Shaping Tomorrow Together

IRELAND
move
Men Overcoming Violence

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

IRELAND

MOVE

Men Overcoming Violence

MOVE Ireland would like to acknowledge the support of our statutory funders

CUAN

An Ghníomhaireacht um Fhoréigean Baile, Gnéasach agus Inscnebhunaithe

The Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency

pobal

government supporting communities

CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME



With Cuan now fully operational, 2025 was the year in which Ireland's response to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence moved up a gear. For MOVE Ireland, it was the year in which the opportunity we had been preparing for began to arrive - allowing us to continue stepping out of the shadows and to advocate, more confidently than ever, for the importance of expanded perpetrator programmes as an essential part of that response.

FOCUS FOR 2025

With solid foundations laid in 2024, a clear strategy in place and a settled CEO and Board, our energy internally shifted from increasing organisational capacity to truly delivering on our strategy, "From Harm to Hope". Operationally, this meant acting on the groundwork we had laid across every aspect of our work, from back office to programme delivery - expanding our services to reach more men, and more of the partners and families affected by their behaviour, as the opportunity to do so arose. Strategically, it meant putting our four priorities - Impact, Collaboration, Reach and Organisational Strength - to work: strengthening how we measure and evidence the difference our programmes make, and deepening our collaboration with Cuan and with partners across the sector.
Financially, it meant continuing to question what needed to be done to further tighten our financial controls and to diversify and secure our funding. From a governance perspective, it meant building on the plan we had put in place to strengthen board oversight - bringing in specific expertise and embedding strong board committees.

SINCERE THANKS

I would like to sincerely thank Dr. Michelle Walsh, MOVE's CEO, all the staff and my fellow Board members and Board Secretary, without whose energy and dedication none of this would have been possible. I would also like to put on record our thanks to Cuan, and to our funders, partners and those in every corner of society who support and advocate for MOVE's work.

LOOKING AHEAD

With a strong strategy and real momentum behind it, I am excited about what 2026 will bring. Operationally, we can expect a further expansion of services as demand - and the wider recognition of the role of perpetrator programmes - continues to grow. The Board for its part remains committed to further enhancing its governance and to challenging ourselves, year on year, to be as effective as we can be as an organisation.

All of this in service to MOVE's vision of "An Ireland without intimate partner abuse".

Tom O Leary
Chairperson
MOVE Ireland



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SECTION 1
WELCOME & OVERVIEW OF MOVE IRELAND

ABOUT MOVE IRELAND

For more than three decades, MOVE Ireland (Men Overcoming Violence) has worked to address Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV). Our primary purpose is to contribute to the safety and wellbeing of women and children who are experiencing, or have experienced, abuse or violence within an intimate relationship.

MOVE Ireland was formally incorporated in 1996, establishing a structured intervention for men who have used violence or abuse within their intimate relationships. Since then, the organisation has continued to develop and expand its domestic abuse intervention and support services across Ireland.

Since those early beginnings, MOVE Ireland has developed into a leading national organisation, with growing European and international engagement, in the field of DSGBV. Throughout that development, we have remained focused on a fundamental principle: improving the safety and wellbeing of women and children by holding those who use abuse accountable and supporting meaningful and lasting behaviour change.

Our current strategic direction extends beyond direct intervention and encompasses research, education, advocacy, policy development and collaboration, alongside our behaviour change interventions and domestic abuse support work.

Our work is ultimately focused on creating safer lives and a safer future. By placing the safety and wellbeing of women and children at the centre of everything we do, challenging those who cause harm to take responsibility, and supporting meaningful and lasting behaviour change, MOVE Ireland is working towards a future where abuse is recognised, challenged and prevented, and where safer, healthier and more respectful relationships can thrive.



OUR VISION & MISSION

Our Vision

'An Ireland without intimate partner abuse'



Our Mission

'To ensure a safer future for all, by delivering effective interventions that support and protect survivors, provide accountability and rehabilitation for perpetrators and advance policy and research on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based violence.'

OUR CORE VALUES

COURAGE

Courage to do the hard work, to consistently do the right thing, even when it isn't the easy thing. Courage to confront and intervene where abuse is taking place or accountability is lacking. Courage to address the root causes of abuse and to tirelessly advocate for the partners.

RESPECT

While focused on safety and positive outcomes for partners and families, we are committed to providing safe, respectful, and non-judgemental space where perpetrators can face up to their actions and behaviours and find a path to positive change.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We will hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards of safety, privacy, and responsibility to service users, partners, and the community.

PROFESSIONALISM

We take pride in our work and in delivering operational excellence in everything that we do. We will develop and follow the procedures necessary to fulfil our mission while maintaining clear professional standards.

COLLABORATION

We can go further as a community. We will embrace and seek out collaboration and open communication within MOVE, with government agencies, and with other charities in our sector to achieve our vision for all of Ireland.

CEO OVERVIEW

LEADING CHANGE



As I reflect on 2025, I am struck by how far MOVE Ireland has progressed, not only as a service provider but as an organisation increasingly helping to shape the national conversation on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

The past year has been one of growth, innovation, influence and impact. Across every area of our work, we have remained focused on our mission of creating safer communities by promoting accountability, supporting positive behaviour change and ensuring that the safety and wellbeing of survivors remains at the centre of everything we do.

As demand for services continues to grow, so too does the recognition that addressing domestic abuse requires coordinated, evidence-informed and system-wide responses. Throughout 2025, MOVE has continued to demonstrate leadership in this area, expanding services, strengthening partnerships, contributing to policy development and supporting the advancement of best practice both nationally and internationally.
One of the most significant achievements of the year was the expansion of our reach and impact through additional investment from Cuan, Tusla and the Community Safety Fund. This support enabled us to strengthen existing services while also developing new areas of work designed to engage individuals and communities who may previously have had limited access to intervention and support.

During the year, we launched innovative initiatives that reflected our commitment to responding to emerging needs. This included the development of assessment work within prison settings and the commencement of work within International Protection Accommodation Services. These initiatives demonstrate our determination to engage those who use violence wherever opportunities exist to promote accountability, reduce risk and enhance safety.

We also took important steps to improve accessibility and inclusion by expanding our engagement with migrant and minority communities. The translation of our website into multiple languages has helped remove barriers to information and support, ensuring that more individuals can access appropriate services when needed.

Beyond service delivery, 2025 saw MOVE continue to strengthen its contribution to policy and systems development. We were honoured to be invited to contribute to Department of Justice discussions examining responses to domestic violence within international protection settings and to participate in important national conversations relating to substance use and domestic abuse. These opportunities reflect a growing recognition of the value that frontline experience and specialist expertise can bring to policy development.

Research, innovation and evidence-informed practice remain at the heart of our work. Throughout the year we strengthened partnerships with Dundalk Institute of Technology and Maynooth University, supporting important research projects that will contribute to a greater understanding of abusive behaviour and inform future practice. We also continued to collaborate on education and awareness initiatives designed to strengthen public understanding of domestic abuse and the importance of early intervention.

