alcohol and drug related harm amongst young people.

3.1 PRESSING PAUSE: RESTRUCTURING, REVIEWING & RECRUITING

MaCYSS was established in 2020. Four years on, 2024 was a time for evaluating and restructuring the service. By year end, restructuring and review had yielded positive results, with an improved model of care and a passionate staff team in place.

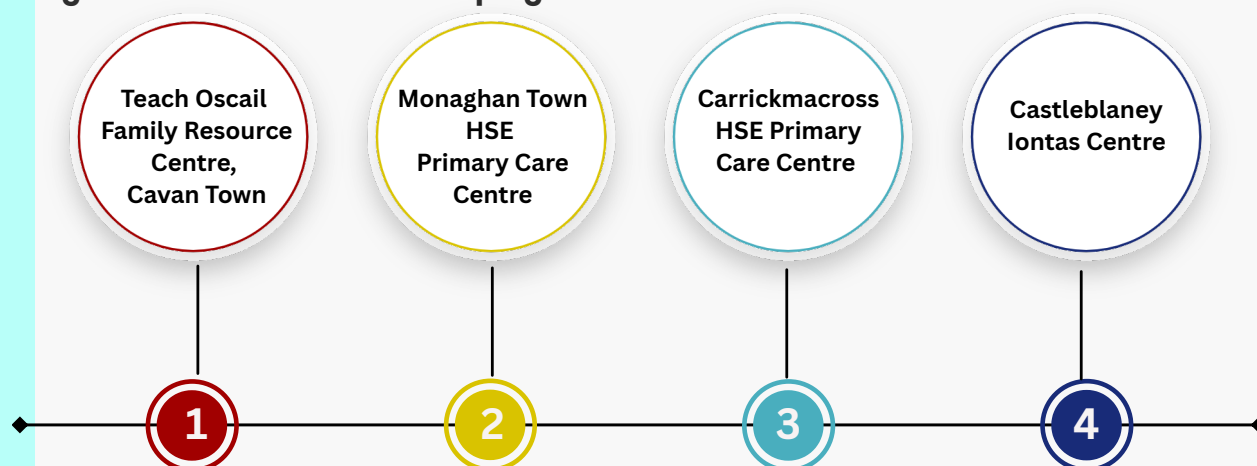
The year began with the appointment of a part time service manager, Patricia Boyle, a highly experienced addiction counsellor. This dedicated new post was created to lead, manage and strengthen the work of MaCYSS. Her first task was to conduct a full service review of clinical service provision; comprising an analysis of previous referrals to the service, internal administrative processes, clinical forms i.e. screening, assessment, consent; and clinical programs; in conjunction with a comprehensive literature review on best practice.

3.2 DELIVERING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Expanding our clinical team

Following the review, recruitment was undertaken and two clinical staff, both qualified counsellors, were recruited in August and November. A maternity leave and challenges around recruitment in both the region and the sector, meant that clinical work did not recommence until September.

Expanding clinical locations – developing our outreach



MaCYSS provides appointments to young people in our premises in Cootehill, but given the geographic spread of the region, we have expanded our outreach clinical locations.

Where appropriate, meeting young people in Youthreach or school settings is also organised where it is more convenient or reduces risk, particularly in circumstances of drug related intimidation or increased risk of use.

By year end, 17 young people had engaged in clinical support, 2 young people had been supported into Tier 4 treatment (HSE funded), and 1 parent had commenced NVR.

Supports provided

- Screening, assessment and counselling .
- Individual assessment and treatment plans for young people seeking Tier 4 residential treatment.
- Education and resources on alcohol and other drug topics related to young people and their families.
- Consultation with professionals working with young people and families
- Family support programme (NVR) for parents of young people who experience challenging behaviour such as verbal abuse, coercive control, manipulation, bullying, intimidation or physical violence.

Pro-Social Activity Program

With funding from Healthy Ireland and Connecting for Life, MaCYSS supported young people to access pro-social activities. Across rural communities in Cavan and Monaghan, young people are impacted by poverty, poor amenities and lack of transport with many families unable to provide financially for activities outside of what is offered in school. As part of working holistically with young people, MaCYSS aims to offer each young person the chance to try new activities i.e. PT sessions, Yoga, Dance etc., that will be incorporated into our new DAY Program and their care plan aiming to help with harm reduction and a reduction or cessation of AOD use. In 2024, young people accessed driving lessons, purchased music equipment, engaged in sporting activities and gym memberships.

