



Annual Report 2022

Challenging & changing Ireland's problematic relationship with alcohol.

Alcohol Forum Ireland CLG

Head Office: Enterprise Fund Business Centre, Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Title: Annual Report and Financial Statements

Period Covered: Jan. – Dec. 2022

Charity Number: 17835

Charity Registration Number: 435920

Company Number: 20067120

Website: www.alcoholforum.org

Board of Directors

Below are the names of all those who were Alcohol Forum Ireland directors at the date the annual report was approved and those who served as directors during the reporting period.

Name	Organisation / Sector	Details
Dr Billy Bennett	Atlantic Technological University	Chairperson
Dr Anne Burke	Atlantic Technological University	Vice-chair
Gordon Curley	Solicitor	Director
Lorraine Thompson	Donegal Youth Service	Director
Pat Harvey	Independent consultant	Secretary
Liam Ward	Donegal County Council	Treasurer
Mary Hough	Education sector	Director
Dr Paul Armstrong	GP and health	Director
John Hayes	Health sector	Director – Appointed 21/06/23. Director at time annual report was approved.
Sauna McClenegahan	Local and community development	Director – Resigned 02/12/22. Served as director during reporting period.

Chairman's Statement



I am delighted, as chairperson of Alcohol Forum Ireland, to present this Annual report and financial statement for 2022.

Alcohol Forum Ireland is an independent Irish charity that provides support, information and services to individuals, families and communities impacted by alcohol and other drug harm, while working at the wider level to change Ireland's problematic relationship with alcohol. AFI provides a range of supports across the southern border counties of Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal.

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. The footprint of our direct supports and services across the border region speaks to our origins as a small charity which was established by people coming together in Donegal over 15 years ago in direct response to the numbers of children who were subject to child protection proceedings where parental alcohol use was cited as the key reason for referral. Our work in 2022 demonstrates clearly that it is both possible and desirable to be an organisation with both national and global relevance based outside of our capital city, where the vast majority of national organisations are headquartered. Our origins as a grass roots organisation informs an approach that works to ensure regional and community perspectives are central to everything we do. The work of the Irish Community Action on Alcohol

Network represents urban, rural and border regional perspectives and is building a movement for change that is inclusive and community led.

The work of the company in 2022 has primarily been funded by the HSE and Tusla. The company's income for the year under review includes income from the HSE of €687,959 (2021: €533,128) and income from Tusla of €174,013 (2021: €179,106). The increased funding from the HSE during 2022 was primarily due to an increase in Family Support Donegal funding, increased funding for the MaCYSS projects, funding for the ARBI E-Learning module and new funding from the NERDAFT and MHI. Cost of living increases were also received during 2022.

We are hugely grateful to our funders both for the financial support and for the continued collaborative approach to working with them to build safer communities across Ireland, free from alcohol harm. However, an important priority for AFI is to decrease this reliance on state funding and the Strategic Planning and Projects committee of the Board will work with the CEO, the Board and the staff team on funding and income generation to enable the organisation to continue to grow.

Presenting the annual report and financial statements is an opportunity to appreciate and give thanks to all those who support, fund and contribute to the work of the organisation. Thanks are due to our independent auditors, John Burke and Company who have prepared the financial statements.

It has been a privilege to continue as Chair for AFI and to work with our Board of Directors and our CEO. Thanks are due to all of our Board members, for giving their time, sharing their expertise and ensuring that the good governance, independence, transparency of the work of AFI is something that we prioritise in our work and continue to improve on year on year. It is absolutely vital that charities are open, transparent and well governed and that all the funding we receive makes a difference in preventing and reducing alcohol harm and improving the lives of those who experience the burden of harm. To all of those individuals and families who take the brave step in seeking support, we thank you for trusting us and for sharing your journey with us. Your bravery and your journeys of positive change continue to inspire us.

The year 2022 was one of change for Alcohol Forum Ireland as we came to the last year of our Strategic Plan. In September our inspirational lead for Alcohol Related Brain Injury, Dr Helen McMonagle departed from the organisation, moving on to working in an academic setting. In her time with us, Dr McMonagle's work challenged the hopelessness that receiving a diagnosis for an alcohol related brain injury has meant for people. Not only did the community-based rehabilitation and recovery model she developed successfully support many people to make a full or significant recovery, it also proved that change is

possible. On behalf of everyone at AFI, I want to express our respect and gratitude for your inspirational and ground-breaking work. There is still a long way to go in advocating for service development in this area, but we will continue on this journey.

Finally, a word of thanks to our CEO, Kieran Doherty who has continued to provide leadership and support to the organisation enabling us to expand and grow. His leadership throughout the covid pandemic supported staff to be innovative and creative moving to supporting families in a new environment, offering phone support, online support and developing an online family support programme, HOPE. Kieran has build and supported a fantastic and committed staff team who are passionate, committed and innovative in their work to bring about positive change for individuals, families and communities across Ireland.

Billy Bennett

Nov. 2023

Alcohol Forum Ireland (AFI)

Alcohol Forum Ireland 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 change will only happen by working with communities to address the 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.

We are a movement-building organisation and our work is rooted in the principles of participation, collaboration and solidarity. We work with a diverse range of organisations across Ireland and are also part of the international movement to protect and advance the rights of individuals, families and communities to lives free from alcohol harm and the corrosive impact of alcohol industry strategies and products. We achieve change through mobilising, influencing, and building solidarity. We are committed to collaborating with, learning from and working in solidarity with others. Sustainable change will only be achieved through supporting families, those with lived experience and local communities to identify their own solutions and develop and implement their own strategies for change.





Our Vision

An Ireland where every child, family and community is free from the harmful effects of alcohol.



Our Mission

To create and inspire change by working with individuals, families and communities to prevent and reduce the harm caused by alcohol.