A particular highlight of the year was the launch of our Annual Statistics Report. The strong engagement from government representatives, statutory agencies, policymakers, researchers and sector leaders reinforced the growing importance of robust data and evidence in supporting effective responses to domestic abuse. The launch also demonstrated the increasing role that MOVE plays in contributing to national learning and policy development.

The progress achieved throughout 2025 has only been possible because of the commitment and professionalism of our staff, facilitators, Board members, volunteers, partners and funders. Their dedication ensures that MOVE continues to deliver high-quality interventions while remaining focused on innovation, excellence and continuous improvement.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026

As we look ahead, I believe MOVE Ireland is exceptionally well positioned to contribute to the next phase of Ireland's response to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

The forthcoming Fourth National Strategy represents an important opportunity for Ireland to build on the progress of recent years and develop an even more coordinated, ambitious and effective response to violence and abuse. Across government, statutory agencies, community organisations and specialist services, there is a growing understanding that lasting change requires prevention, accountability, collaboration and a commitment to evidence-informed practice.

MOVE intends to play a significant role in supporting this work. Through our direct service delivery, research partnerships, policy engagement and collaborative relationships, we will continue to contribute practical expertise and innovative thinking that can support the development of effective responses at both local and national level.

We are particularly encouraged by the increasing recognition of perpetrator intervention as a critical component of a comprehensive domestic abuse response. More organisations than ever are seeking opportunities to work collaboratively to improve safety for women and children while addressing the behaviour of those who cause harm. Through our partnerships with agencies across the domestic violence, homelessness, mental health, justice and family support sectors, we are helping to build stronger pathways between services and strengthen coordinated responses across Ireland.

At an international level, MOVE continues to strengthen relationships with partners throughout Europe through our engagement with the Working with Perpetrators European Network and other research and practice collaborations. These relationships provide valuable opportunities for learning, innovation and exchange of expertise and ensure that Irish practice continues to be informed by the highest international standards.

For me personally, 2026 marks a significant milestone following my election as Ireland's member of GREVIO, the Council of Europe body responsible for monitoring implementation of the Istanbul Convention. While this role is separate from MOVE Ireland, it reflects the growing recognition of Irish expertise in addressing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and highlights the valuable contribution that practitioners, researchers and organisations from Ireland are making on the international stage.

I believe the coincidence of Ireland developing its Fourth National Strategy and Ireland's representation on GREVIO presents a unique opportunity to strengthen connections between national policy and international best practice. It is an opportunity for Ireland not only to learn from others but also to contribute meaningfully to the global effort to prevent violence against women, hold perpetrators accountable and create safer communities.

As we enter this next chapter, MOVE Ireland remains committed to leading change through collaboration, innovation, evidence-informed practice and a relentless focus on safety and accountability.

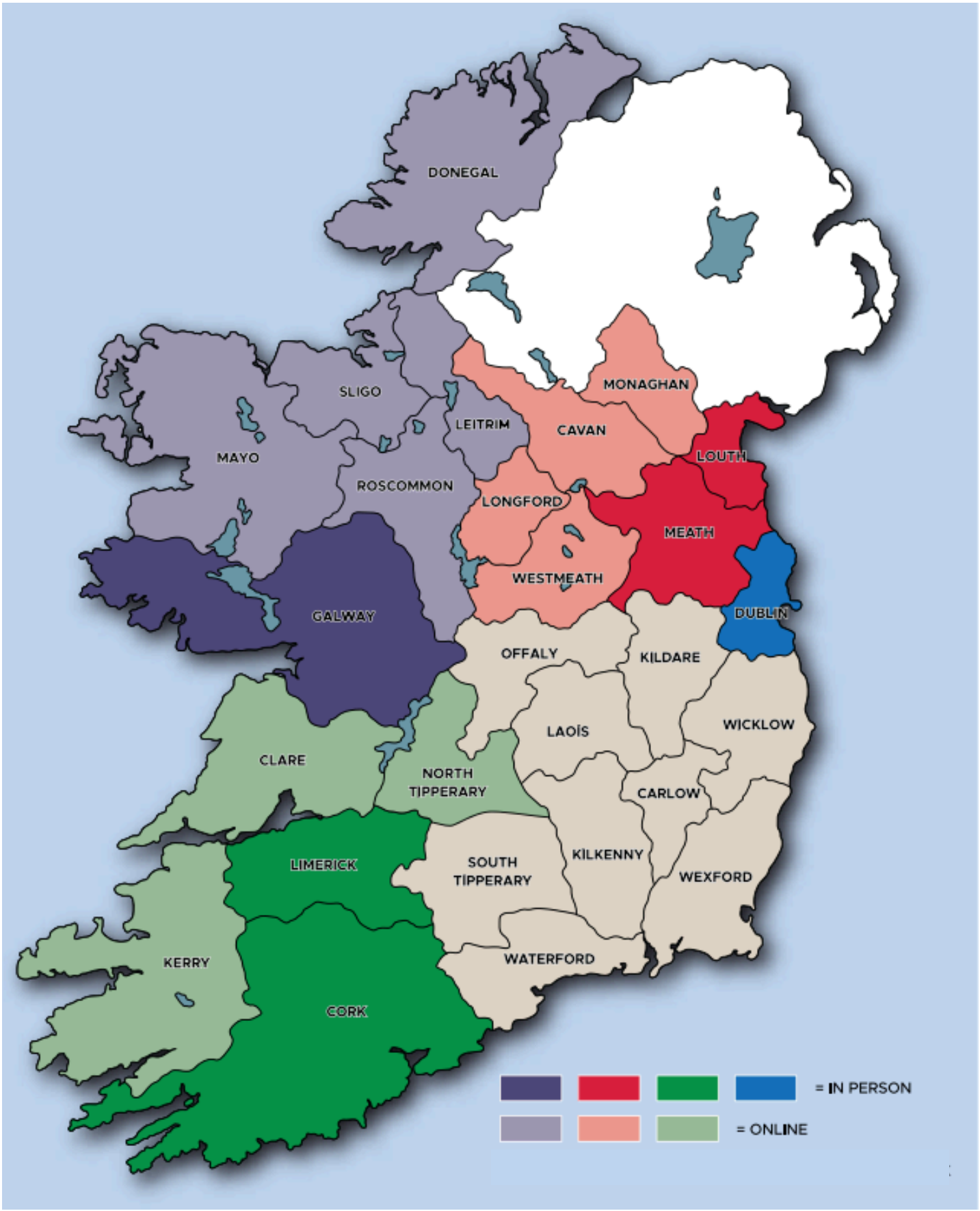
The year ahead offers enormous opportunity. Together, we can continue transforming systems, strengthening responses and building a future where abuse is no longer tolerated, where survivors receive the support they deserve and where meaningful and lasting change is possible.