The Drug and Alcohol Youth (DAY) Programme

Following a literature review of evidence-based elements of adolescent treatment that correlate with positive treatment outcomes, a revised 8-week Drug & Alcohol Youth (DAY) Program was piloted throughout 2024. MaCYSS also incorporated an increased expectation on parents/guardians to attend at Sessions 1, 5 and 8.

3.3 FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

The loss of one off Genio funding for our MaCYSS Development worker in 2024 has long-term and wide-ranging consequences for young people, families, MaCYSS as a service provider, and the wider community. These include reduced levels of engagement with stakeholders, young people and families; a loss of early intervention; and the delivery of much-needed training for professionals across the two counties including, for example, the GAA Drug & Alcohol Program and SAOR screening and brief intervention.

Impact of lack of core funding on MaCYSS

MaCYSS received funding in 2020 from HSE Social Inclusion and the Genio funding (Dept of Health), through the North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force. While the service has been a key development for young people and for families in the region, the funding did not extend to costs for a service manager role or to sustain a part time administrator, both of which are essential to the proper functioning of a service of this type. In 2024, MaCYSS received small one off funding both from the North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force and Tusla to contribute to the budget but by year end, there remained a deficit in the core budget required to sustain the project. Challenges of this nature have an impact at a number of levels

- **Impact on MaCYSS Service** – a threat of increased rates of staff turnover or burnout, service fragmentation due to a reliance on short term or project-based funding which undermines long-term planning and disrupts collaboration with stakeholders and can lead to reduced levels of innovation and service development as without adequate core funding, the service cannot build sustainable programs, invest in training, or adapt to emerging needs and trends.
- **Impact on service users** – reduced accessibility, reduced programs, longer waiting times.
- **Impact on families** – increased stress and worry for parents awaiting support for their young person, perceived lack of consistency in service provision affects trust.
- **Impact on wider community** – public health risk (lack of harm-reduction services, unsafe substance use, lack of early intervention and crisis intervention) and increased pressure on youth and mental health services where no prevention or early intervention activities available, or reduced, due to core funding deficits.

3.4 MaCYSS HEALTHY IRELAND PROGRAMME 2024

This program of work, funded by Cavan County Council, comprised 3 strands; an animation project on alcohol and the adolescent brain, the development of a digital support hub for MaCYSS, and an information campaign across Cavan and Monaghan to raise the profile of the service.

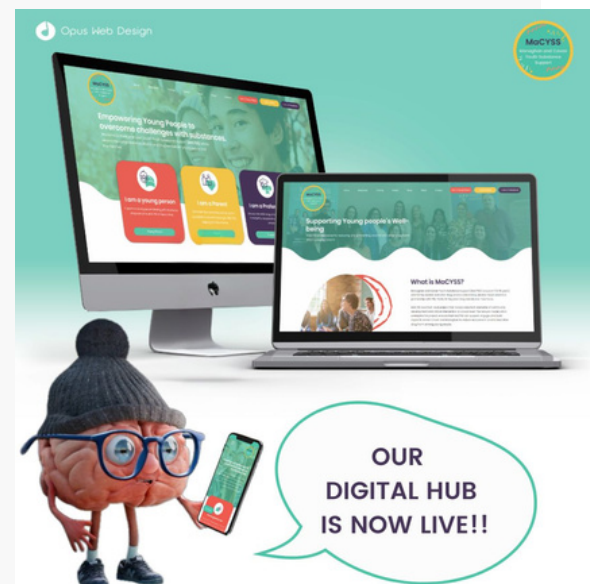
Animation – Alcohol and the Adolescent Brain

A youth friendly animation was developed highlighting the negative impact of alcohol on the teenage brain. The work was informed by a comprehensive consultation process with young people and key stakeholders, and the animation was completed and launched on 29th July 2024. It has been widely circulated across the CM network area and will be presented nationally at the Planet Youth conference in 2025.



Development of a Digital Hub

A key stakeholder consultation involving young people and community members, content analysis and internal staff feedback identified a deficit in online presence for MaCYSS in the region. A digital support hub was designed between April and July 2024, and it was launched on July 29th, at an event which facilitated further feedback from service users and stakeholders. This MaCYSS digital hub allows in-depth analysis of hits, browsing preferences (for 'a young person/parent/professional') and promotion of our training and events.



