

AFI ANNUAL REPORT

Rising to the Challenge
A year of change

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 Alcohol
Forum
Ireland

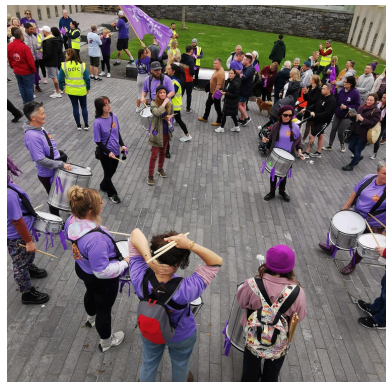


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Title : Annual Report and Financial Statements
Period covered : Jan – Dec 2023
Charity Number : 17835
Company Number: 435920
Website : www.alcoholforum.org

Below are the names of all of those who were members of the Board of Directors during the reporting period.

 Alcohol Forum Ireland	Organisation / Sector	Role
Dr Billy Bennett	Atlantic Technological University	Chairperson
Dr Anne Burke	Atlantic Technological University	Director, Vice Chair & Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee
Gordon Curley	Solicitor	Director & Chair of the HR Committee
Liam Ward	Local Government sector	Director, Secretary & member of Strategic Planning Committee
Mary Hough	Adult Education sector	Director & member of Audit and Risk Committee
John Hayes	Health service management experience	Director
Lorraine Thompson	Youth Work sector	Director and member of HR Committee
Paul Armstrong	GP & health sector	Director

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Chairperson's Report

2023 was a year of challenge and change for Alcohol Forum Ireland. We marked 15 years from the delivery of our first family support programme and it was timely to reflect on the successes to date and to review the work. We exist as a charity to provide a range of 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 use, as a Board we need to be confident that the work we do is having an impact. Following the retirement of our CEO, Kieran Doherty who had served for almost ten years; a new CEO, Paula Leonard, was appointed in April and a process of organisational restructuring, review and strategic planning commenced which continued across 2023.

Throughout 2023, AFI continued to support and convene the Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network and a highlight was securing funding for a new national initiative. In May, the Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy Hildegard Naughton TD announced a new €1.5 million drug prevention and education scheme. AFI's Building SAFER Communities project was one of five projects awarded €300,000 over the next three years. The project will support delivery and evaluation of a community action on alcohol project, modelled on the WHO's SAFER package of high impact policy measures. In 2018, the WHO launched SAFER, a package of policy measures to guide local, regional and national level policy makers in making smart policy decisions about how best to protect health, promote well-being and reduce alcohol harm. The development of this project has been supported by 7 Local and Regional Drug and alcohol Task Forces, the HSE, Gardai and the Department of Health who will support the roll out of SAFER across 12 communities. We will evaluate how effective this package of measures is in the Irish context and we will use and share the learning to shape community action responses to reducing alcohol harm in Ireland and beyond.

In 2022, our Alcohol Related Brain Injury lead who had developed a community-based model of support for individuals with an Alcohol Related Brain Injury in the Donegal region moved on from her post, leaving AFI with a critical gap in capacity and expertise. A new ARBI resource officer was appointed in March and the process of reviewing our model and rebuilding a service began. By year end, the new resource officer had supported 16 clients with an alcohol related brain injury. These were all highly complex presentations which highlighted the need for service development in the areas of step down and rehabilitation. Addressing this need is now included in our new strategic plan.

By year end, we had agreed a new strategic vision, based on four strategic themes that will inform the work from 2024-2027. Those themes commit AFI to being an organisation that (1) influences and challenges, (2) that provides impactful and effective supports and services, (3) that is research and data driven and (4) that is strong and sustainable.

**Dr Billy
Bennett**

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The reach & impact of the advocacy and policy work continued to grow; reflected in the inclusion of the our work countering on the impact of alcohol industry activity in journal articles in both the British Medical Journal and the Lancet & inclusion of the 'i-Mark: Supporting communities free from alcohol industry influence' as a good practice example in a UK toolkit for local government. In September, we jointly launched Ireland's first ever study on the experiences of families raising children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders with the Global Brain Health Institute in Trinity College Dublin. This was a research project for which funding had been secured from the Irish Research Council in 2021. In March, the CEO presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice as part of Pre Legislative Scrutiny of the Sale of Alcohol Bill & campaigning for increased regulatory measures to better protect public health and children's rights continued across the year and included national media coverage, the commissioning, publication and promotion of two expert reports on different aspects of the Bill and the delivery of a series of political briefings and a press conference. Across the year, AFI presented at national, cross border and international conferences and seminars which included the CEO as speaker at the Global Alcohol Policy Conference in Cape Town, as key note at the Health Promotion of Ireland AGM, as speaker at the Recovery in Motion conference in Derry and as a session moderator at the HRB's national conference on alcohol. Our family support worker presented at the national family support conference and one of our MaCYSS team took part in a communications workshop in Brussels and a European video campaign for European Awareness Week on Alcohol Related Harm.

The company is primarily funded by HSE and Tusla. The ambition is to diversity and seek new sources of funding and income. 2023 included income from HSE of 719,928 and from Tusla of 160,166. 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.

Thanks to our Funders

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

HSE Alcohol Programme (National)
Sligo - Leitrim Mental Health Service, HSE
Donegal Mental Health Service, HSE
HSE Social Inclusion, CHO Area 1
Tusla

The North Western Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
The North East Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
Healthy Ireland

Who We Are

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 expressed needs of the people and communities we work with across Ireland. Throughout the lifetime of our strategic plan, we will continue to 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**



Our Vision

A world free from the widespread harm caused by the products & practices of the alcohol industry

Our Mission

To play a leading role in building an Ireland where alcohol is no longer a leading cause of harm