Michelle Walsh



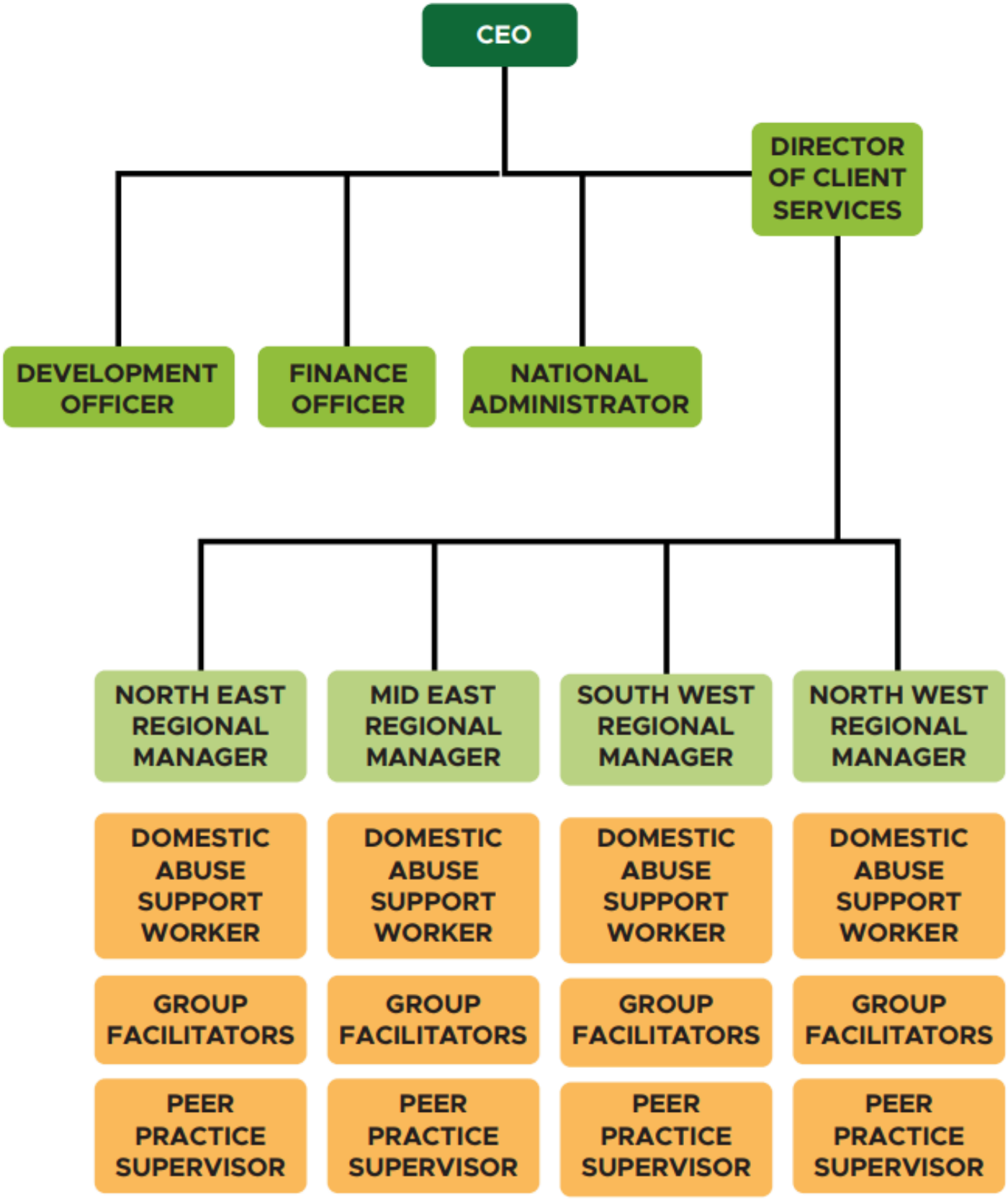
CEO
MOVE Ireland

GEOGRAPHICAL REACH



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2025

MOVE Ireland's new organisational structure was implemented in May 2026



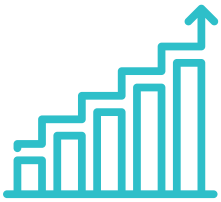
SECTION 2
STATISTICAL REPORT
2025

2025 KEY STATISTICS



604

Referrals Received



5th

Consecutive year recording an increase in referrals



247

Self Referrals



461

Initial Suitability and Risk Screenings



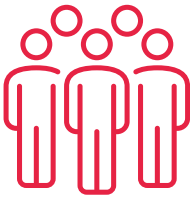
288

Clients deemed suitable for assessment



701

Assessment appointments scheduled



49

Men completed 38 week national Choices Programme

2025 KEY STATISTICS

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE



216

Women contacted by MOVE Ireland's Domestic Abuse Support Service



63%

Women contacted accepted support from DAS Team



667

Individual support sessions attended



30%

Previously engaged in some other form of DV support



663

Children in families supported by MOVE



212

Children, from over 80 families supported through the Winter Food Poverty Initiative

MOVE IRELAND'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2029

In 2025, MOVE Ireland launched its Strategic Plan 2025–2029, **'From Harm to Hope'**, setting out our vision of working towards 'An Ireland without intimate partner abuse.' Developed during 2024, the strategy established a clear direction for our work and ambitions over the five-year period from 2025 to 2029.

Built around four strategic priorities, **Impact, Collaboration, Reach and Organisational Strength**, the strategy guided our work throughout 2025, strengthening our commitment to increasing our impact, extending our reach, building meaningful partnerships and ensuring a strong, sustainable organisation.

At the heart of **'From Harm to Hope'** was our fundamental commitment to ensuring that the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors and children remained central to everything we did.



Photos from MOVE Ireland's Annual Report 2023 and Strategic Plan Launch, 9th December 2024, Mansion House, Dublin.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. IMPACT

- To provide a quality assured, evidence informed suite of programmes for perpetrators of DSGBV, ensuring saftey of current and former partners and children.
- To demonstrate and promote the unique value of perpetrator interventions to relevant agencies and the general public.
- To guide research into DSGBV and effective responses.
- To facilitate the inclusion of the voices of all relevant stakeholders to inform MOVE in its future direction and focus.

2. COLLABORATION

- To promote a unified approach to DSGBV in collaboration with statutory and voluntary agencies in Ireland.
- To contribute and influence the evolution of DSGBV policy at national and European level.
- To build the awareness and understanding of MOVE Ireland services through thought leadership.
- To foster a culture of collaboration and co-creation with staff, facilitators and partner organisations.

3. REACH

- To consolidate our current services and make them available and accessible to all who seek them.
- To offer access to appropriate support and safety for partners and children.
- To expand the scope of the current suite of programmes to ensure inclusion and accessibility for all.
- To raise awareness and understanding of MOVE services through promotion and education.

4. ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH

- To continue to improve governance, risk and compliance processes to achieve and maintain the highest possible standards and transparency in our work.
- To improve internal policies, processes and systems.
- To foster an environment that supports staff well-being and career development.
- To improve data management and the use of technology for operational efficiency.
- To diversify funding streams to ensure sustainability and to enable long-term planning.

IMPACT

REFERRAL AND DEMAND FOR SERVICES

12 programmes delivered nationwide

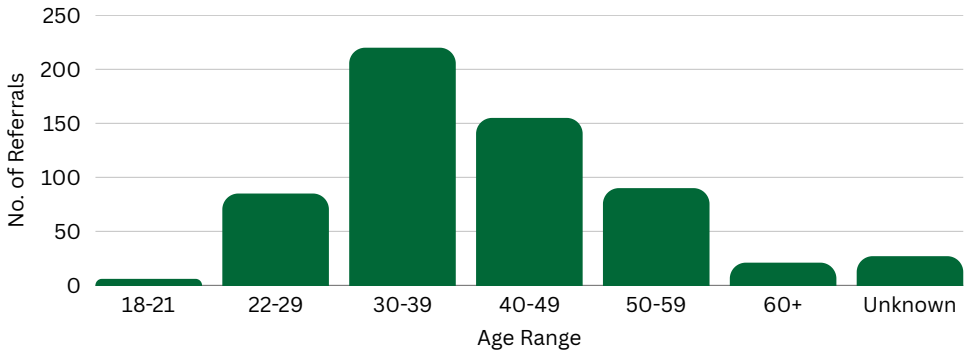
First 12 months of facilitating 4 online programmes

Increase in referrals for the 5th consecutive year

In 2025, MOVE received 604 referrals, marking the fifth consecutive year of increased demand for our services. This sustained increase highlights the continued demand and need for MOVE's effective and specialist services in responding to Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence, while also reflecting a growing willingness among men to seek support in addressing their abusive behaviour. This also reflects the strength of MOVE's partnerships and collaborations with statutory agencies and community services, which remain central in ensuring that clear and accessible referral pathways are made available.

Self-referrals continued to represent the largest source of referrals in 2025, followed by referrals from the Probation Service and Tusla. Referrals were also received from a range of other statutory and community services, including the Prison Services, Addiction and Mental Health Services, demonstrating the breadth of agencies supporting men to access MOVE's services.

Age Profile of 2025 Referrals

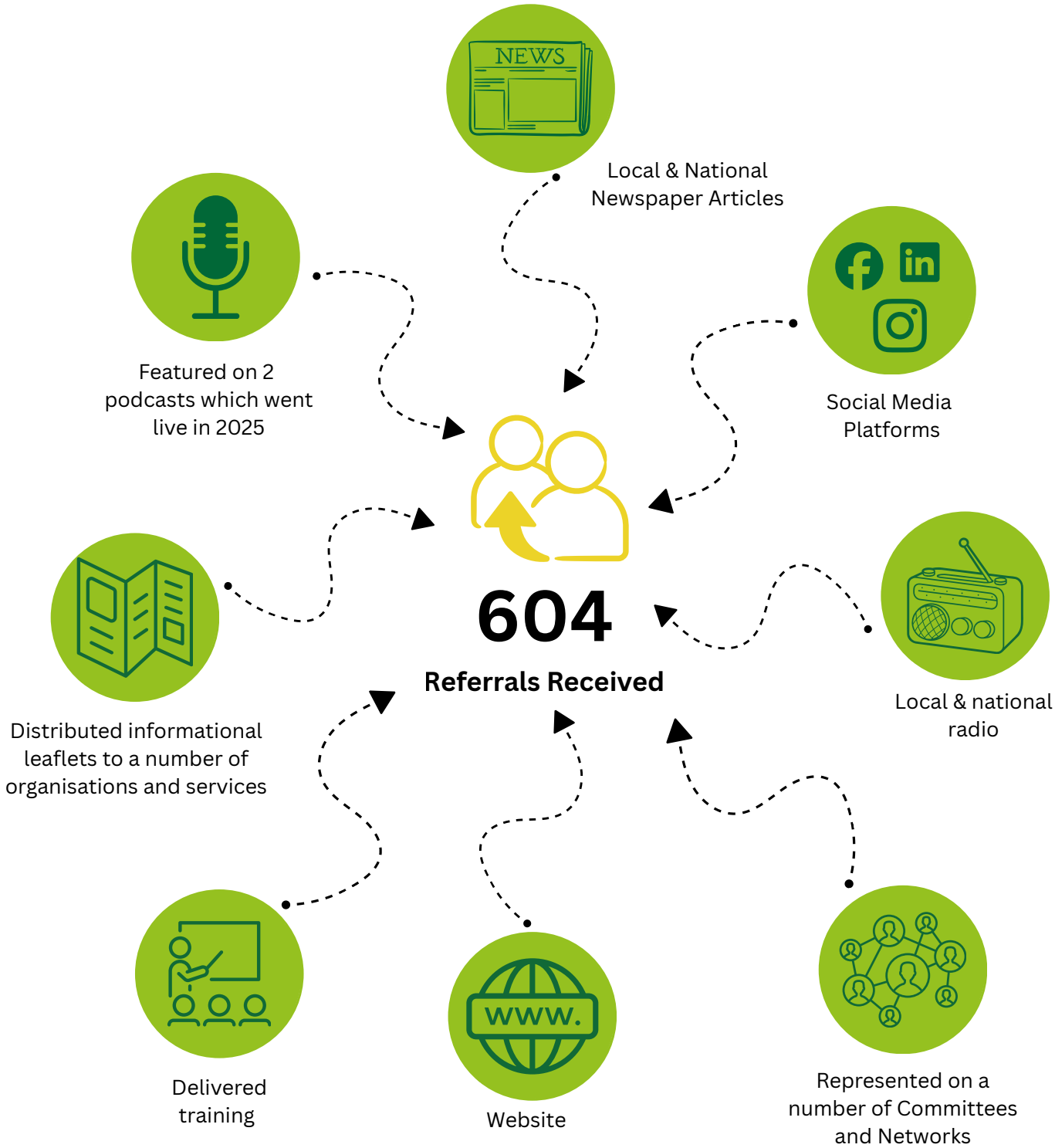


Consistent with previous years, men aged 30–39 accounted for the largest proportion of referrals in 2025.

The data also demonstrated that the proportion of self-referrals increased with age. Self-referrals accounted for**:** 29% among men aged 22–29, 41% among men aged 30–39, 46% among men aged 40–49, 49% among men aged 50–59, 52% among men aged 60 and over.

PROGRAMME PROMOTION

Understanding the profile of our referrals reinforces the importance of demonstrating and promoting the need for perpetrator intervention programmes in addressing Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence.