3.5 EMPOWERING PARENTS, PROTECTING THE TEENAGE BRAIN

Parenting Webinar with Dr Sabina Brennan, Neuropsychologist

MaCYSS collaborated with Dr. Sabina Brennan to develop a parent's webinar focusing on the key message that alcohol as a neurotoxin has a negative impact on the teenage brain. Planet Youth data from 2023 found a significant increase in the numbers of parents supplying alcohol to their teens in comparison to 2021 data. Through this webinar, MaCYSS provided parents with accessible information on the impact of alcohol on brain development and function during the teenage years; providing a strong rationale for parents to say no to teenage drinking, and to prompt conversations on why delaying alcohol use is beneficial. This resource was launched to coincide with European Awareness Week on Alcohol Related Harm in November 2024 and widely circulated throughout Cavan Monaghan networks. The webinar launch was covered in a feature article in the Anglo Celt.



FAMILY SUPPORT NORTH WEST

**4
PROGRAMMES**

M-PACT

8 week programme for children & parents in families negatively impacted by parental alcohol & other drug use

**80
INDIVIDUALS**

5 STEP FAMILY SUPPORT

Short effective one to one support for adults impacted by a loved one's alcohol / other drug use

**3
PROGRAMMES**

NON - VIOLENT RESISTANCE

8-10 week programme for parents & guardians experiencing child to parent violence, aggressive or coercive behaviour from their child / children



'There is no single cause, but we are seeing it much more in our courts; older parents with adult children seeking a protection or barring order against their adult child. We are seeing more of this type of violence. A lot of the cases are related to alcohol, to drugs and to mental health issues'

President of the District Court, Judge Paul Kelly speaking at 'Lifting the Lid on Child to Parent Violence'.

4.1 Supporting families in Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal

For over 15 years, AFI has provided a range of specialised and targeted programmes and supports that recognise the needs of family members, including parents, children, siblings, grandparents, extended family, friends and broader social networks impacted by a family member's alcohol and/ or other drug use. Given the right supports, transformation is possible. The overall aim is to support the development of resilient families using three core principles: strengths based, skills based and reflective practice. The Family Support Team in the North West is led by Regional Manager Ciara Breen with a Family Support Worker, Programmes Coordinator & Administrator based in Donegal, and a Service Lead and Administrator based in Sligo/Leitrim.

Programme Delivery

M-PACT Programme

The M-PACT Programme is delivered across Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim with funding from TUSLA (Donegal & Sligo), NWRDATF and the HSE. 36 Families were referred to the programme in 2024 (26 for Donegal, 10 for Sligo/Leitrim). Four programmes were delivered with young people and their parents / guardians. The programmes ran for 8 to 10 weeks duration, pacing to programme delivery to group needs. A reunion took place a number of weeks after each programme bringing families back together.

Non Violent Resistance Programme

To date, NVR is only delivered in Donegal, although if increased capacity and resources are secured, the ambition is to expand this work in Sligo / Leitrim. 24 Families were referred to NVR in 2024 and two programmes were delivered, one in Carndonagh and one in Letterkenny.

5 Step Method / One-to-one Support

The 5 Step Method and One to One Family Support is delivered across Donegal, Sligo & Leitrim and funded by HSE Social Inclusion and TUSLA Sligo. In Donegal, 67 Referrals were received, with 60 clients engaging in one to one support and a further 7 received advice and signposting.

In Sligo, 27 referrals were received, with 20 clients engaging in one to one support and the additional 7 receiving advice and signposting.

”

In the M-PACT programme, I learned to talk lovingly and understandingly with my partner and my children. After the programme I felt I had regained my love and hope for a better future. Thank you, the programme helped us to unite, merge and repair our family.



4.2 EVENTS IN THE NORTH WEST

Connecting funders & Service users- Regional Event; Jan 31st

Briefing and Networking Event for core funders and key stakeholders across the North West. Event was an opportunity for service users to share their experiences of the support service.

Hello How Are You? Sligo Event; May 15th

Coffee morning in collaboration with Mental Health Ireland in relation to the Hello How Are You campaign which is about connecting with those around you and opening conversations about mental health.