Our Approach

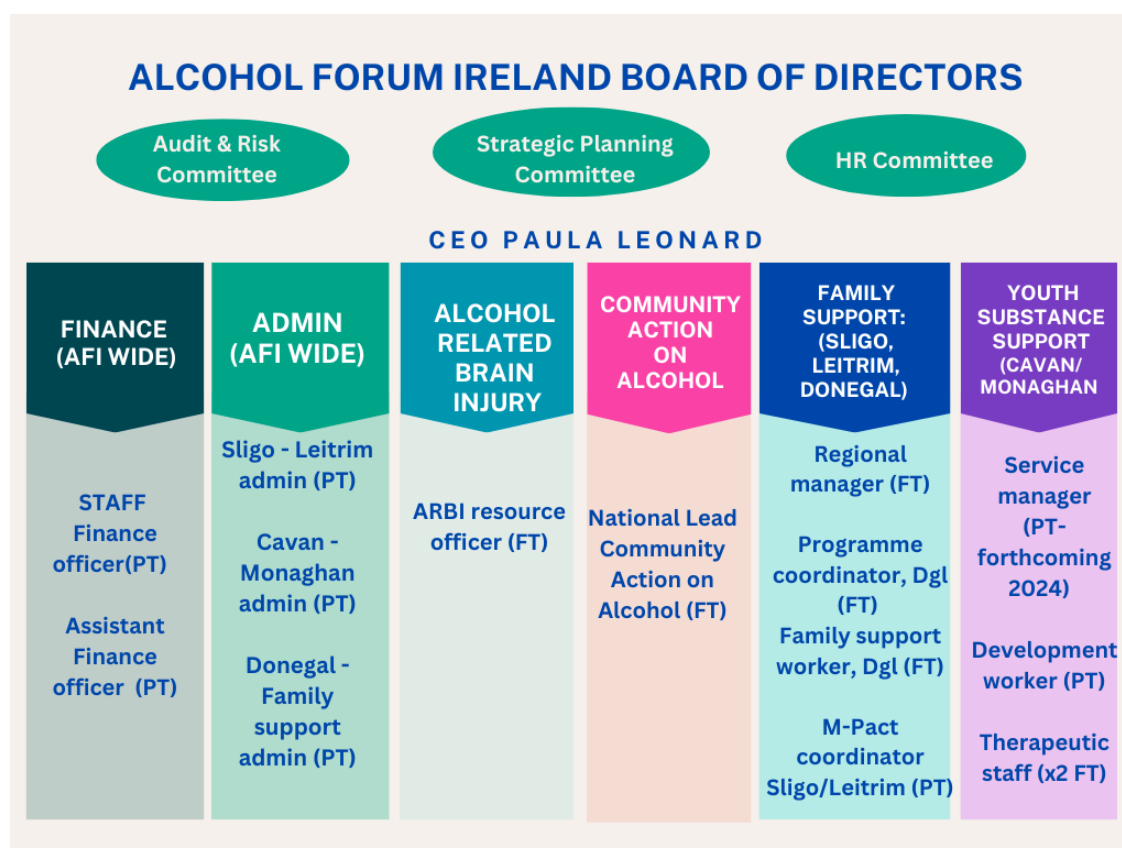
We are independent & collaborative & work with individuals, families & communities to achieve change

Restructuring the Organisation

The existing structure, which had developed in a piecemeal fashion over time, no longer provided a clear and stable management structure which would allow for ongoing growth and improvement. The appointment of a new CEO provided an opportunity to embark on an organisational restructuring and a review of the organisation's strategic direction.

Led by the CEO, the charity undertook a comprehensive restructuring in 2023, which involved reconfiguration of a number of key roles and a significant overhaul of the staff and management structure. The need for six clear teams and leads was defined. Bi-weekly senior leadership team meetings and quarterly full staff meetings and the new structure will continue to bed in over time. Several posts were reconfigured with new job titles and job descriptions; this included the creation of a North West Family Support Manager, a Family Support worker (Donegal) and a Family programmes co-ordinator (Donegal). No new funding was required or sought for the three reconfigured posts and there was ongoing communication with staff and funders with regard to all the change management processes.

A new part time post for a service manager for the MaCYSS service, providing a cohesive management structure for the service and the development work in Cavan-Monaghan was identified as a priority action and a recruitment process had been undertaken by year end.



Conference & Seminar Work: Some Highlights

Throughout 2023, AFI continued to grow and expand its reach. Conferences and seminars play a crucial role in engaging with different target groups and in building understanding of alcohol harm, aligning others to the vision of AFI and building alliances. Some highlights from the conference and seminar activity in 2023 are outlined below:



Sir Ian Gilmore



Dr Billy Bennett, Kieran Doherty, Dr Anne Burke



Global Alcohol Policy Conference, Cape Town



Cora McAleer



Paula Leonard,
Global Alcohol Policy
Conference

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'The Elephant in the Room'; March 30th, Letterkenny – This AFI Seminar focused on the burden of alcohol harm on health & hospital services. With speakers from the HRB, the Alcohol Health Alliance UK (Professor Sir Ian Gilmore) and from across hospital services (Beaumont and Letterkenny University Hospitals) the event attracted 64 participants.

Health Promotion Association of Ireland AGM; 27th April: CEO was key note speaker outlining the growing concern within global public health & health promotion around the impact that corporate activity is having on health and health policy

Alcohol Researcher – Community Links Research Symposium; May: Collaborative event between ATU & AFI held in the Letterkenny Campus of the ATU in May 2023. The event which was attended by over 40 people was the third in a series of events focusing on building collaborative partnerships between community action on alcohol groups and researchers. The first two regional events took place in Sligo & Galway.

Global Alcohol Policy Conference, Cape Town, South Africa; October 2023– CEO was invited to be a speaker on a panel on the commercial determinants of health, presented a poster with Professor Emeritus Tom Babor on the work on alcohol licensing and participated as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the second time reviewing conference abstracts.

Recovery in Motion Conference, September 10th, Dublin: CEO was a conference speaker at this Recovery conference in Northern Ireland which attracted in excess of 500 participants.

Commercial Determinants of Health Event, 15 May, Trinity College, Dublin: CEO was a speaker presenting on the work of the i-Mark at this event organised by Dr Melissa Mailon.

National HRB conference on alcohol, Sept 14th, Dublin: CEO moderated one of the Conference panels.

National Family Support Conference, 18th Oct., Dublin Family support worker, Tom McGill presented on M-Pact as an effective and evidence based support for children & families.

'The Sale of Alcohol Bill: An Analysis of the Costs & Benefits'; Press conference & Launch, May 9th 2023 – This AFI and ICAAN event in Dublin was an important one of the campaign seeking changes to the Sale of Alcohol Bill (2022) to better protect public health and children's rights. The key note speaker was report author, Professor Emeritus Tom Babor, global expert on alcohol policy.