MOVE remains committed to delivering effective services and programmes, raising awareness, and supporting meaningful and sustainable change, contributing to safer lives for individuals, families and communities.

CHOICES PROGRAMME

MOVE Ireland's primary aim is the safety and well-being of women and children who are experiencing or have experienced abuse or violence within an intimate relationship. MOVE does this by facilitating a group behaviour intervention programme for domestic abuse in 12 locations across Ireland. The programme called 'Choices' is free, non-judgemental and available to men who would like to change their behaviour. Clients are challenged to take responsibility for their abuse and learn about the effects of domestic abuse on their partner and family. The work has a focus on motivation, safety, responsibility and acknowledgement.

IN 2025...

461

Initial Suitability and Risk Screenings

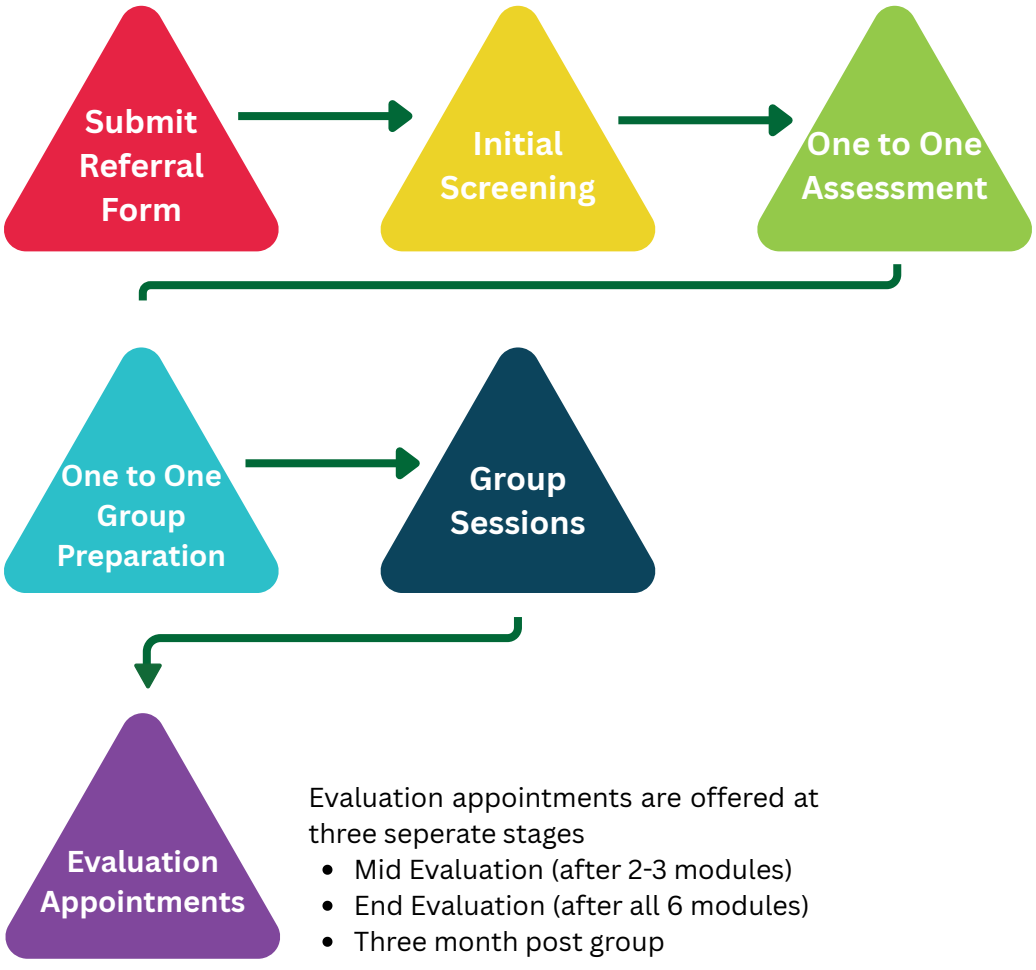
288

Clients deemed suitable for assessment

49

Men completed 38 week national Choices Programme

CLIENTS JOURNEY THROUGH 'CHOICES'



Evaluation appointments are offered at three seperate stages

- Mid Evaluation (after 2-3 modules)
- End Evaluation (after all 6 modules)
- Three month post group

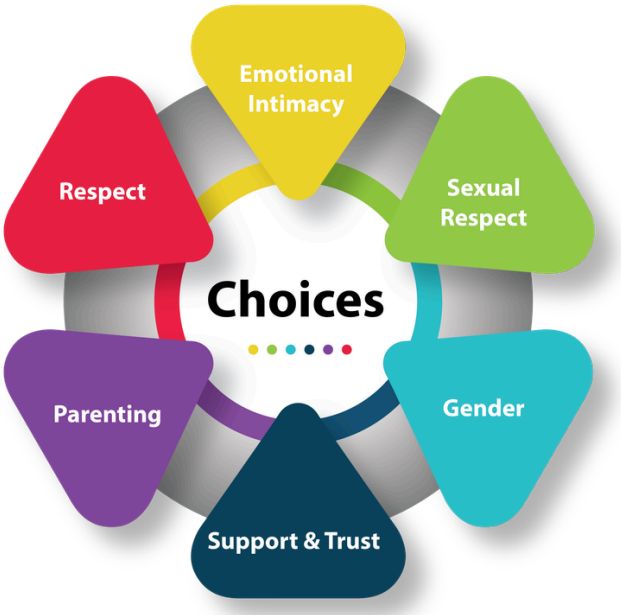
After initial screening, and before commencing group work, clients attend a number of one-to-one sessions where they meet individually with a trained facilitator. These sessions cover assessments and preparation work, including time out techniques and safety planning. For many men, the first opportunity they will have to begin the process of change will be during these initial appointments with MOVE Ireland.

Feedback from Clients

> *"They were very helpful. I was told about breathing techniques and time out to help me through until the programme starts."*

> *"I found it very appropriate and helpful going forward with the safety plans."*

The individual sessions are followed by the group work stage; professionally led group intervention sessions which cover six modules. The work has been informed by cognitive behavioural therapy, with a focus on motivation, safety, responsibility and acknowledgement. During these group sessions, clients are afforded the opportunity to explore current attitudes and beliefs relating to each module topic. They are also encouraged to develop skills and new methods of coping which promote non-abusive behaviours.



The group stage of 'Choices' consists of 6 modules and is delivered over 23 sessions.