Lifting the Lid on Child to Parent Violence: Regional Seminar (CHO Area 1); May 25th

Regional Seminar in relation to Child to Parent Violence, with participants and key stakeholders across Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan & Monaghan. The seminar, in Donegal town, addressed the growing, complex and challenging issue of child to parent violence, the multiple risk factors that can attribute to it including a child's exposure to domestic violence, sexual violence, substance misuse (both parental and adolescent use) and mental health issues and how the NVR programme being rolled out by AFI responds to the issue.

Building Recovery Together; Donegal Diversity & Inclusion event - Sept 27th

As part of Recovery Month, with support from Healthy Ireland through Donegal County Council, a collaborative half day seminar in Letterkenny was organised. The event highlighted and explored the disproportionate impact of alcohol harm on diverse communities with a number of inputs from a range of perspectives including Palestinian, Polish, Traveller, African and Blind community voices. Special guest was the first member of the Irish Traveller community to become a member of the Oireachtas, Senator Eileen Flynn.



I wish I had known about this programme earlier and maybe things wouldn't have escalated so badly for us as a family.

I never really thought about looking at myself and my role until now, changing myself and how I communicate and speak to my daughter has made such a change to the situation.

The NVR programme has really made such a change to me as a parent, things at home are improving and I feel I can handle things much better.

4.3 SUPPORTING RECOVERY IN DONEGAL

Addiction is often referred to as a “family condition” because of the impact it has on the family and friends, work colleagues and neighbours. Alcohol Forum Ireland supports the right to recovery for everyone impacted by addiction. An important part of supporting individuals and families impacted by alcohol and other drug harm can be supporting the development of visible recovery communities, which in addition to being important at the individual and family level can be effective in challenging stigma and encouraging people to access support.

Throughout 2024, the staff team in Donegal explored ways of building more engagement with people in recovery. This included a number of pop up recovery cafe events and the delivery of a number of workshops and events. People in recovery were actively involved in the planning, design and organisation of the ‘Building Recovery Together event’.

The first workshop, hosted in Donegal Women’s Centre, ‘Recovery in a Diverse Donegal’ was attended by 21 people. Facilitated by our CEO, workshop participants included people from the Indian, Palestinian and Traveller communities and people from disability organisations, who were keen to highlight the increased risk for autistic young people and adults using alcohol and other drugs in a problematic way. A key outcome from this workshop was agreement to plan an event which explored and highlighted the diverse challenges that minority groups named in the Equal status and Equality acts had in relation to alcohol and other drug use and also being part of recovery communities.

Two planning meetings took place to ensure co-production of the September event, ‘Building Recovery Together’. This half day seminar was the highlight of the year’s work on recovery; a celebratory and inclusive event attended by 64 people in Letterkenny to mark and celebrate Recovery Month. Speakers included Senator Eileen Flynn, the first member of the Traveller community to become a member of the Oireachtas, Gary Rutherford, recovery champion and founder of ARC Fitness in Derry, Tolulope Babatunde from MindEase which provides mental health supports to new communities, and Barbara Ozga from CKU’s Polish alcohol service based in Dublin, which provides supports to Polish clients across the country through their online counselling service.

The year ended with a Recovery lunch held in Letterkenny in December to thank the recovery champions who had become involved in organising the work throughout the year. The work on supporting recovery was supported by Healthy Ireland through Donegal County Council.



‘I know; my own family was impacted by addiction and still is. Services need to understand how racism has effected us as Travellers .’

Senator Eileen Flynn speaking at Building Recovery Together Event, with Anna Scully, Ciara Breen and Mena McGinlay

Section 5

REPRESENTATIONAL WORK

LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL

Representational work supports Alcohol Forum Ireland in extending its reach and impact, while also building strong relationships and creating opportunities for collaboration. The staff team are supported to represent the organisation on a range of relevant forums and networks, from county level structures in the areas where we deliver local level services and supports, to national and international networks relevant to the strategic aims of the organisation. In 2024, AFI developed a new representational policy to support this work.

Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal: The Family Support Team are involved in a range of interagency forums including CYPSC (&CYPSC Sub-committees), TUSLA Child and Family Support Networks across the region, TUSLA Funded Partners Forum, TUSLA working groups, NWRDATF sub committee, Meitheal and SAFER Letterkenny.