'The Sale of Alcohol Bill: An Analysis of the Children's Rights Impacts'. Launch event, University of Maynooth. In October, the President of the District Court, Judge Paul Kelly launched AFI's second expert report on the Sale of Alcohol Bill; 'The Sale of Alcohol Bill: An Analysis of the Children's Rights Impacts' by Ass. Professor Ollie Bartlett.

Conference & seminar work - reaching over 2000 people in 2023

Alcohol Related Brain Injury (ARBI)

Responding to an unrecognised health issue

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A model of case coordination for ARBI has been in operation in AFI in Donegal since 2012. This work has been supported by funding from the Donegal Mental Health Service in the HSE who are 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 – they have limited or no access to standard disability or mental health services. ARBI is a term used to describe a number of brain conditions that result from long-term heavy alcohol use. Through repeated heavy use, alcohol can cause damage to important parts of the brain. 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.



Following the departure of the ARBI Rehabilitation Coordinator in September 2022, the position remained vacant for seven months. This gap was a challenge for the organisation, given the specialist understanding of the condition, its treatment and rehabilitation was built up by one individual over a period of several years; and no similar roles existed either within the HSE or in the community and voluntary sector in Ireland. Monika Kobylarska was appointed as ARBI Resource Officer at the end of March 2023.

Following a period of learning, induction and orientation; the new staff member built up considerable knowledge of the condition and forged links with a range of local agencies across social work, hospital services, mental health and alcohol and drug services; all of which became the key referral agencies in to the service during 2023. The first referrals for the ARBI Service arrived in May 2023 and by year end a caseload of 16 clients had been built up. In some cases, individuals found it very difficult to engage in the supports being offered, due to their physical and / or mental health challenges, and for some many years of heavy and ongoing alcohol use.

One-to-one work with clients was based on each client's individual needs and presentation. The service provision involved: cognitive screenings using MoCA and ACE III tools, providing support with maintaining abstinence and relapse prevention, elements of counselling during the difficult times of going through an illness in the family, bereavement (and other stressful events), providing information on brain health and the impact of alcohol on the brain and health in general, and linking in with family members and additional significant others.

Considerable networking to build relationships and raise awareness of ARBI across services was undertaken. The new staff member attended meetings with a range of agencies, made several presentations and visited the only residential ARBI unit on the island of Ireland; a 14 bed unit run by the charity Leonard Cheshire. The staff member also organised a highly successful coffee morning in AFI in May attended by over 30 individuals and covered in the local media. To increase the efficiency of the direct work with clients in a large county with a very dispersed population, outreach hours to see clients were agreed with Dungloe Community Hospital and a new client room was opened in the AFI office in Letterkenny. Home visits continued to be part of the model and client appointments were also organised in St. Eunan's Court and Letterkenny University Hospital.

Family Support: Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal

For over 15 years, AFI has provided a range of programmes and supports that recognises 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. The work with families in Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal demonstrates that given the right supports, transformation is possible. The overall aim of this work is to support the development of resilient families using three core principles: strengths based, skills based and reflective practice. In 2023, the work was reviewed as part of the overall restructuring of Alcohol Forum Ireland and some changes were made to ensure that the interventions delivered can meet the needs of a greater number of children, individuals and families in 2024 and beyond. Some posts were reconfigured, a new Regional Family Support manager role was created which will provide cohesive management of the work across Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal, and continuing professional development was a key element of the work. Staff finished the year with training day on systemic family therapy and trauma informed practice.

Programmes

4 M-PACT Programme were delivered in 2023. 23 referrals were received and 15 families completed the programmes consisting of 21 adults and 34 children/young people. These referrals were referred by Letterkenny CDP START, TUSLA Social Work Intake Team, TUSLA Child Protection, HSE Addiction Services, Whiteoaks, IDP Family Support, AFI Internal Referrals and Self Referral.

2 Non Violent Resistance Programmes ran in 2023 for families requiring support around child to parent violence and aggression. 15 referrals were received with 14 parents completing the programme while benefiting 10 families and 21 children/young people. Referrals were received from Donegal Parent & Family Support Service, TUSLA Social Work Intake Team, TUSLA Child Protection, Jigsaw, Finn Valley FRC, IDP Family Support, Foroige and Self Referral.

5 Step Method One-to-one Support

34 Referral received with 25 clients engaging in one to one support, and a further nine received advice and signposting. These referrals HSE Addiction Services, Letterkenny CDP, HSE Community Mental Health, AFI Internal Referrals and Self Referrals.

Building Recovery support

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 2023, AFI family support team explored ways of building more engagement with people in recovery. This included a number of pop up recovery cafe events and participation in the Recovery Walk Northern Ireland.

M-Pact Training for Trainers

15 participants commenced the M-Pact training for trainers programme in AFI which will be completed in early 2024. Working with an M-Pact trainer from the Forward Trust in the UK, the group of 15 included experienced volunteers and representatives from across a range of agencies from across Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Derry. The group included members of the Traveller community, Polish Community and some volunteers with lived experience

National Youth Participation Award with Comhairle na nOg in Leitrim – In Oct., Leitrim Comhairle na nOg were awarded the national PPFS Youth Participation for their work with M-Pact Sligo-Leitrim.

Winner: National Youth Participation Award!

M-PACT

Moving Parents And Children Together

New Programme Tuesday 5th Dec' 2023

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ADDICTED TO SUFFER FROM ADDICTION

A free programme for families affected by parental alcohol or other drug misuse. Providing friendly, professional support to improve recovery, understanding and communication whilst encouraging positive change for all.

Help is available, just reach out!



Contact to find out more

07191 50578 / 085 8759313

sligoleitrim@alcoholforum.org

www.alcoholforum.org

M-PACT is an initiative of Alcohol Forum Ireland

Alcohol Forum Ireland

CRA NO 20067120



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Supporting Young People & their families

Monaghan & Cavan Youth Substance Support

Established in 2021, Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support (MaCYSS) is a youth & family alcohol and other drug service delivered by Alcohol Forum Ireland in partnership with HSE, TULSA, NE Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

The service faced significant challenges regarding staff recruitment and retention in 2023, which included challenges in securing maternity leave cover and filling a vacant post. Despite staffing issues, 19 young people were directly provided with support around their substance use and two young people were supported to attend Tier 4 residential support.. Over 40 sessions were also provided to parents of young people attending the service for support. A important service improvement identified in 2023 was the need to create a dedicated part time service manager role. With support from funders across a number of agencies, a dedicated role was created and recruitment was completed late in the year with a new staff member due to take up the post in early 2024.