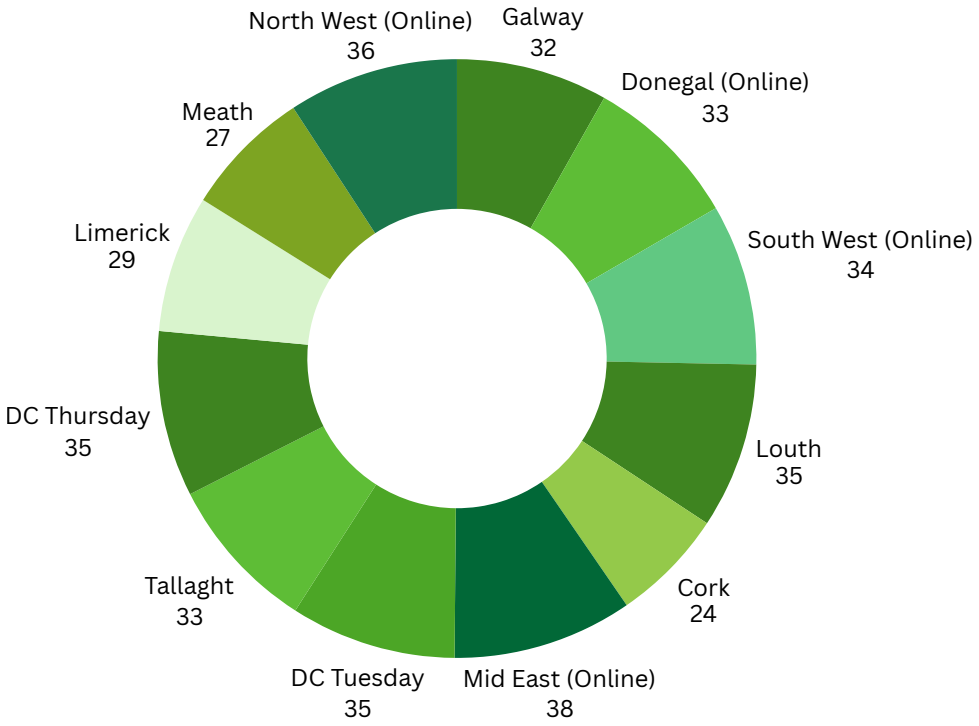
> *I find the role of facilitating the groups very rewarding. It's very meaningful and worth-while work. Especially when one sees the change in the men's attitudes and behaviours by attending the Choices Programme.*
>
> **Quote from MOVE Ireland Facilitator**

Alongside the module work, continuous risk assessment and evaluations are completed with group members on a one-to-one basis. Evaluations play a vital role as they allow for assessment of a client's level of self-awareness and honesty regarding their participation in group sessions, and reflection on how they are handling conflicts.

GROUP SESSIONS

The below graph represents the number of group sessions that took place for each region in 2025. This demonstrates strong consistency and sustained engagement across the country. By keeping groups active and accessible, MOVE Ireland continues to provide men who want to address their abusive behaviours with the structure, accountability and time needed to work towards lasting behavioural change.

Number of Weeks Each Group Facilitated in 2025



The importance of the work that goes on in group can never be underestimated. This is always where the core focus is, where the change happens. We as facilitators do not judge the men, often balancing difficult personal emotions, re-wiring their thinking, encouraging while challenging their thoughts and actions, getting to a stage of being honest and open with themselves, respecting their history, listening, instructing, clarifying and providing them with the opportunity to make the choice to be non-abusive. Basically, MOVE is about facilitating men to make the choice to 'be better than this' – it's as simple as that.

Quote from MOVE Ireland Facilitator

QUOTE FROM FACILITATOR

In 2025, 49 men completed MOVE Ireland's Choices Programme. Behind this figure is a significant body of work: 49 men progressed through initial screening and assessment and remained engaged through to programme completion. This sustained behaviour-change work would not be possible without the skill, persistence and commitment of our facilitators, who support and appropriately challenge men throughout a demanding process of examining and changing abusive behaviour.

I am a newly trained MOVE Facilitator and have worked directly now delivering the CHOICES Programme for a number of months. I find the direct engagement with men who participate in the CHOICES Programme both rewarding and at times challenging. I have observed men reflect on their past abusive behaviours and articulate insight and learning about the trauma and hurt they have inflicted on intimate partners and in many cases children. It can be difficult to accurately assess change in some of these men but their contribution during sessions and feedback would strongly suggest they are genuinely engaging in the programme and want to change. There are, however, some men are who present with more complex biographies and this minority may contribute what they think you want to hear. Over time and with skilful co-working strategies it is possible to challenge intrenched attitudes and effectively confront such men. I do believe the CHOICES programme reaches a cohort on men who have previously been responsible for inflicting immense physical, emotional and psychological harm on women and children. The CHOICES programme provides a forum to address and change negative, harmful and abusive relationships that can impact on multiple victims in society. I feel supported in this work through supervision, clinical supervision and peer support and am very happy to have been selected to fulfil this important role in delivering the CHOICES Programme for MOVE Ireland.

Quote from MOVE Ireland Facilitator

TESTIMONIALS FROM CLIENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED CHOICES

MOVE helped me take greater responsibility for my behaviour and understand more clearly how my actions can affect other people. The programme gave me practical tools to recognise difficult emotions earlier, step away from escalation, communicate more respectfully and seek support when needed. It has been an important part of making positive and lasting changes in my life. Thank you again for all the support from you and the MOVE team.

Man, Aged 39

It's not an easy programme by any means, but I felt challenged in a respectful way, in an open forum, to be honest with myself, not feeling judged, and becoming more self-aware, to make a choice to be non-abusive – that is powerful.

Man, Aged 45

The MOVE programme helped me navigate a very difficult couple of years of my life. Having that "safe space" to gather every week and share circumstances (the good, the bad and the awful) and hear from the other lads and their situations was invaluable. Before MOVE I believed I was the only one in this situation I had caused. From being open and honest throughout my year in the programme and the other lads being open and honest with me in the safe space, I more deeply understood what effect I was having on those around me in the build up to my violent act and what I can do to make sure I never put myself, or anyone else through this again.

Man, Aged 34

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE

In September 2024, MOVE Ireland transformed the Partner Support Service through the introduction of four full time Domestic Abuse Support (DAS) workers. This change meant that 2025 became the first full year a dedicated DAS worker was appointed to each of the 4 regions; North-West, South-West, Mid-East and the Greater Dublin Area.

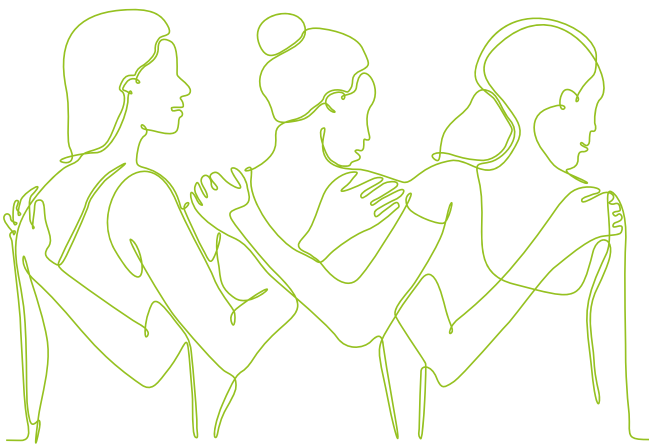
The DAS Team are different from the support offered by other domestic abuse services for women and children in the sense that the women are contacted following the man's successful initial screening. One of the conditions of being accepted onto to the ‘CHOICES’ programme with MOVE Ireland is that partner/ex-partner details must be provided. We ask this of our clients so that we can offer support to those most impacted by their abusive behaviours. As a result of this approach, 216 women were contacted by our DAS workers and offered support in 2025.