Our Values



Collaboration:

Change is possible by listening to and working with families, communities and other organisations to achieve our aims.



Excellence & Evidence:

Our work is shaped by evidence, experience and the needs of those we work with. We strive for excellence across all areas of work and are committed to sharing our expertise, leading by example and empowering others to make positive change.



Respect & Empathy:

We respect and value the experiences, ideas and strengths that each person brings and place the needs of children, families and communities that we work with at the centre of what we do.



Independence & Sustainability

Our work is shaped by evidence, experience and the needs of those we work with. Valuing sustainability and independence drive our work and we are committed to having the strength and commitment to do the right thing free from undue influence or pressure.



Accountability:

We are committed to good governance and integrity and demonstrate this with the people we work with, our volunteers, our partners and those who support us.

A national organisation whose work is grounded in the experiences of the people & communities we work with.

Community Action on Alcohol

AFI is the lead and support organisation for Community Action on Alcohol working with local and regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces. At a national level, the organisation is engaged in policy, advocacy and representational work to progress our strategic vision of building safer communities, preventing and reducing alcohol harm and ensuring that the voices of those who bear the burden of harm are key to the work.

Over the past number 7 years, community action on alcohol has continued to promote and hone a prevention model of evidence-based community action, supporting the development of skills and capacity across participating areas and developing a shared model of leadership grounded in communities. This work has, over the past year, has been recognized by the global alcohol policy community as providing leadership and guidance for the work with communities outside of Ireland and in 2022, the WHO included community action on alcohol as one of the six key themes in the European Framework on Alcohol Prevention.



Alcohol Licensing as a tool for promoting health & reducing harm

ICAAN continued to work in the area of alcohol licensing law ensuring that the Certificate in Alcohol Licensing Law was transferred across when our academic partner, the LYIT became part of the new Atlantic Technological University.

We made submissions to Department of Justice on the Sale of Alcohol Bill and in 2023 will appear before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice as part of pre legislative scrutiny.

We continued the 'Deliver Change on Drink Deliveries' campaign seeking changes to licensing legislation to allow for better regulation of fast growing drink delivery services across Ireland.



The Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network (I-CAAN)

Community Action on Alcohol is a public health and evidence-based approach to reducing alcohol harms which harnesses the skills of a broad range of stakeholders. 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. The work is supported by Regional and Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces and Alcohol Forum Ireland. The national Community Action on Alcohol Programme aims to deliver on 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 Programme evolved from a Pilot Project which was initiated as a three-way partnership between AFI, the Drugs Policy Unit of the Dept of Health and the HSE in 2015. A comprehensive national consultation which supported the development of 'Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery' informed the need for the continued development and expansion of evidence-based community action on alcohol in Ireland. The importance of empowering communities to become actively engaged in addressing and reducing alcohol harm was recognized in both the National Substance Misuse Strategy (2012) and the Healthy Ireland Framework (2013).





i-Mark launched & delivers a successful campaign ensuring Schools Based Education is free from alcohol industry influence.

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.

By the end of 2022, there had been significant interest from the global public health community in the i-Mark and a growing number of organisations adopted the i-Mark and became part of the movement here in Ireland. Presentations on the initiative were delivered online to groups in Australia, Scotland, Colombia and included in the WHO PHAO Regional webinar on the commercial determinants of Health. The project lead also presented in person on the work to the UK Alcohol Health Alliance (London meeting) and the European Alcohol Policy Conference in Oslo. A session delivered online to the World Assembly on Community Action on Alcohol was attended by representatives from over 30 countries. Interest from academics included reference to the initiative in an editorial for the British Medical Journal.

The i-Mark initiative seeks to make visible and resist six key strategies of the alcohol industry, with one of those being the negative and inappropriate influence of alcohol industry and alcohol industry funded charities on schools-based education. Throughout 2022, Alcohol Forum Ireland, ICAAN and a growing number of i-Mark organisations campaigned for schools based education to be free from alcohol industry funded materials and programmes. The campaign garnered significant media and political interest and from Sept to November was covered across national radio, TV and print media. Several Parliamentary Questions were raised on the issue, which was also discussed in both Dail and Seanad debates. At the end of the year, the campaigning resulted in an important victory, when the Department of Education and the HSE issued a clear circular to all secondary schools principals in Ireland indicating that the alcohol industry has 'no place' in Irish schools.



Ireland and Beyond: Establishing the World Assembly on Community Action on Alcohol

In 2022, through our work on community action on alcohol, we were, with Movendi International, founder members of the World Assembly on Community Action on Alcohol. As founder members, AFI and ICAAN reps were part of the global steering group with representatives from Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia and Sweden. Three online meetings of the Assembly took place with participation from over 130 people across over 40 countries

We are active members of the Alcohol Health Alliance (UK) and the European Alcohol Policy Alliance. In Ireland, we provide community and lived experience perspectives on a range of policy making forums. Project representatives have appeared before Oireachtas Committees, provided political briefings, made submissions and campaigned on a range of issues.

Promoting & Advancing Research

Increasing the research and evidence base on alcohol harm and effective prevention.

Over the past number of years, AFI's community action on alcohol project began to create the conditions to foster interest from academics and agencies in the area of research to support the overall strategic aims of the organisation. This bottom up approach to building research capacity continued in 2022, with ICAAN survey reports completed on both family support and the proposed Certificate in Building SAFER Communities.

While the organisation is committed to supporting and collaborating on robust academic research, we also use a variety of community based and other methods to identify issues of concern within communities and to understand public attitudes to alcohol policy and alcohol health harm. This included for example, our commissioning of market research on Attitudes towards Alcohol Licensing in Ireland, a poll carried out in November to gauge the level of public concern about the provisions of the Sale of Alcohol Bill. Another positive development in 2022, was the commencement of PhD research by ICAAN member, Marie Lawless, whose research will strengthen the evidence base for community action on alcohol here in Ireland.