In 2023, two MaCYSS newsletters were produced and circulated and in addition three editions of the AFI occasional newsletter 'Sparking Change' were widely disseminated throughout Cavan and Monaghan. The development worker delivered a wide range of training, became accredited as a SAOR Screening & Brief Intervention Trainer and delivered SAOR with the North East Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force. Some of the additional pieces of work are outlined below

Development and launch of annabis Leaflet & resources for parents

National survey data tells us that there are about 45,000 people in Ireland who have cannabis addiction. Younger males seem most at risk. There seems to be a general lack of understanding that cannabis use carries many serious risks, include addiction and mental health problems. In 2023, the MaCYSS service produced, launched, disseminated and promoted a new leaflet about cannabis. A launch event attended by approximately 30 people took place in July.

Supporting and empowering parents & teachers

MaCYSS participated at several secondary school intake and first year orientation events, reaching 400 parents, 746 students and school staff. A parents information pack on alcohol and other drugs was also developed. The AFI CEO spoke at a teachers and principals at an ETB event in December.

Representational work

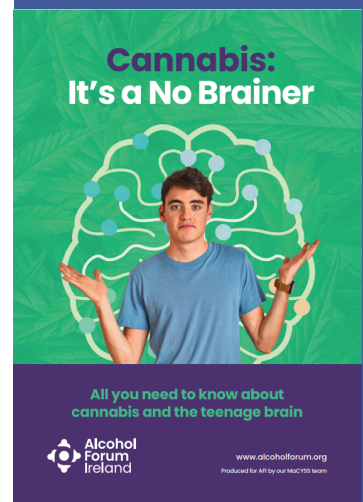
The service continued to be active on a range of local fora including the Planet Youth steering group, Cavan Youth Network, the Drug & Alcohol prevention and education subgroup, CYPSC subgroups and the Treatment and Rehabilitation Subcommittee of the North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

European Awareness Week on Alcohol Related Harm (AWARH)

MaCYSS supported the European Awareness Week on Alcohol Related Harm in November 2023, via a radio campaign, on i-Radio with astimated listener reach for the week was 373,000. There was also one radio interview by AFI CEO on AFI radio during awareness week. MaCYSS Therapeutic Practitioner attended a training programme in Brussels in October and was involved in the production of a video shared across Europe as part of AWARH.



Coffee morning in Cootehill



New Cannabis leaflet



New counselling rooms in our Cootehill Office

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Supporting Community Action on Alcohol

Building Communities Free From Alcohol Industry Influence

Back in March 2022, AFI and ICAAN launched the 'i-Mark initiative: Supporting communities free from alcohol industry influence'. The initiative was developed in direct response to concern at grass roots level about the growing and corrosive impact the practices and products of the alcohol industry were having on the health and well-being of communities across Ireland. 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 2023, the i-Mark movement continued to grow, with new groups signing up to the i-Mark commitments 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. By year end, over 35 individual organisations and networks across Ireland had signed up.

Engaging with academic publications is one in a number of important tools in contributing to the body of evidence around how alcohol harm can be reduced and prevented. For a small charity, having engagement with a number of academic publications in 2023 was important progress. This included the following:

- The CEO interviewed by BMJ investigation team with a view to a forthcoming article on i-Mark and commercial determinants of alcohol harm which was scheduled for publication in 2024.
- An article was published in the Lancet on AFI, ICAAN and i-Mark members successful campaign to have alcohol industry funded materials and resources removed from Irish school settings van Schalkwyk, May CJ and Petticrew, Mark and Maani, Nason and Hawkins, Benjamin R (2023) Denormalising alcohol industry activities in schools. The Lancet, 8, (2), E90-E91. doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(22)00341-3.

The work on building citizen led movements to resist and counter the impact of alcohol industry activity also included invitations for the work to be presented at two events in Cape Town, South Africa in October 2023. The first was to present at a side event organised by the WHO European Office on Community Action on Alcohol and the second was a speaker invitation to the CEO to present at the 7th Global Alcohol Policy Conference, the theme of which was 'Investing in People Before Profits'.

35 i-Mark organisations across Ireland

Building Resistance



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From the
grassroots
to the
WHO



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The Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network

The Irish Community Action on Network, convened and supported by AFI through the National Lead for Community Action on Alcohol, continues to be an important mechanism to promote and support the ongoing development of community action on alcohol in Ireland. Comprising of members of 14 Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces, the network continued to meet in 2015 with both face to face and online meetings. A big change in 2023 was the appointment of a new national lead for community action on alcohol in AFI in July.

Advocacy: In 2023, the network continued to campaign for changes to alcohol licensing law to better provide for the regulation of drink delivery services and became actively involved in campaigning on the Sale of Alcohol Bill.

Alcohol Licensing: AFI and ICAAN had collaborated with the ATU School of Law a number of years ago on the development of Ireland's only specialised Certificate in Alcohol Licensing Law. Graduates completed the third iteration of the Certificate in Alcohol Licensing Law through the ATU in early 2023, thereby continuing to build the capacity of both Gardai and Task Forces to engage with alcohol licensing law at the local level.

Working with WHO Europe: ICAAN continued to link in with the WHO European Region office and in 2023 this work involved several online meetings with WHO staff, an online briefing for representatives of the Ministry for Health from Moldova to share AFI/ ICAAN's work on alcohol licensing and the collaborative production of a short film on community action on alcohol. ICAAN member from Ballymun Local Drug Task Force, Marie Lawless represented the work of ICAAN and on the I-Mark at a WHO symposium in Barcelona and Paula Leonard represented the work at a WHO side event in Cape Town as part of the Global Alcohol Policy Conference.