Cavan & Monaghan: Our MaCYSS service manager participated in a number of forums to represent and advocate for service development in Cavan Monaghan.

- Planet Youth Implementation Group
- Cavan & Monaghan Drug and Alcohol Forum
- Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) Community of Practice
- NE-RDATF Treatment and Rehabilitation Sub-Group
- Youth Work Ireland CM Board
- CYPSC Sub-groups
- Drug Related Intimidation (DRIVE Project)
- CFSN – Child & Family Support Network

It is envisaged meetings will be delegated according to capacity and relevance in 2025.

National & European structures: The senior management team participate in a range of policy forums and groups directly relevant to the strategic priorities of the organisation. This includes:

- Non Violent Resistance National Steering group (Convened by University of Galway)
- Strategic Implementation (SIG) Group 1 - The SIG's were established in 2022 to support the implementation of 6 strategic priorities that arose from the midterm review of the National Drugs Strategy
- Atlantic Futures Strategic Advisory Group
- Disability Federation of Ireland
- Eurocare co-ordinators network of the European Public Health Alcohol Alliance
- Alcohol Health Alliance UK (CEO Is an associate member)
- Growing up in Ireland expert advisory group



Section 6

ALCOHOL RELATED BRAIN INJURY

A model of case coordination for Alcohol-Related Brain Injury (ARBI) has been in operation in AFI Donegal since 2012. This work has been supported by funding from the Donegal Mental Health Service in the HSE, which is uniquely the only service who fund work of this nature in Ireland. There is no lead service for people affected by Alcohol-Related Brain Injury in Ireland and people with ARBI's typically have limited or no access to standard disability, neuro rehabilitation or mental health services.

ARBI is a term used to describe a number of brain conditions that result from long-term heavy alcohol use. ARBI can remain hidden for many years before it is noticed by family or professionals. It can cause changes in a person's memory, the way they solve problems or make decisions and can cause difficulties with everyday activities. It can make it challenging for the person to look after themselves and other commitments in their life, including making changes around their alcohol use. It is estimated from autopsy studies that 1 in 8 people who are dependent on alcohol will develop some form of this condition, ranging from mild to severe. The most widely-known and commonly referenced form of Alcohol-Related Brain injury is Wernickes Korsakoff's Syndrome, which refers to two different but related conditions, each representing a different stage of the same disorder; Wernickes Encephalopathy (WE) and Korsakoff's Amnesic Syndrome (KS) WE leads to death in up to 20% of cases. Of those who survive the disorder, 85% will develop Korsakoff-Amnesic Syndrome. Earlier and appropriate intervention can improve the quality of a person's life, extend a person's life expectancy and prevent early death.



'Why do we need to pay more attention? It is not rocket science, ARBI is preventable and can be treated successfully. With timely treatment and adequate rehabilitation, 75% of patients will improve and get better, which subsequently results in an 85% reduction in hospital beds'.

Dr Kenneth Wilson, speaking at the ARBI Conference

6.1 SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS & FAMILY MEMBERS IMPACTED BY ARBI

AFI's Alcohol Related Brain Injury Resource Officer, Monika Kobylarska, provides a range of support for individuals with a presumptive diagnosis of ARBI and their families in Donegal. Currently, in the Republic of Ireland there are no ARBI designated treatment and rehabilitation services. The contributory role of alcohol to neurological disorders does not feature neither in the neurological policy planning nor service structure, which results in the exclusion and stigmatisation of many of those living with ARBI. Additionally, ARBI is an exclusion criterion for neuro-rehabilitation services in Ireland.

In 2024, 28 individuals impacted by the condition and their family members received support. Consultations were also provided to family members of four additional individuals with ARBI who reside in Ireland but are based outside of Co. Donegal. The case load carried is high; given the complexity of presentations, the level of need and the geographic realities of providing an outreach type of service across Co. Donegal. Referrals were received from: Letterkenny University Hospital, HSE Alcohol and Drug Service, Mental health services, community services, Primary Care Social Work, GPs and nursing homes.

Our ARBI RO worked on improving the model of work to ensure the most effective support for the clients of the service. This included development of a Case Management Plan (CMP) Model, based on a client-centred approach and focused on individual needs. The model will be implemented in 2025 with a possibility of outcome evaluation (resource dependent). Additional elements of the ARBI RO's role in 2024 consisted of: delivering of one-to-one community-based supports to clients (provision of a range of psychosocial and semi therapeutic supports, harm reduction and relapse prevention work, goal setting and monitoring); ongoing development of the service and the model of practice, which has been extended to include Brain Health Promotion and information provision on harm caused to the brain by alcohol consumption.