For many women, it is their first time talking about domestic abuse as they will have never engaged with a domestic abuse service previously. DAS workers have a pivotal role in ensuring the women do not feel pressured to engage and should they wish to engage; supporting the women through that transition of discussing domestic abuse for the first time.

The DAS Team play a vital role in advancing MOVE Ireland’s primary aim of promoting the safety and well-being of women and their children. By using using trauma-informed and person-centred approaches, they ensure women are being offered support in which they feel heard, supported and empowered to make their own decisions. Safety planning and advocacy is a vital aspect of the support offered to the women.

The support offered to women runs parallel to the support offered to the men. Women are also offered support for an additional 3 months post the man completing or disengaging from the programme. By this time, it is hoped the women, with the aid of the DAS workers, will have identified local support services and may be engaging with those local domestic abuse service.

Whilst the DAS Team is still relatively new within MOVE Ireland, having a specific team dedicated to the support and safety of women furthers MOVE Ireland's priority of ensuring women and children's safety is paramount in the work we do.



DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE IN NUMBERS



216 women contacted by MOVE Ireland's Domestic Abuse Support Service

63% of women contacted chose to engage in support





667 individual support sessions attended

52% of those engaging with the DAS Team were current partners





30% of those engaging informed the DAS Team they had previously engaged in some other form of DV support

At the start of November 2026, 28 women from 2025 were still engaging with the DAS Team



> *Even just talking, having someone to talk to honestly. You were the only woman I could talk the truth to about everything. All the courts and dealings with Gardai, I'd no one to talk to except for you. You were always calm and I enjoyed every phone call*
>
> **DAS Team Client**

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT TEAM

The DAS Team Lead plays a key role in guiding and supporting the Domestic Abuse Support Team and strengthening MOVE's response to women and children affected by domestic abuse. Central to the role is ensuring that the voice and experience of victim-survivors informs both frontline practice and wider organisational decision-making.

> Moving the DAS Team roles to full-time and fully in-house has been an important development for the service. It has allowed us to build a dedicated team of experienced domestic abuse practitioners who understand the realities facing women and children, as well as the challenges experienced by frontline DV services. Their existing knowledge and connections have enabled us to strengthen relationships across the sector and demonstrate the impact of MOVE's work from a victim-survivor perspective.
>
> At the heart of the service are women and children affected by domestic abuse. Over the last two years our approach has evolved, rather than asking women to engage in a set process, we offer support in the way that feels right and safe for them, empowering them to make their own choices. For some women, this may be the first time they have ever spoken about the abuse. For others, they may not yet be ready for support, but we can provide a trusted point of contact that they know they can return to when they are ready.
>
> As DAS Team Lead, an important part of my role has been bringing the victim-survivor perspective into wider organisational decision-making. This means asking how decisions made at a strategic level will translate into practice on the ground, what they may mean for current and former partners, and whether their safety and experiences have been fully considered. Having that voice within decision-making helps ensure that as MOVE's work develops, we continue to consider not only the person using abuse, but those who may be impacted by their behaviour.
>
> **Domestic Abuse Support Team Lead**

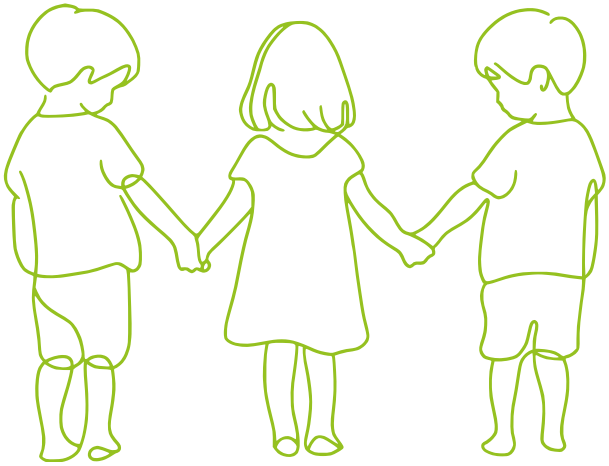
CHILDREN

In 2025, MOVE Ireland recorded 663 children (this figure also includes adult children above the age of 18) linked to MOVE clients. In addition to this, MOVE also recorded 12 pregnant partners.

Children's exposure to domestic abuse remains a significant concern. Our own evidence and that from organisations working directly with children highlights that children do not simply 'witness' domestic abuse; they fully experience it. Abuse enters a child's world through what they see and hear, as well as through the fear and uncertainty it creates in the home. Children living with domestic abuse report feelings of sadness, powerlessness, fear and worry, alongside anger and confusion.

At MOVE, we believe it is important that men not only take responsibility for their abusive behaviours but also acknowledge the impact domestic abuse has on children as well as partners. One of the ways we endeavour to portray this message is through the 'Parenting' module within 'Choices'. The purpose of the Parenting module is to:

- Raise awareness around the impact of domestic abuse on children;
- Allow those in the group who are parents to reflect on how their own behaviours may have impacted their children;
- Afford all present the opportunity to reflect on how their own experiences as children may have impacted them.



Men have often reported finding the Parenting module one of the most challenging to engage in, but is often where a lot of learning takes place.

> *"Tough. Difficult to see the effect on children in that way and realizing how abuse effects children from the womb"*

> *"Makes you think differently when there are kids present"*

> *"I learnt from it"*

> *"The parenting video were very relatable and hit home with everyone"*

> *"It was very difficult to watch and listen. It truly opens your eyes that how your action affects your kids. Very emotional and gut wrenching (Referring to the Parenting videos)"*

CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS

The Children's Rights Alliance's Winter Food Poverty Initiative supports member organisations in communities across Ireland. The aim of this funding is to provide some relief to families who are at risk of poverty and hunger through the winter months due to the financial pressures of Christmas. MOVE Ireland was successful in its application for 2025 and received a total of €12,000. This funding was used to buy 120 food vouchers, each to the value of €100.

DAS workers have a caseload of approximately 30-40 women and their children. Many of these women have been subjected to financial abuse or lack of employment opportunities. This has resulted in them living in poverty and struggling to put food onto the table. A large number of the women supported by the DAS Team are also lone parents, trying to provide the utmost support for their children who have been exposed to domestic violence.