Alcohol Researcher – Community Links Research Project

In 2022, Dr Grainne Ketelaar, ATU Donegal was awarded one of the Irish Research Council's New Foundations Grants under Strand 1a: Enhancing Civil Society within a national context to work in collaboration with AFI and ICAAN a. The funding was used to host two regional Knowledge Exchange Events in Sligo and in Galway and a one day Symposium in Letterkenny in May. The project established an All-Ireland platform to facilitate academic researchers and community actors working on alcohol issues to come together, to explore mutual interests and devise action plans for future collaborations. The project built on a strong collaborative partnership between AFI and ATU, which has included the development of a specialist Certificate in Alcohol Licensing Law and an MSc in Therapeutic Interventions for Alcohol and Other Drugs. The first two Knowledge Exchange events attracted over forty people and included speakers from HRB, UCC, AFI and community representatives from a number of Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces. Professor Emeritus Tom Babor, a leading global alcohol policy expert, travelled from the US to present at the Symposium in May 2023 in ATU Letterkenny where diverse perspectives were included from student health, Traveller community and other organisations.

ICAAN - 14 member organisations

Building SAFER Communities

Preventing & Reducing
Alcohol Harm



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Building SAFER Communities

12 Safer Towns

In May 2023, The Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy Hildegard Naughton TD announced the successful projects for a new €1.5 million drug prevention and education funding scheme. This scheme supports Priority 1 arising from the mid-term review of the National Drugs Strategy, Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery which commits to strengthening the prevention of drug and alcohol use and associated harms among children and young people in Ireland. Applications were received from Drug and Alcohol Taskforces, HSE/Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs), academic bodies, and civil society. Following an assessment process by a panel of national and international experts, AFI's Building SAFER Communities, a collaboration with seven Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces was one of the five initiatives deemed successful:

- DASH Mobile Night-Time Economy Project (Cork Sexual Health Centre)
- E-SHIELD UCC (University College Cork)
- Building SAFER Communities from Alcohol Related Harm through Evidenced Based Environmental Prevention at a Community Level (Alcohol Forum Ireland)
- Know the Score Evaluation (Health Service Executive, Trinity College Dublin)
- Clondalkin Prevention LAB (Clondalkin Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force)

Funding of €100,000 a year for three years was granted to each of the five initiatives providing prevention programmes in school, third-level education, youth work and community-based settings. In 2018, the World Health Organization launched the SAFER package of high impact alcohol policy measures to guide local, regional and national level policy makers in making smart policy decisions about how best to protect health, promote well-being, reduce alcohol harm and build SAFER communities. This new initiative will translate and deliver that SAFER package of measures here in Ireland for the first time. The development of this project has been supported by our colleagues in the Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network, in the HSE, the Gardai and the Department of Health who will support the roll out of the SAFER package of measures across 12 communities over the next three years. We will evaluate how effective this package of measures is in the Irish context and use and share the learning to shape community action responses to reducing alcohol harm in Ireland and beyond. The 12 SAFER implementation sites where work will be delivered throughout 2024-2027 are illustrated across.

7 Task Forces

**North East, North West, Southern, South Western & North Dublin Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces;
Ballymun & Canal Communities Local Drug & Alcohol Task Forces**

Advocating for Safer Alcohol Policy 'The Sale of Alcohol Bill (2020)'

Policy advocacy campaigns can be long and difficult to win under circumstances where powerful economic interests control the agenda and are a significant part of the political process. A strategic vision and a simple message can be powerful allies in preventing the liberalization of alcohol availability. The advocacy work of AFI is underpinned by a belief that citizen education, empowerment and involvement is critically important. 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 reforms in the liquor licensing system would stimulate the night-time economy in Ireland's cities and towns. Throughout 2023, AFI & ICAAN campaigned for changes to the legislation, and published a series of academic research reports to prevent the use of licensing laws to expand the number and density of alcohol outlets. This work involved:

Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice: In March 2023 the CEO and a representative of ICAAN presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee as part of Pre-legislative scrutiny. Prior to this AFI had made a number of submissions to the Department of Justice and had supported numbers of ICAAN members and others within our network to make

Webinar to increase understanding of the risks to public health and children's rights

AFI CEO, Assistant Professor Ollie Bartlett (Uni of Maynooth) and the Children's Rights Alliance delivered an ICAAN webinar on Thursday 20th April with 24 attendees designed to support community advocacy in regard to the proposed legislation.

Political briefings: Throughout 2023, AFI & ICAAN delivered a series of political briefings to outline concerns with regard to the proposed Sale of Alcohol Bill. This included a briefing to Sinn Fein representatives, an online Briefing delivered in collaboration with the Southern Regional Alcohol Group in June 2023 with 25-30 attending and an online briefing with the North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force with 14 attendees.

Press conference – Wood Quay, Dublin, May 9th 2023 with Prof Tom Babor. CEO interviewed on NT Breakfast, Near FM, Highland Radio. Major news coverage achieved across all national media (RTE, Newstalk, Today FM, Claire Byrne show, Irish Independent, Irish Examiner)

Expert Reports on the Bill

AFI commissioned two expert reports to explore the implications of the proposed bill for public health and child welfare and research on a third report was commenced exploring the risks to the safety & well being of young people attending under age events on licensed premises in Ireland. The Babor and Bartlett reports were disseminated at political briefings and press conferences and were distributed to all government representatives. The work aimed to reframe the Sale of Alcohol Bill as a potential hazard for public health, in contrast to the alcohol industry's framing as a set of technical efficiencies with economic benefits for the night-time economy. To avoid the mistakes of other countries where the promotion of the night-time economy has led to a range of harms, recommendations were made to revise the bill by taking into account public health, child welfare and public order.

Teenage Discos

AFI commissioned Dr Grainne Ketelaar to carry out a piece of research on the risks associated with underage events on licensed premises, with a national overview and a qualitative case studies in both Monaghan and Letterkenny. Focus groups and key informant interviews were carried out involving Gardai, young people and other stakeholders. A report will be published in 2024.



The Sale of Alcohol Bill (2022): An analysis of children's rights impacts

Written by:
Dr Ollie Bartlett
Assistant Professor of Law,
School of Law and Criminology,
Maynooth University.



The Sale of Alcohol Bill (2022): An analysis of costs and benefits

Written by:
Thomas F. Babor, PhD, MPH
Professor Emeritus,
Department of Public Health Sciences,
University of Connecticut School of Medicine,
Farmington, Connecticut, USA.