6.2 EDUCATION & AWARENESS RAISING

Education and awareness raising activities delivered included:

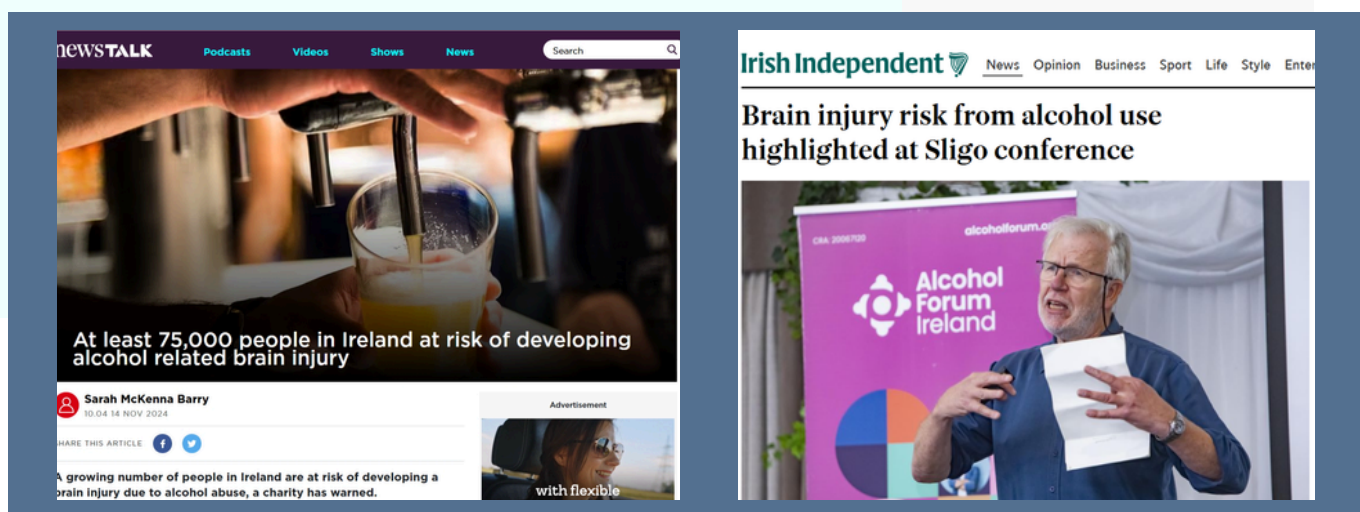
- A webinar with Dr Ken Wilson It's a no brainer: A brain health approach to supporting those with alcohol use disorder
- Two workshops on Alcohol and its impact on our brain and general health delivered by the ARBI RO to the SMART Recovery Group in Ballybofey and in Letterkenny.
- The AFI e-learning module on Alcohol Related Brain Injury continues to be available on HSE Land.
- The AFI's 'ARBI A Guide for Professionals' was widely promoted and circulated amongst the professionals working with individuals presenting with ARBI.
- Ireland's first National conference on ARBI was organised and delivered in November with over 130 delegates.

6.3 BRIDGING THE GAP: IRELAND'S FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARBI

Nov. 14th, Sligo

Ireland's first national conference on Alcohol Related Brain Injury attended by over 130 delegates from across social inclusion, mental health, addiction, occupational therapy, psychology, neuropsychology and a range of other supports and services. The Conference, a collaboration with the HSE Social Inclusion service, CH CDLMS, was hugely successful, with a high degree of positive feedback and a series of follow up actions are underway. Speakers and panellists included a range of experts and senior management representatives from across research, academia, medicine, neuropsychology, policy and the HSE:

- Tony Canavan, Regional Executive Officer, HSE West and North West
- Patricia Garland, Social Inclusion Manager, CH CDLMS
- Professor Ken Wilson, Global expert on treatment & management of ARBI / ARBD, University of Liverpool (Key note speaker)
- Professor Shaun O'Keeffe, Consultant Geriatrician and Honorary Professor, University of Galway
- Siobhan Cullen, Tribunal Member with the Mental Health Commission & Commissioner with the Equality Commission Northern Ireland
- Caoimhe Gleeson, General Manager- Human Rights and Equality Policy , HSE National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy
- Dr Paul Johnson, Neuropsychologist, Western Health & Social Care Trust, NI
- Diane Watson, Clinical specialist in OT, Leonard Cheshire ARBI Unit, Belfast
- Dr Kevin Murphy, Consultant Neurologist, Sligo and Letterkenny University Hospitals Session moderators were Paula Leonard, CEO Alcohol Forum Ireland and John Fitzmaurice, Integrated Healthcare Area Manager, Sligo – Leitrim.