In 2022, the community action on alcohol lead was invited by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on to a new Research and Practice Expert Advisory Group being established to support the ongoing development and implementation of the Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) study.

Some of the work in the area of research from 2022 is summarised on the next page;



Alcohol consumption and attitudes to evidence-based alcohol policy in Donegal (With QUB)



The lead for community action on alcohol co-authored with QUB a report on alcohol attitudes to alcohol consumption and harm in Donegal which was launched in Letterkenny with over 40 people in attendance, was presented to a full meeting of Donegal County Council and achieved coverage across Donegal print media and radio.

Journal of Alcohol & Other Drugs

The lead for community action on alcohol was invited as a peer reviewer for the Journal of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies in 2022, reviewing a number of articles submitted in relation to evidence based alcohol policy.

Health labelling workshops (With WHO Europe)



ICAAN and AFI collaborated with WHO European Region both on the organisation of two research workshops on alcohol labelling and also on promoting an online survey on the topic.

IRC Funding (With ATU)

AFI also successfully secured funding from IRC for a collaborative project with ATU for a project in 2023 which aims to increase research capacity in the area of community action on alcohol in Ireland.



Masters' Research collaborations (with ATU)

The collaborative work with ATU continued to be an important part of the work, and in 2022, one funded masters by research continued focusing on schools based interventions and a second funded research masters was commenced focusing on drink delivery services.

FASD research (With Trinity College)



The primary research for the FASD Caregivers survey being carried out by the Global Brain Health Institute in Trinity College commenced and was promoted across AFI and ICAAN networks. The research will be published in 2023.

Family support survey (With ICAAN & Drug and Alcohol Task Forces)

Through the work of community action on alcohol and ICAAN, a survey was undertaken of specialised alcohol and other drug family supports being provided across all Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force Areas. Two documents were produced from this work, a survey report which comprised responses from 22 of 24 Drug and Alcohol Task Forces, and also a resource for services and families. In addition, a campaign to promote increased awareness of the effectiveness and availability of specialised alcohol and other drug family support was undertaken and as part of this work, five short animations '5 stories of hope and recovery' were produced. The launch of the video campaign and the new resource were supported by HSE Alcohol Programme and the Department of Children.

Training, Capacity Building & Resource Development

AFI provides training throughout Ireland that supports continuing professional development, post-qualifying courses and frontline community training. We delivery both professional (CPD accredited) and bespoke learning experiences for a range of organisations and agencies and our 'not for profit' philosophy ensures that training is both accessible to and affordable for our clients. Many courses are tailored to meet specific requirements of different professional groups, for example, employers, youth workers etc. Our collaborative partnership with the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) has led to the development of a number of specialised third level courses including a Masters of Science in Therapeutic Interventions for Alcohol and other Drugs and a Certificate in Alcohol Licensing Law.

In 2022, ICAAN organised a series of training, seminar and webinar events attended by over 1000 people throughout the year including a collaborative in person event with WHO Europe on Community Action on Alcohol, an in-person workshop on 'What works in reducing alcohol harm' with global alcohol policy expert Prof Thomas Babor, a number of 'i-Mark Champions' training sessions and an in person seminar on 'Women, Alcohol & Cancer: Your Right to Know'.

The MaCYSS initiative in Cavan and Monaghan moved into their office space in Cootehill in January, and with the lifting of the covid restrictions and launch of the MaCYSS Training Directory, meant therapy sessions and in person training could be facilitated on site. The MaCYSS team hosted a series of training and webinar events attended by many professionals throughout the year. The Cavan and Monaghan Rapid assessment report and a new AFI resource 'Alcohol and the Adolescent Brain' were launched by the then Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan in the Hotel Kilmore with inputs from young people on the day.

Two years into the development and delivery of an under 18s alcohol and other drug service in Cavan and Monaghan, a Sharing the Learning event was organised and attended by over 100 people. A key element of the approach and model is community engagement and capacity building and a launch of the MaCYSS online directory of training was hosted in the new premises.

A combination of training was rolled out both in person and online from the directory and was very well attended. The Team gave a number of presentations across the two counties to various target groups including youth workers, health service staff and organisations in the community and voluntary sector and finished up the year with presenting at the CHO 1 HSE Staff Selfcare event in Sligo.

E-learning Module on ARBI

An ARBI e-learning module (45 mins) was developed by our ARBI project and was launched on world brain day on July 12th and is now hosted on HSE land, the HSE's online training portal available to all health service staff in Ireland and to staff in all HSE Funded organisations (section 38 and 39 organisations). This 40 minute e-learning module aims to upskill professionals in recognising people with Alcohol-Related Brain Injury (ARBI) or people at risk of developing an Alcohol-Related Brain Injury. It provides an overview of common presentations and the multidisciplinary support, treatment and rehabilitation required to help people with Alcohol-Related Brain Injury achieve their full potential.

Addressing Malnutrition in Alcohol Use Disorder

The Thiamine and Healthy eating resource was developed and launched very successfully with an accompanying webinar, which was attended by over 600 people from across Europe. The resource was digitally disseminated to 1006 practitioners and has been endorsed by the HSE, and added to the Ask About alcohol website, and the national healthy eating programme. It has also been shared by the Irish Dietetic and Nutritional Institute.