20
23

Promoting research & understanding: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder



Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are a range of adverse health effects attributable to alcohol consumption during pregnancy. A major gap exists in the availability of support services to meet the complex needs of people living with FASD in Ireland, including educational, social and medical services. FASDs are associated with a wide range of complex co-morbidities. The most common co-morbidities reported in this new study were emotional or behavioural disorders including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) / Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) (64%) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (21%). The rate of ASD in this study far exceeds that reported in the literature, potentially indicating misdiagnosis of children here.

AFI & the Global Brain Health Institute at Trinity College Dublin in 2023 released the first of its kind study of families raising children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, based on a survey of 70 caregivers. **The** report launched on 28.9.22 in Trinity College shines a light on the lives, challenges and support needs of families raising children and young people with FASD here in Ireland.

Katy Tobin, Assistant Professor in Biostatistics at the Global Brain Health Institute and Public Health and Primary Care, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin was the lead investigator on the research. The report highlights the enormous stress and financial strain faced by caregivers of children and young people living with FASD in Ireland as they navigate a system that does not provide diagnosis or specialist services for this complex range of disorders. FASD affects about 5% of young people in Ireland, the third highest rate in the world. Our findings illustrate the urgency for change to address the major inequities and unmet need faced by thousands of families affected by FASD in Ireland’.

Also in 2023, AFI together with ENDpae produced three short films on FASD, with strong involvement of people with FASD & family members. These series of short films will be both a training resource and a communications campaign resource. AFI supported ENDpae to deliver series of FASD webinars for professionals and parents with over 100 participants across 2022/23.



FASDcare: Understanding the Experiences and Needs of Family Caregivers of People With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) in Ireland

Principal Investigator/Author: Dr. Katy Tobin
Researching/Co-writing: Dr. Elizabeth McCarthy, Ms. Anna Marie Padden
Study Partner: Alcohol Forum Ireland



20
23

EUROPEAN AWARENESS WEEK ON ALCOHOL RELATED HARM, 27TH - 31ST NOV.

7 key messages for 7 days

**National Campaign with supporting
information pack and resources.**

**1 staff member participated in Eurocare
European video campaign & training
workshop in Brussels**

20
23



Company registration number: 435920

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

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Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.
Company limited by guarantee

Directors and other information

Directors	Dr Billy Bennett Mr Pat Harvey Ms Mary Hough Dr Paul Armstrong Dr Anne Burke Ms Lorraine Thompson Mr Gordon Curley Mr Liam Ward Mr John Hayes (Appointed 21 June 2023)
Secretary	Mr Pat Harvey
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Kieran Doherty (retired 31 March 2023) Ms Paula Leonard (appointed 1 April 2023)
Company number	435920
Charity number	20067120
Registered office	Unit B9 Enterprise Fund Business Centre Ballyraine Letterkenny Co. Donegal
Auditor	John Burke & Company Curraghamone Ballybofey County Donegal
Bankers	Allied Irish Banks, plc
Solicitors	VP McMullin

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Directors report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Governance and management

Alcohol Forum Ireland CLG is a charitable company limited by guarantee (CLG). The company is a registered charity (CRA number 20067120) and it has been granted Charitable Status by the Revenue Commissioners (CHY 17835).

The company is governed in accordance with its constitution and the aims and objectives set out therein.

The company is managed by its board of directors. The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as listed on the "directors and other information" page.

The company is limited by guarantee and consequently does not have any share capital. Accordingly, the directors do not have any interest in the capital of the company. One third of the directors retire at the annual general meeting of the company with those who retire being those who have been longest in office since the last election. Retiring directors are eligible for re-election.

The company has four sub-committees: (1) Audit and Risk, (2) Human Resources, (3) Strategic Planning, and (4) Quality and Safety. Each sub-committee is chaired by a director of the Board and provide reports and recommendations to the Board for approval.

Principal activities and business review

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. During 2023, AFI appointed a new CEO, undertook a significant restructuring process and developed a new strategic plan to guide the work over the coming years.

AFI offers a range of services including Youth & Family Services, Alcohol Related Brain Injury (ARBI), Community Action on Alcohol, education & training. AFI has offices in Cavan, Sligo and Letterkenny and supports community action on alcohol at a national level. AFI is part of national, European & global networks working to build safer communities free from alcohol harm.

AFI provides a range of activities, including:

- Prevention, policy and advocacy
- Research
- Specialised family support (alcohol and other drugs)
- Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support (MACYSS)
- Alcohol Related Brain Injury support service (Donegal)
- Community Action on Alcohol (National)
- Supporting the work of the Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network
- Building SAFER Communities Project (National)
- Training (National)
- The i-Mark initiative: Supporting Communities Free from Alcohol Industry Influence (National)

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Directors report (continued)

Principal activities and business review (continued)

External stakeholders, communities and a wide range of organisations receive the following through our work

- Training, learning and development opportunities
- Seminars, conferences and events
- Advocacy and media campaigns
- Research, publications and reports
- Tools and resources
- Quality supports and services

The company is primarily funded by the HSE and Tusla. The company's income for the year under review includes income from the HSE of €719,928 (2022: €687,959) and income from Tusla of €160,166 (2022: €174,013).

It is the intention of the director's to continue to administer programmes that meet the company's overall aims and objectives.

Organisational risk management and internal control

The Audit and Risk Committee (working with senior management) monitor and review the level of operational and financial risks. The Directors retain overall responsibility for risk management.

A risk register is maintained and is subject to review at each board meeting. The risk register forms the basis to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate the risks identified and monitor the implementation of procedures to minimise or manage any potential impact on the Charity should those risks materialise.

The principal risks and uncertainties are:

- Data protection: ensuring that adequate systems are in place for ongoing data management and GDPR purposes and that cyber security risks are minimised
- High dependence on key staff: our programmes depend on skilled staff. In the event a key staff member leaves the organisation, recruiting and retaining new skilled staff can be a challenge
- Funding: the reliance on restricted funding from the HSE and Tusla annually

The Board of Directors, Management and staff are actively engaged, at a strategic and operational level, to minimise the risk in key areas. Where applicable, appropriate policies and procedures are in place to assist in these control measures.

Reserves

The Board has set a reserves policy which requires that:

- reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that the company's core activity can continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty, and
- a proportion of reserves be maintained in a readily realisable form

Events after the end of the reporting period

The directors are not aware of any events or circumstances after the balance sheet date that require disclosure in the financial statements.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Directors report (continued)

Events after the end of the reporting period

The directors are not aware of any events or circumstances after the balance sheet date that require disclosure in the financial statements.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at our registered office.

Relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, John Burke & Company, have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Sections 380 to 385 of the Companies Act 2014.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 25/6/2024 and signed on behalf of the board by:



Dr Billy Bennett
Director



Dr Anne Burke
Director

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Directors responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.**

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G. (the 'company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the income and expenditure account, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 3. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2023 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 16 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G. (continued)**

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G. (continued)**

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Mr John Burke (Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
John Burke & Company
Registered Auditor and Chartered Accountants
Curraghamone
Ballybofey
County Donegal

25/06/2024

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

**Income and expenditure account
Financial year ended 31 December 2023**

	Note	2023 €	2022 €
Income	5	914,616	910,044
Expenditure		<u>(859,396)</u>	<u>(877,771)</u>
Operating surplus	8	55,220	32,273
Taxation	10	-	-
Surplus for the financial year		<u>55,220</u>	<u>32,273</u>

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

**Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2023**

	Note	2023 €	€	2022 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12	28,741		27,733	
			28,741		27,733
Current assets					
Debtors	13	17,078		38,748	
Cash at bank and in hand		280,653		399,845	
		297,731		438,593	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(143,845)		(338,919)	
Net current assets			153,886		99,674
Total assets less current liabilities			182,627		127,407
Net assets			182,627		127,407
Reserves					
Income and expenditure account			182,627		127,407
Members funds			182,627		127,407

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 25/6/2024 and signed on behalf of the board by:



Dr Billy Bennett
Director



Dr Anne Burke
Director

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements Financial year ended 31 December 2023

1. General information

The company is a company limited by guarantee (CLG) not having any share capital. The company is registered in Ireland and the address of the registered office is Unit B9, Enterprise Fund Business Centre, Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

The company is a registered charity (CRA number 20067120) and it has been granted Charitable Status by the Revenue Commissioners (CHY 17835).

The principal activity of the company is to provide support, information and services to individual's families and communities impacted by alcohol harm and work at a wider level to change Ireland's problematic relationship with alcohol.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and Irish Statute comprising the Companies Act 2014.

3. Accounting policies and measurement bases

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified to include certain items at fair value.

The financial statements are prepared in Euro, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

The ability of the company to continue as a going concern is wholly dependant on the continuation of funding from the Health Service Executive and Tusla. Service Level Agreements (SLA's) are agreed annually with both organisations with SLA's being in place for 2024 at the date of approval of these financial statements. Whilst the company has no guarantees in respect of funding from the above named organisations the directors are confident that the company's activities will continue to be funded and therefore that the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly the directors deem it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Financial year ended 31 December 2023

Income

Income includes (a) grants and other state funding, and (b) other income including conference fees, donations and other fundraising. Income from grants and other state funding is inclusive of funding received during the year and funding claims outstanding at the year end. Funding received in advance is treated as deferred income and is disclosed as a creditor falling due within one year. Other income is recognised in the financial statements when earned.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fittings fixtures and equipment - 15% straight line

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

4. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and consequently does not have any share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding €1.27 towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2023**

5. Income

Income arises from:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Grants and other state funding	913,263	890,388
Other income	1,353	19,656
	<u>914,616</u>	<u>910,044</u>

All grant funding is deemed to be restricted funding.

Split of grants and other state funding by funding provider:

	2023	2022
	€	€
TUSLA	160,166	174,013
Health Service Executive	719,928	687,959
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (What Works Sharing Knowledge Fund)	1,562	15,568
Donegal County Council	2,210	12,848
(Member's development fund/Healthy Ireland initiative)	29,397	-
Cavan County Council	<u>913,263</u>	<u>890,388</u>

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2023

**Details of grants and other state funding
received from Tusla and the HSE:**

Grant 1

Agency	Tusla
Sponsoring Government Department	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth
Grant Programmes	Family Matters - Strengthening Families Programme Moving Parents and Children Together (M-PACT) Reach (youth outreach service)
Purpose of grant	Support of staff wages, operating costs and project costs relating to the delivery of services for the above programmes.
Total Grant	€160,166
Term	Expired 31 December 2023
Accounting for grants:	
- Grant deferred at 1 January 2023	€29,689
- Grant received during the year	€152,667
- Grant taken to income for the year	€160,166
- Grant deferred at 31 December 2023	€22,190
Capital grant	€Nil
Restriction on use	Grant funding to be utilised as detailed above.

Grant 2

Agency	Health Service Executive (HSE)
Sponsoring Government Department	Department of Health
Grant Programme	Health & Wellbeing & Local HSE services
Purpose of grant	Support of staff wages, operating costs and project costs relating to core activities, the Strengthening Families Programme/MPACT, NVR, ARBI, the Community Action on Alcohol Project, the development and delivery of the MaCYSS under-18 drug and alcohol service in Cavan/Monaghan, the development of a family support service in Donegal, the development of an Alcohol Liaison service in Sligo University Hospital and training and resource development
Total Grant	€719,928
Term	Expired 31 December 2023
Accounting for grants:	
- Grant receivable at 1 January 2023	€34,085
- Grant deferred at 1 January 2023	€247,248
- Grants repaid during the year	€37,708
- Grant received during the year	€619,095
- Grant taken to income for the year	€719,928
- Grant deferred at 31 December 2023	€89,522
- Grant receivable at 31 December 2023	€14,899
Capital grant	€Nil
Restriction on use	Grant funding to be utilised as detailed above.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2023

6. Segmented accounts for TUSLA funded projects

	SFP/MPACT	MPACT Sligo/Leitrim	MaCYSS	CYPSC	Total
Income					
TUSLA	52,000	83,167	20,000	5,000	160,167
Expenditure					
Wages & employers PRSI	27,937	52,216	17,950	-	98,103
Rent & rates	3,752	7,752	-	-	11,504
Insurance	273	839	-	-	1,112
Light & heat	218	1,813	-	-	2,031
Travel & subsistence	1,050	4,046	1,333	-	6,429
Programme costs	12,802	6,767	-	-	19,569
Printing & stationary	243	584	9	-	836
Advertising & marketing	-	244	-	5,000	5,244
Telephone & broadband	799	1,836	212	-	2,847
Legal & professional	296	519	-	-	815
Training delivery	2,928	-	112	-	3,040
Subscriptions	685	602	-	-	1,287
Repairs & maintenance	50	1,451	384	-	1,885
Bank charges	50	36	-	-	86
	<u>51,083</u>	<u>78,705</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>154,788</u>
Surplus/(deficit)	<u>917</u>	<u>4,462</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,379</u>
Capital expenditure	<u>-</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>299</u>