Monika Kobylarska, our lead for ARBI chaired the day long event which was funded by and organised in collaboration with HSE Social Inclusion CHO Area 1. The conference received both regional and national media attention and a detailed conference report was included in the HSE Human Rights and Equality Newsletter. Media coverage included C103, Louth FM, Newstalk news, Newstalk breakfast, Cork 96fm, Midwest Radio, Sligo Champion & Irish Independent.

2024 ANNUAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<u>Income:</u>	
Grants & other state funding	€891,121
Corporate Sponsorship	€0
Donations	€9.56
Other Income:	€5,999.44
<u>2024 Income:</u>	€897,130
<u>Overheads:</u>	
Charitable Activities	€753,937
Fundraising Costs	€0
Governance Costs	€16,809
Other operating overheads	€143,761
Total Expenditure:	€914,507
Operating Deficit for 2024:	(€17,377)
Our audited annual financial statements for 2024 are available for viewing on www.alcoholforum.org	
CRA Number: 20067120	

APPENDIX ONE

‘IT TAKES A VILLAGE’

PARTICIPATORY STRUCTURES FOR SAFER

NATIONAL SAFER STEERING GROUP

- Paula Leonard: CEO, Alcohol Forum Ireland
- Orla Fagan: National Lead, Community Action on Alcohol Forum Ireland
- Anne Doyle: Research Officer, Health Research Board (HRB)
- Dr. Aoife Kervick: Policy & Research Analyst, RSA
- Dr. Aisling Sheehan: HSE – National Lead Alcohol & Mental Health & Wellbeing Programme
- Caroline Jordan: National Policy Manager, Family Support & Social Inclusion, Tusla
- Chief Superintendent Pauraic Jones: Garda National Community Engagement Bureau, An Garda Síochána
- Professor Thomas Babor: Dept. of Public Health Sciences, University of Connecticut School of Medicine
- Hugh Greaves: Coordinator Ballymun Local DATF
- David Creed: Interim Coordinator North Dublin DATF, Swords & Balbriggan sites
- Andy Ogle: Coordinator, North East Regional DATF, Drogheda & Monaghan sites
- Steven Joyce: Development Worker, Substance Use Regional Forum (SURF) trading name for South West Region DATF, Celbridge & Leixlip SAFER sites
- Aisling Holland: Team Leader Canal Communities Regional Addiction Service (CCRAS) – Canal Communities DATF (includes Bluebell, Inchicore & Rialto)
- Gordon Kinsley: Development Worker, Southern Regional DATF, Listowel SAFER site
- Lorna Curry: Development Worker, North West Regional DATF, Sligo SAFER site
- Donna McGee: Interim Coordinator, North West Regional DATF, Letterkenny SAFER site
- Gemma O’Leary: Development Worker, Cork Local DATF, Cork SAFER site

SAFER SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- **Convenor:** Orla Fagan: National Lead, Community Action on Alcohol Forum Ireland
- Anne Doyle: Research Officer, Health Research Board (HRB)
- Professor Thomas Babor: Dept. of Public Health Sciences, University of Connecticut School of Medicine
- Marie Lawless, ICAAN and Ballymun Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
- Paula Leonard: CEO, Alcohol Forum Ireland