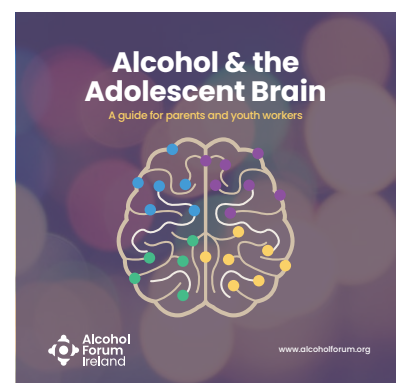
The webinar and launch focused on the identification and management of malnutrition in high-risk populations and best practice prevention. Speakers included Professor Leah Gramlach (Gastroenterologist, Physician Nutrition Specialist – University of Alberta), Dr Kaanthan Jawathar (Consultant Psychiatrist – UK) and Elaine Neary (Clinical Specialist Dietician in Gastroenterology – Ireland)



Alcohol and the Developing Adolescent Brain

Raising awareness with education providers, health services, parents and young people of the impact of alcohol on brain health across the life course continued to be an important element of the work in 2022. This involved:

- **Information Video** for parents on Alcohol and the developing adolescent brain was developed and launched in the week prior to the release of the Junior Cert results. A series of shorter videos were prepared and shared on social media.
- **Alcohol & Adolescent Brain: A Guide for Parents** – this second edition was revised and updated to align with newest international research and was reprinted with support from Healthy Ireland.



Policy and Advocacy

AFI is part of national, European & global networks working to build safer communities free from alcohol harm. The provision of evidence-based supports and services alone will not outweigh the impact of cultural traditions, sophisticated marketing and the widespread availability of cheap alcohol in our communities. Over the past five years, AFI has become an important voice and stakeholder in alcohol policy, prevention and advocacy to prevent and reduce alcohol harm.

An important positive development in policy in 2022 was the inclusion of community action on alcohol as one of six key thematic areas in the European Framework on Alcohol, which was adopted by 53 member states. In November, AFI and ICAAN organised with WHO European office an event in Dublin to showcase good practice on community action on alcohol in Ireland and to promote the European Framework. The event was attended by over 50 people and hosted by Dublin 12 Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

Advocacy on alcohol licensing law: From drink deliveries to the Sale of Alcohol Bill

In 2019, ICAAN member organisations identified the growth of drink delivery services as an issue of concern at community level, both with regard to the impact these services were having on those drinking at harmful levels and on young people. The Deliver Change on Drink Deliveries campaign was launched in 2019 and from 2019 – 2022, ICAAN campaigned for changes to legislation which would provide for better regulation and enforcement regarding the operation of these services. In December 2021, ICAAN undertook a social media campaign creating eight sixty second videos highlighting the impact of growing drink delivery services in communities across Ireland. Participants from across the country highlighted the issues in their area. By the end of Jan 2022, the campaign videos had been viewed over 5000 times.

In 2022, when the Department of Justice announced it was going to bring forward a Sale of Alcohol Bill ICAAN made a decision to widen the Drink Deliveries campaign to include additional concerns regarding a proposed new legislation. ICAAN and AFI both made submissions to the Dept of Justice as part of the Department of Justice's consultation on the legislation and supported a number of ICAAN member organisations to also submit as part of this process.

Attitudes towards alcohol licensing in Ireland

In December, ICAAN and AFI commissioned a REDC poll which found:

- 63% of people are concerned that unregulated online/over the phone sale of alcohol is facilitating underage drinking' (up from 54% in our previous REDC poll in 2020).
- 66% of people agreed with the statement that 'There needs to be greater enforcement in relation to the unlicensed online drink delivery services that are advertising 24-hour drink delivery services in many parts of the country (new question in 2022)
- 65% of people agreed with the statement that 'There should be stronger regulations in place for alcohol delivery services from licensed premises' (up from 57% in 2020)
- 74% of respondents agreed with the statement that 'it is vital that any proposed extension to the sale of alcohol licensing is accompanied by plans to put in place & fund additional services such as Gardai on patrol, ambulance services etc. which will be needed to cover the additional consumption hours'
- 59% agreed with the statement that 'The changes proposed to the licensing laws are very significant & there needs to be a wider public consultation to ensure the public understand what the changes will mean'
- 51% agreed with the statement that 'Extending the hours at which alcohol can be sold (in pubs, late bars and night clubs) will have a negative impact on public health, public safety & public order'

Your Right to Know what's in the bottle: Advocacy on alcohol-labelling

The labelling section (12) of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act, will result in the following mandatory labelling requirements for all alcohol products sold in the Republic of Ireland:

- A warning label detailing the link between alcohol and fatal cancers
- Health warning- danger of alcohol consumption
- A warning of consuming alcohol while pregnant
- Quantity of grams of alcohol
- Calories and kilojoules (in the container concerned)
- Details of a website run by HSE providing public health information about alcohol consumption

Achieving this milestone in the introduction of labelling, however, was not a simple task and Government faced strong opposition within the EU on plans to commence section 12 of the Public Health Alcohol Act. In 2022, AFI and ICAAN made submissions to the EU on Ireland's proposals around alcohol health labelling and supported a number of ICAAN member organisations and others that we work with to also make submissions.

We collaborated with WHO European Regional Office to facilitate three workshops on alcohol labelling in Dublin in December, including one for people in recovery.

Advocating for Better Brain Health

One of the strategic aims of AFI is promote recognition and rehabilitation of Alcohol Related Brain Injury in Ireland and to achieve better outcomes for individuals and families impacted by ARBI. The policy and advocacy work to advance this strategic aim have continued in 2022, with involvement of both individuals with ARBI and their family members. The voice, stories and experiences of families impacted by the condition were reflected and promoted in a series of short video resources developed in 2022. In addition the ARBI lead supported a family member to tell their experience of receiving support from the ARBI rehabilitation service as part of ICAAN's animation series, '5 stories of Hope and Recovery'.

On July 12th, for World Brain Day, an online launch of the newly developed e-learning module on ARBI was organized and the ARBI Guide for Professionals was circulated to over 100 health care professionals.

In 2022, the ARBI lead participated in the DFI National Health Advisory Forum, a national forum for voluntary disability service providers to build a stronger working relationship between the State and the voluntary healthcare sector for the benefit of patients and service users and to facilitate regular dialogue with the voluntary sector on future policy and strategic developments on the landscape of disability policy and service delivery. AFI also participated in the DFI consultation with member organisations and the DFI representative on the Expert Advisory Group on younger people under 65 in nursing homes to identify and support mechanisms for people moving on from nursing homes.