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2023

7. Segmented accounts for Health Service Executive (HSE) funded projects

	Mental Health Services (Donegal)	Social Inclusion	Health & Wellbeing	North West Task Force	North East Task Force	Other Programmes	Total
Income							
Health Service Executive	192,463	313,250	118,000	79,570	1,086	15,558	719,927
Expenditure							
Wages & employers PRSI	144,014	173,535	74,853	57,894	-	-	450,296
Rent & rates	7,376	9,551	1,950	1,600	-	-	20,477
Insurance	712	1,239	207	-	-	-	2,158
Light & heat	2,572	3,966	469	-	-	-	7,007
Travel & subsistence	3,518	9,119	4,083	1,600	-	1,222	19,542
Programme costs	5,010	6,864	4,743	1,455	-	11,379	29,451
Printing & stationary	1,909	2,168	1,338	100	-	-	5,515
Advertising & marketing	732	7,362	6,237	-	-	1,802	16,133
Telephone & broadband	1,876	3,255	605	-	-	-	5,736
Legal & professional	4,367	30,316	1,724	5,246	-	-	41,653
Training delivery	3,667	18,724	50	5,011	1,086	-	28,538
Subscriptions	1,434	228	754	-	-	-	2,416
Repairs & maintenance	4,826	25,615	1,199	1,034	-	1,155	33,829
Bank charges	145	129	104	-	-	-	378
General expenses	176	67	17	-	-	-	260
	182,334	292,138	98,333	73,940	1,086	15,558	663,389
Surplus/(deficit)	10,129	21,112	19,667	5,630	-	-	56,538
Capital expenditure	-	7,741	-	1,439	-	-	9,180

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2023

8. Operating surplus

Operating surplus is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	€	€
Depreciation of tangible assets	8,470	6,925
Fees payable for the preparation and audit of the financial statements	2,952	2,706
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

9. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the financial year was 15 (2022: 16).

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Wages and salaries	498,340	543,926
Social insurance costs	53,518	58,678
	<u>551,858</u>	<u>602,604</u>

Number of employees by salary range:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
€60,000 to €70,000	1	1
€70,000 +	-	-

The directors did not receive any remuneration during the year under review.

The gross pay for the chief executive officer was €62,094 (appointed April 1st 2023).

10. Taxation

The company has been granted charitable status by the Revenue Commissioners (CHY 17835). As a consequence the company is not liable to taxation on its profit/loss on ordinary activities.

11. Income and expenditure account

	2023	2022
	€	€
At the start of the financial year	127,407	95,134
Surplus for the financial year	55,220	32,273
At the end of the financial year	<u>182,627</u>	<u>127,407</u>

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2023

12. Tangible assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment €	Total €
Cost		
At 1 January 2023	91,525	91,525
Additions	9,479	9,479
At 31 December 2023	<u>101,004</u>	<u>101,004</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2023	63,793	63,793
Charge for the financial year	8,470	8,470
At 31 December 2023	<u>72,263</u>	<u>72,263</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2023	<u>28,741</u>	<u>28,741</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>27,732</u>	<u>27,732</u>

13. Debtors

	2023 €	2022 €
Funding receivable	14,899	34,244
Prepayments	2,179	4,504
	<u>17,078</u>	<u>38,748</u>

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 €	2022 €
Funding advances	120,315	300,608
Trade creditors	3,525	17,771
Other creditors including tax and social insurance	12,692	14,822
Accruals	7,313	5,718
	<u>143,845</u>	<u>338,919</u>

15. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year under review or any balances owed by/(owed to) related parties as at 31 December 2023.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2023

16. Ethical standards

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature our auditors prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities, prepare and submit returns to the Companies Registration Office and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

17. Accounting periods

The current accounts are for the year ended 31 December 2023. The comparative accounts are for the year ended 31 December 2022.

18. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 25/6/2024.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

**Detailed income and expenditure account
Financial year ended 31 December 2023**

	2023	2022
	€	€
Income		
TUSLA	160,166	174,013
HSE - Mental Health Services (Core/ARBI/YDW/FM)	192,463	199,372
HSE - Social Inclusion (MaCYSS/FS/AL(SUH))	313,250	278,242
HSE - Health & Wellbeing (CAAP)	118,000	110,750
HSE - NWRDAFT (FM)	79,570	72,534
HSE - NERDATF	1,086	12,169
HSE - other	15,559	14,892
Department of Children	1,562	15,568
Donegal County Council	2,210	12,848
Cavan County Council	29,397	-
Other income	1,353	19,656
	<u>914,616</u>	<u>910,044</u>
Overheads		
Administration and programme expenses	(859,396)	(877,771)
	<u>(859,396)</u>	<u>(877,771)</u>
Operating surplus	<u>55,220</u>	<u>32,273</u>
	<u><u>55,220</u></u>	<u><u>32,273</u></u>

The company is compliant with relevant circulars relating to taxation, including Circular 44/2006, "Tax Clearance Procedures Grants, Subsidies and Similiar Type Payments".

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Detailed income and expenditure account (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	€	€
Overheads		
Administration and programme expenses		
Wages and salaries	498,340	543,926
Employer's PRSI contributions	53,518	58,678
Training (staff and programme delivery)	33,757	37,080
Programme costs	71,019	71,375
Rent & rates	31,981	25,731
Insurance	3,271	2,709
Light and heat	9,039	4,992
Repairs and maintenance	35,713	23,174
Printing, postage and stationery	6,352	7,924
Advertising	25,315	15,565
Telephone	8,583	7,039
Travelling and subsistence	25,971	25,490
Legal and professional	40,711	40,512
Auditors remuneration	2,952	2,706
Bank charges	442	446
General expenses	259	119
Subscriptions	3,703	3,380
Depreciation of tangible assets	8,470	6,925
	<u>859,396</u>	<u>877,771</u>