SAFER LEADS GROUP

- **Convenor:** Orla Fagan, project lead
- Hugh Greaves: Coordinator Ballymun Local DATF
- Marie Lawless: Research & Policy Officer, Ballymun Local DATF
- David Creed: Interim Coordinator North Dublin DATF, Swords & Balbriggan sites
- Andy Ogle: Coordinator, North East Regional DATF, Drogheda & Monaghan sites
- Stephanie Kane: Training and Education Officer, North East Regional DATF
- Steven Joyce: Development Worker, Substance Use Regional Forum (SURF) trading name for South West Region DATF, Celbridge & Leixlip SAFER sites
- Aisling Holland: Team Leader Canal Communities Regional Addiction Service (CCRAS) – Canal Communities DATF (includes Bluebell, Inchicore & Rialto)
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- Lorna Curry: Development Worker, North West Regional DATF, Sligo SAFER site
- Donna McGee: Interim Coordinator, North West Regional DATF, Letterkenny SAFER site
- Grainne Ketelaar: Chair SAFER Letterkenny Local Steering Group
- Gemma O’Leary: Development Worker, Cork Local DATF, Cork SAFER site
- Jackie Daly: Cork City Partnership



APPENDIX TWO

'IT TAKES A VILLAGE'

PARTICIPATORY STRUCTURES FOR I-MARK

I – Mark organisations

1. Alcohol Forum Ireland
2. Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network (14 member organisations)
3. Alcohol Action Ireland
4. Ballymun Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
5. Blanchardstown Local DATF
6. Dublin 15 Family Support
7. Clondalkin Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
8. Cork Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
9. Cork City Partnership
10. Donegal Women's Centre
11. Donegal Youth Service
12. Dublin 12 Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
13. Dublin North East Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
14. ENDpae
15. Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
16. Information Education Programmes
17. Letterkenny Youth and Family Services
18. MaCYSS Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support
19. Meath Drug and Alcohol Forum
20. M-Pact Moving Parents and Families Together
21. North Dublin Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
22. North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
23. North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
24. The Rise Foundation
25. Tallaght Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
26. The Southern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
27. The South Western Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
28. The Star Project, Ballymun
29. Western Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
30. East Coast Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
31. Pavee Point Roma and Traveller Centre
32. Dublin City Public Participation Network (network with 600 member groups)
33. National Strengthening Families Programme Council (20 member groups)
34. No Name Clubs (network of 23 clubs across Ireland)
35. ARC Recovery (Derry Northern Ireland)

APPENDIX THREE

'IT TAKES A STRONG, PASSIONATE TEAM' OUR STAFF TEAM

CEO Paula Leonard

National Lead, Community Action on Alcohol: Orla Fagan

Resource Officer, Alcohol Related Brain Injury: Monika Kobylarska

Administration

Lead Administrator : Frances Sweeney (4 days pw)

Administrator Cavan / Monaghan office: Catherine Sheridan (2 days pw)

Administrator Sligo / Leitrim office: Penny Brennan (3 days pw)

Administrator family support, Donegal: Maureen McGlynn (4 days pw)

Finance

Finance officer: Annemarie Harkin (4 days pw)

Ass. Finance officer: Margaret Molloy (3 days pw)

Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support

Service manager, Patricia Boyle (3 days pw)

Peter Keaveney, Therapeutic Practitioner (full time)

Lisa Atkinson, Therapeutic Practitioner (full time)

Joy Peers McGarry, Development worker (4 days pw, left in July 2024)

Family Support North West

Regional Family support manager: Ciara Breen (full time)

Family support programmes co-ordinator, Donegal: Tom McGill (full time)

Family support worker: Leeann Callaghan (full time)

Maternity leave cover for Regional Family support manager; Alison Egan

Maternity leave cover for project worker in MaCYSS; Elaine Smith



National AFI Conference Sligo on Alcohol Related Brain Injury. Nov 2024. Pictured Pat Harvey (AFI Ambassador), Ciara Breen (Regional Family Support Manager), Paula Leonard (CEO), Tony Canavan (CEO HSE West / North West, Monika Kobylarska (ARBI Resource Officer), Annemarie Harkin (Finance officer), Patricia Boyle (MaCYSS Service Manager)

THANK YOU

Our work in supporting individuals, families and communities would not be possible without the continued support of our key funders:

The Department of Health
HSE Alcohol Programme (National)
Sligo – Leitrim Mental Health Service, HSE
Donegal Mental Health Service, HSE
HSE Social Inclusion, CHO Area 1
Tusla (Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan)
The North Western Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
The North East Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
Healthy Ireland (Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal)
Connecting for Life Cavan



**AFI Headquarters, Enterprise Fund Business
Centre, Ballyraine, Letterkenny**



074 91 25596



www.alcoholforum.org

**Charity Number : 17835
Company Number: 435920**