AFI continued to advocate for increased accessibility for people with ARBI to home care and personal assistance services, writing formally to the HSE regarding lack of access for under 65 ARBI clients to home support and the burden this imposes on the client and their family. This is an important campaign which will continue given that HSE assessment documents for Disability services specifically exclude Alcohol Related Brain injury in their criteria.

Advocating for children and families: A Hope & Rights Based Approach

Given the enormous impact on the lives of young people, alcohol misuse needs to be afforded greater recognition as a significant children's rights issue. According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children have the right to survive, to be protected from harm and exploitation, to develop fully and to participate in decisions affecting their well-being. In addition, they deserve respect, information, support and prevention services. Unquestionably, many areas of children's rights are undermined by problems related to substance use. For over 15 years, AFI's work with children and families has been driven by the recognition that alcohol represents a significant challenge to the achievement of children's rights. Central to the approach is also the holding of hope for and with families and ensuring that promoting the rights of children does not stigmatize parents who have difficulties with alcohol and / or other drug use. In 2022, ICAAN produced a number of short animations 'Five Stories of Hope and Recovery' which were based on the lived experiences of children, adult children and parents who had transformed their lives through accessing effective and timely family support in their local community. Their voices and stories, as shared by themselves, are an inspiration to others who may be struggling but do not understand or know that family support options are available to them.

While the Alcohol Forum Ireland recognizes that as a legal substance, alcohol policy work requires a focus on high impact public health and prevention measures. However, we believe and work to ensure that the voices of both children and their family members are reflected across all of our representational and advocacy work. In 2022, AFI was involved in a range of work to promote and protect the rights of children negatively impacted by alcohol and other drug use.

In brief, this involved:

- Participation in Pompidou Research Group on international study of children whose primary caregivers use drugs
- Participation in one of the Strategic Implementation Groups established by the Dept of Health to oversee implementation of the National Drug and Alcohol Strategy. The national lead for community action on alcohol participated on SIG 1 which focuses on 'Strengthening the prevention of drug and alcohol use and the associated harms among children and young people.
- AFI chaired the National Strengthening Families Programme Council for a number of years, and in 2022 continued to participate in this group.
- Non Violent Resistance National Steering Group – Children impacted by parental alcohol and other drug misuse are at an elevated risk of engaging in child to parent violence. Also there is some research which suggests that children who are themselves using alcohol and other drugs are at an increased risk of engaging in violence against their parent or carer. AFI has trained staff in and delivered NVR as part of the work in Donegal for a number of years and also participate on the National Steering Group for NVR.
- AFI and ICAAN launched a new national resource to promote family support and effective family support programmes in 2022. The resource launch was supported by the Department of Children, Equality, Integration and Youth and a link to the resource is included on the Tusla website, in addition to the AFI website. A link to the resource has also been included by the ICGP in their Quick Reference Guide on the Management of Alcohol Use Disorders in Primary Care Settings.
- AFI continued to collaborate with ENDpae in 2022, a parent and carer support and advocacy group for those raising children on the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum. This work involved a successful application to Tusla What works for the delivery of training to teachers, parents and health professionals and the development of a number of awareness raising video resources.

While the above national advocacy was an important strategic area of work in 2022, at the operational level in the southern border counties where AFI delivers direct services, staff were engaged in several county level structures to ensure advocacy with and representation of the needs of the children, families and young people we deliver direct supports and services to. This included participation in, and in a number of cases chairing of, Meitheal processes. Meitheal is a case co-ordination process for families with additional needs who require multi-agency intervention but who do not meet the threshold for referral to the Social Work Department under Children First. The organisation also participated on and supports the work of Children and Young People's Committees, Child and Family Services Networks and Tusla's Funded Partners Practice Forum. This work compliments the national advocacy role and ensures that all advocacy and policy work is grounded in the lived experiences of the children and families that we work with.

Collaborating for Change

Collaboration is the cornerstone of the work of Alcohol Forum Ireland. We do not believe that any one agency or organisation can hold all of the skills and expertise required to reduce and prevent alcohol harm in Ireland. Indeed, we strongly believe that individuals, families, and communities are knowledgeable and capable of driving change. On the journey towards change, creating space for the lived and living experiences of those that we work with is a central part of the role of AFI. In the area of community action on alcohol, we continued to work collectively with the members of the 14 Regional and Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces who are part of the Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network. The i-Mark movement developed as a network of over 30 organisations across Ireland committed to countering the negative impact that the strategies and products of the alcohol industry are having on our communities. In 2022, some existing collaborative relationships were strengthened, and some ones were forged.

Collaborating with the ICGP

Throughout 2022, the National Lead for Community Action on Alcohol participated on a small working group in the ICGP to develop a new Quick Reference Guide for GP's throughout Ireland on 'The Management of Alcohol Use Disorder in Primary Care Settings'. This work supported AFI to advocate for the inclusion of a clear message that there is no safe level of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and also was an opportunity to increase awareness among GP's of the importance of early identification and management of alcohol related brain injuries among alcohol dependent clients. A key success in this work was the inclusion by the ICGP of a link to our new resource 'Supporting Families impacted by a loved ones alcohol or other drug use'. The Guide will be published and available to GP's in 2023.



GAA collaboration

In 2021/22, the national lead for community action on alcohol worked as part of a small group with the GAA health and wellbeing team to develop a national GAA campaign dedicated to educating a number of audiences through the reach, structures, and communities of the GAA on the risks to brain health posed by early

alcohol use and supporting these audiences to make better choices about their health and that of their children. ASI was part of the team that made a successful presentation for funding to the philanthropic Tomar Trust. The brain health social media campaign assets were completed were highly successful in terms of engagement and received:

- **62,000 views on Tik Tok**
- **200,000 views on FB and Instagram.**



Project lead attended meetings in 2022 to consider next steps, and the plan for 2023 is to now develop a standardised training module on alcohol and other drugs for GAA clubs throughout Ireland. Given the wider focus on alcohol and other drugs, the next phase of the work will be led out on by GAA in collaboration with a group representing regional and local drug and alcohol task forces.

Collaborating to improve responses to and prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

In 2021, AFI successfully partnered with the Global Brain Health Institute in Trinity College on a research funding application to the Irish Research Council. The research which focuses on the experiences of parents and care-givers raising children on the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum commenced in 2022. A survey which attracted 70 responses from parents and care-givers is now complete and a report will be published in 2023.. 70 returns were now completed which is a good sample size and likely there will be adequate data to submit the project for peer review and publication.

AFI continued to support ENDpae, a group of parents and carers raising children impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder throughout 2022. This work includes a range of actions including:

- Supporting ENDpae to adopt I-Mark and including ENDpae in a regional launch of I-Mark in the north west where a group member spoke about alcohol industry misinformation around the risk of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and also on alcohol industry opposition to effective health warning labels on alcoholic beverages.
- Supporting ENDpae to make submissions to the WHO regarding new Global Alcohol Action Plan and to the EU Commission regarding Ireland's proposals to introduce health warnings on alcoholic beverages.
- Providing funding for a member of ENDpae to attend the FASD Conference in Salford.
- Developing with ENDpae a social media campaign for FASD awareness day on Sept 9th with two short 60 second videos on FASD. The campaign and a press release were covered in the Irish Examiner.

AFI also made successful application for funding under the Tusla's What Works Initiative and funding was secured for the development and delivery of training for parents and professionals and for the development of a number of video resources.

Collaborating with the HSE

Through our work nationally, AFI supports the work of the HSE Alcohol Programme, participating on the national HSE Alcohol Implementation group, promoting the HSE Ask About Alcohol Campaign and working collectively on a number of different initiatives to reduce and prevent alcohol harm. Towards the end of 2022, the HSE Alcohol Programme supported an application to the Department of Health's new funding stream on prevention through the Drugs Policy Unit.



At a regional level, both the funding from and the joint working with HSE and Healthy Ireland initiatives across CHO area one continued to be an important aspect of the work.

Regional Supports & Services in the Southern Border Counties

AFI has offices in Donegal and Sligo and in 2022, opened a new office in Cootehill to support the work in Cavan and Monaghan. The organisation provides a range of front-line services to individuals, families and communities affected by alcohol and other drug use in the southern border counties of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Monaghan and Cavan, including :

- **Specialised Family Support for families impacted by alcohol and other drug misuse**
- **Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support (MACYSS)**
- **Alcohol Related Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Recovery support service**
- **Training**

While the work in these regions is not limited to the delivery of services and supports, this section of the Annual Report documents that part of the work. The policy, advocacy, capacity building and training elements of the work in 2022 has been reflected in the previous sections.

For over 15 years, Alcohol Forum Ireland has provided a range of different programmes and supports that recognises the needs of family members, including parents, children, siblings, grandparents, extended family, friends and broader social networks. Our work with families in Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan demonstrates that given the right supports, transformation is possible for families struggling with parental alcohol misuse. 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.

- **Strengthening Families Programme (SFP)**
- **Moving Parents and Children Together (M-PACT)**
- **5 – Step Family Support**
- **Have Only Positive Expectations (HOPE online programme)**
- **Non-Violent Resistance (NVR)**
- **Steps to Cope**

Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support (MACYSS)

Since 2021, AFI has delivered a youth (12–18 years olds) and family alcohol and other drug service in Cavan and Monaghan delivered in partnership with HSE, TUSLA, North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

In 2022, the service received 22 referrals in regard to young people presenting with issues relating to their alcohol and / or other drug use, screened all referrals and delivered over 160 face to face appointments directly to young people and over 300 direct face to face, phone and online support sessions with family members.



Alcohol Related Brain Injury : Rehabilitation and Recovery Support Service (Donegal)

The Alcohol-Related Brain Injury Programme provides support for people and families affected by Alcohol- Related Brain Injury (ARBI). The service provides a central point of contact for people affected by Alcohol-Related Brain Injury and their families and ensures access to a range of support services to allow them to recover and meet their full potential. We also provide access to professional training to facilitate the early identification of the disorder and resources to increase the awareness of best-practice for this condition. Throughout 2022, the programme provided ongoing support to between 6 and 8 clients on a monthly basis.



**ALCOHOL-RELATED
BRAIN INJURY**

The project lead for Alcohol Related Brain Injury, Dr Helen McMonagle resigned from her post in September having worked with Alcohol Forum Ireland for over a decade, leading the way in Ireland on service development, training and visibility of alcohol related brain injury in the Republic of Ireland. The post was vacant from September to December 2023.

Family Programmes in Donegal, Sligo & Leitrim

Alcohol Forum Ireland offer a range of evidence-based and evenidence informed whole family programmes including Strengthening Families Programme, M-PACT, Non-Violence Resistance (NVR), HOPE online and Five step family support.

The project has adapted a Systemic Approach that is collaborative and person centric. Within our suite of supports and programmes for families we can provide a 'wrap around' whole family approach based on the needs of family members. Following a referral screening and holistic assessment process families are approved for most appropriate service and programmes available to their presented needs. Families can avail of numerous services and be referred interally across the different programmes offered.

Every family attending our service avails of up to 40 hours of direct intervention and support based on a systemic approach and process. Our whole family programmes support the development of resilient families who have the ability to utilise their skills and resources to meet life challenges. When we support families, we respect the dignity and worth of every individual and believe it is their own personal journey to develop solutions. Our approach has three core principles; strengthens based, skills based and reflective practice, for developing and fostering abilities, resources and accomplishments within families. The main reasons for referrals in 2022 included; Parental alcohol or other drug use, Mental Health issues in parents and/or young people, Anxiety/Low Self Esteem, Aggressive Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Child to Parent Violence, Poor School Attendance/Academic Motivation.

In 2022, the following was delivered to families across Donegal; 20 families engaged in our whole family programmes in Donegal; which comprised of 26 adults and 36 young people. Four face to face programmes were delivered (2 M-PACT, 1 SFP, 1 NVR, and 1 HOPE online programme).

AFI have an office in Sligo town and two part time staff who lead on the work in that region; delivering both the M-Pact programme and 5 step family support which was a new development in the work in 2022. Two eight week M-Pact programmes were delivered in 2022, with all families attending for assessment in advance and with follow up offered when families have completed the programme. In addition, families who come through the programme also participate in a family reunion after a programme is completed to reflect on the learning and ensure that the changes to family communication and relationships have been sustained. A total of 15 families, comprising 20 adults and 21 children/ young people attended the M-Pact programme in 2022.

A new development in our work in Sligo and Leitrim in 2022 included the introduction of five step family support with one member of staff participating in 5 step training. When this training was completed, work commenced in the third quarter of the year and support was delivered to five individuals by the end of the year.

Company registration number: 435920

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

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	Mr Pat Harvey Ms Shauna McClenaghan (resigned December 2nd 2022) Ms Mary Hough Dr Billy Bennett Dr Anne Burke Ms Lorainne Thompson Mr Gordon Curley Mr Liam Ward Dr Paul Armstrong
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 Ulster Bank
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 2022.

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 had three sub-committees: (1) Audit, Risk and Finance, (2) Human Resources, and (3) Strategic Planning and Projects. 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 is an independent Irish charity that provides support, information and services to individuals, families and communities impacted by alcohol harm, while working at the wider level to change Ireland's problematic relationship with alcohol.

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:

(i) Specialised Family Support

For over a decade, AFI has provided a range of different evidence based programmes and supports that recognises the needs of family members impacted by alcohol and other drug harm.

(ii) Alcohol-Related Brain Injury (ARBI)

Support provided for people and families affected by Alcohol-Related Brain Injury (ARBI). The service provides a central point of contact for people affected by Alcohol-Related Brain Injury and their families and ensures access to a range of support services to allow them to recover and meet their full potential. We also provide access to professional training to facilitate the early identification of the disorder and resources to increase the awareness of best-practice for this condition.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Directors report (continued)

(iii) Community Action on Alcohol

AFI is the lead organisation in Ireland supporting communities to take action to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harm through community leadership, integrated local planning and a range of evidence-based actions. This work is a key action of the national drug and alcohol strategy, 'Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery'. AFI continues to support the Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network to support networking and sharing of good practice.

(iv) Training

AFI provides training throughout Ireland that supports continuing professional development and post-qualifying courses through both accredited and bespoke learning experiences for a range of organisations and agencies. The 'not for profit philosophy' ensures that training is both accessible to and affordable for clients. Many courses are tailored to meet specific requirements of different professional groups, for example employers, youth workers etc. A collaborative partnership with ATU Donegal has also led to the development of a number of specialised third level courses including an MA in Therapeutic Interventions and a Certificate in Alcohol Licensing Law.

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 €687,959 (2021: €533,128) and income from Tusla of €174,013 (2021: €179,106). The increased funding from the HSE during 2022 was primarily due to an increase in Family Support Donegal funding, increased funding for the MaCYSS projects, funding for the ARBI E-Learning module and new funding from the NERDAFT and MHI. Cost of living increases were also received during 2022.

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, Risk and Finance sub-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:

- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on service delivery
- 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

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 21 June 2023 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 2022 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 2022 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 15 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)**

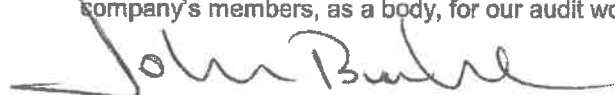
As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- 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

29 June 2023

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Income and expenditure account
Financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 €	2021 €
Income	5	910,044	797,642
Expenditure		(877,771)	(797,703)
Operating surplus/(deficit)	7	32,273	(61)
Other interest receivable and similar income		-	4
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation		32,273	(57)
Taxation	9	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		32,273	(57)

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 18 form part of these financial statements.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 €	€	2021 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11	27,733		18,791	
			27,733		18,791
Current assets					
Debtors	12	38,748		6,981	
Cash at bank and in hand		399,845		339,818	
		438,593		346,799	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(338,919)		(270,456)	
Net current assets			99,674		76,343
Total assets less current liabilities			127,407		95,134
Net assets			127,407		95,134
Reserves					
Income and expenditure account			127,407		95,134
Members funds			127,407		95,134

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 21 June 2023 and signed on behalf of the board by:



Dr Billy Bennett
Director



Dr Anne Burke
Director

The notes on pages 11 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.**Notes to the financial statements
Financial year ended 31 December 2022****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 2023 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 2022****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
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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 2022**5. Income**

Income arises from:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Grants and other state funding	890,388	774,383
Other income	19,656	23,259
	<u>910,044</u>	<u>797,642</u>

All grant funding is deemed to be restricted funding.

Split of grants and other state funding by funding provider:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Tusla	174,013	179,106
Health Service Executive	687,959	533,128
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (What Works Sharing Knowledge Fund)	15,568	-
Donegal County Council (Member's development fund/Healthy Ireland initiative)	12,848	11,150
International Fund for Ireland	-	50,999
	<u>890,388</u>	<u>774,383</u>

Analysis of funding from the Health Service Executive:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Mental Health Services	199,372	192,461
Social Inclusion	278,242	169,187
Health & Wellbeing	110,750	97,750
NWRDAFT	72,534	73,730
Other	27,061	-
	<u>687,959</u>	<u>533,128</u>

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2022Details 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	€174,013
Term	Family Matters & M-PACT - expired 31 December 2022 Reach - expired November 2022
Accounting for grants:	
- Grant deferred at 1 January 2022	€46,732
- Grant received during the year	€156,970
- Grant taken to income for the year	€174,013
- Grant deferred at 31 December 2022	€29,689
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, ARBI, the Community Action on Alcohol Project, the development 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	€687,959
Term	Expired 31 December 2022
Accounting for grants:	
- Grant receivable at 1 January 2022	€Nil
- Grant deferred at 1 January 2022	€177,223
- Grant received during the year	€739,507
- Grant taken to income for the year	€687,959
- Grant deferred at 31 December 2022	€262,856
- Grant receivable at 31 December 2022	€34,085
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 2022

6. Segmented accounts for TUSLA funded projects

	SFP/MPACT	MPACT	Reach	Total
		Sligo/Leitrim		
Income				
TUSLA	52,000	78,948	43,065	174,013
Expenditure				
Wages & employers PRSI	32,000	50,114	38,689	120,803
Rent & rates	3,752	7,752	2,300	13,804
Insurance	273	513	103	889
Light & heat	218	961	-	1,179
Travel & subsistence	1,050	4,236	1,059	6,345
Programme costs	11,827	5,998	426	18,251
Printing & stationary	400	1,731	-	2,131
Advertising & marketing	-	422	-	422
Telephone & broadband	1,000	1,373	147	2,520
Legal & professional	1,380	100	-	1,480
Training delivery	-	1,600	-	1,600
Subscriptions	50	568	-	618
Repairs & maintenance	-	3,214	341	3,555
Bank charges	50	36	-	86
	<u>52,000</u>	<u>78,618</u>	<u>43,065</u>	<u>173,683</u>
Surplus/(deficit)	<u>-</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>330</u>
Capital expenditure	<u>-</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>330</u>

7. Operating surplus/(deficit)

Operating surplus/(deficit) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	€	€
Depreciation of tangible assets	6,925	4,847
Fees payable for the preparation and audit of the financial statements	<u>2,706</u>	<u>3,198</u>

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2022**8. Staff costs**

The average number of persons employed by the company during the financial year was 16 (2021: 16).

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Wages and salaries	543,926	532,534
Social insurance costs	58,678	57,861
Redundancy costs	-	3,684
	<u>602,604</u>	<u>594,079</u>

Number of employees by salary range:

	2022	2021
	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 €66,625.

9. 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.

10. Income and expenditure account

	2022	2021
	€	€
At the start of the financial year	95,134	95,191
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	32,273	(57)
At the end of the financial year	<u>127,407</u>	<u>95,134</u>

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2022**11. Tangible assets**

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment €	Total €
Cost		
At 1 January 2022	75,659	75,659
Additions	15,867	15,867
At 31 December 2022	91,526	91,526
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2022	56,868	56,868
Charge for the financial year	6,925	6,925
At 31 December 2022	63,793	63,793
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2022	27,733	27,733
At 31 December 2021	18,791	18,791

12. Debtors

	2022 €	2021 €
Funding receivable	34,244	1,000
Prepayments	4,504	5,981
	38,748	6,981

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 €	2021 €
Funding advances	300,608	247,449
Trade creditors	17,771	3,382
Other creditors including tax and social insurance	14,822	13,181
Accruals	5,718	6,444
	338,919	270,456

14. 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 2022.

Alcohol Forum Ireland C.L.G.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Financial year ended 31 December 2022

15. 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.

16. Accounting periods

The current accounts are for the year ended 31 December 2022. The comparative accounts are for the year ended 31 December 2021.

17. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 21 June 2023.

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 2022

	2022 €	2021 €
Income		
TUSLA	174,013	179,106
HSE - Mental Health Services (Core/ARBI/YDW/FM)	199,372	192,461
HSE - Social Inclusion (MaCYSS/FS/AL(SUH))	278,242	169,187
HSE - Health & Wellbeing (CAAP)	110,750	97,750
HSE - NWRDAFT (FM)	72,534	73,730
HSE - NERDATF	12,169	-
HSE - other	14,892	-
Department of Children	15,568	-
Donegal County Council	12,848	11,150
IFI	-	50,999
Other income	19,656	23,259
	<u>910,044</u>	<u>797,642</u>
Overheads		
Administration and programme expenses	(877,771)	(797,703)
	<u>(877,771)</u>	<u>(797,703)</u>
Operating surplus/(deficit)	32,273	(61)
Other interest receivable and similar income	-	4
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	<u>32,273</u>	<u>(57)</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 2022

	2022	2021
	€	€
Overheads		
Administration and programme expenses		
Wages and salaries	543,926	532,534
Employer's PRSI contributions	58,678	57,861
Redundancy costs	-	3,684
Training (staff and programme delivery)	37,080	30,156
Programme costs	71,375	43,501
Rent & rates	25,731	19,030
Insurance	2,709	3,205
Light and heat	4,992	991
Repairs and maintenance	23,174	25,459
Printing, postage and stationery	7,924	4,928
Advertising	15,565	30,771
Telephone	7,039	6,619
Travelling and subsistence	25,490	10,684
Legal and professional	40,512	15,997
Auditors remuneration	2,706	3,198
Bank charges	446	386
General expenses	119	277
Subscriptions	3,380	3,575
Depreciation of tangible assets	6,925	4,847
	<u>877,771</u>	<u>797,703</u>

We confirm that the above representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, of inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the above representations to you.

Yours faithfully



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Signed on behalf of the board

Date: 21/6/23



Director