> *"It was invaluable seeing the autonomy and support these vouchers offered the women and their children. Aside from the financial relief the vouchers provided, it allowed the women we support to feel empowered to have choices which is often limited due to coercive control, which as a worker is incredible to see."*
>
> **MOVE Ireland DAS Worker**



Thanks to the Children's Rights Alliance's Winter Food Poverty Initiative, MOVE Ireland was able to provide over 200 children who have been exposed to domestic violence a Christmas they could remember. Many women highlighted to the DAS workers, the relief of not having to worry about not being able to afford their food shop at one of the most expensive times of year.

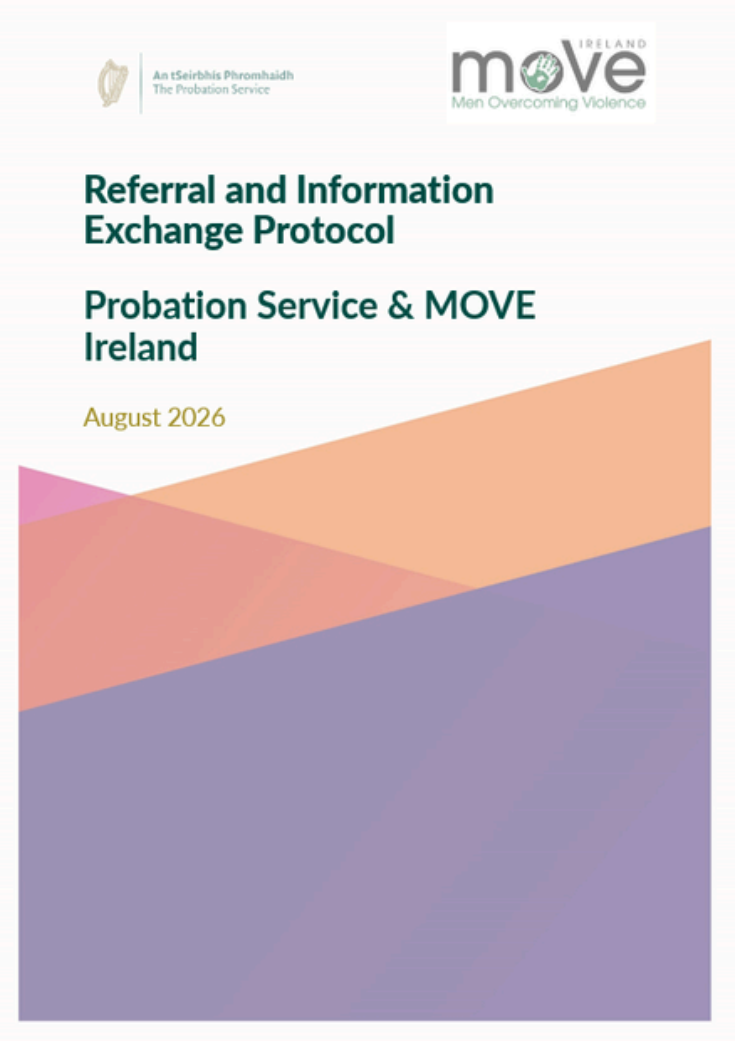
As previously stated, many of the women and children supported by the DAS Team are not involved in any other services and therefore are not offered this form of financial support. The grant made it possible to relieve some of the stress experienced by the 80 families we support; all of whom were very grateful for the vouchers.

COLLABORATION

REFERRAL PATHWAYS

As previously stated, MOVE receives referrals from a number of different services and organisations. Self referrals remain the highest at 41%, followed by the Probation Service (30%) and Tusla (15%). In addition to this, of those who completed the CHOICES programme in 2025, 47% were Probation Service referrals. These figures highlight the importance of inter-agency awareness and collaboration when addressing DSGBV.

Collaboration between MOVE Ireland and Probation Service is ongoing. In 2023, a 'Referral and Information Exchange Protocol' between MOVE Ireland and Probation Service was established. This protocol which was updated in 2026, promotes a cross sectoral approach to challenging and supporting men who are abusive in their intimate relationships. Central to this approach is a commitment by the Probation Service and MOVE Ireland, to work in partnership with the aim of addressing domestic violence/abuse and its root causes.



In 2025, Probation and MOVE Ireland continued discussions and planning which lead to the development of a specialised training programme for Probation Officers working with perpetrators. The aim is to implement this programme in 2026/2027.

> *MOVE provides a safe space for men who have engaged in acts of domestic violence to discuss the harm they have caused, learn about the devastating consequences for those that have been harmed and take responsibility for their violence. I have seen first hand the change it can bring about in perpetrators attitudes, even in the most serious of cases. The feedback from the MOVE co-ordinator's on clients progress or otherwise is much appreciated as a Probation Officer*
>
> **Probation Officer Mayo/Sligo**

Collaboration to strengthen awareness and referral pathways does not just happen in one direction. Having the knowedge and ability to refer MOVE clients towards other services when necessary is essential when addressing DSGBV. This piece of work is especially important for MOVE's DAS Team.

Whilst providing one to one support to women across each region is the main aspect of the DAS Team's role, they also work with other DV agencies, statutory agencies and local services. Engaging with other services and agencies in our areas is essential for ensuring they are aware of the CHOICES Programme and the support we provide.

This collaboration with other agencies and services is a crucial element as it can help break down barriers for the women supported by the DAS Team. As previously noted, only a small number of women engaging with MOVE's DAS Team had previously engaged with some other form of DV support. This is why it is important for MOVE's DAS workers to be familiar and have connections with local agencies, so that each woman can be supported in identifying and engaging with these services if she chooses to do so.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ALCOHOL

In 2025, 43% of the referrals received reported current or past drug and/or alcohol issues. Research continuously identifies alcohol use as one of the most consistent risk factors for domestic abuse. An individual's ability to attend and engage in CHOICES sessions can also be impacted by their alcohol misuse. In this way, the impact alcohol has on domestic violence is twofold; alcohol consumption can increase the incidence and severity of domestic violence, while also creating significant barriers when attempting to engage in support services.

With the intention of raising awareness on this issue, MOVE collaborated with Alcohol Action Ireland (AAI) in 2025. The work began with MOVE sharing data and insights into our experience of alcohol and perpetrator work, and was followed by an Oireachtas Briefing.



Pictured L to R: Dr Michelle Walsh (CEO of MOVE Ireland), Dr Sheila Gilheany (CEO of AAI) and Rachel Fayne (DAVINA Co-ordinator, SAOL Project) at Leinster House 2nd October 2025

On October 2nd MOVE Ireland, Alcohol Action Ireland and SAOL Project briefed members of the Oireachtas on the importance of recognising the role of alcohol in domestic violence.

Speaking on behalf of MOVE Ireland, CEO Dr Michelle Walsh reported that in 2024 approximately half of MOVE Ireland clients presented at screening with drug and/or alcohol issues. While this finding highlights a connection between DSGBV and alcohol, it is important to acknowledge that alcohol is not the cause or an excuse for violence.

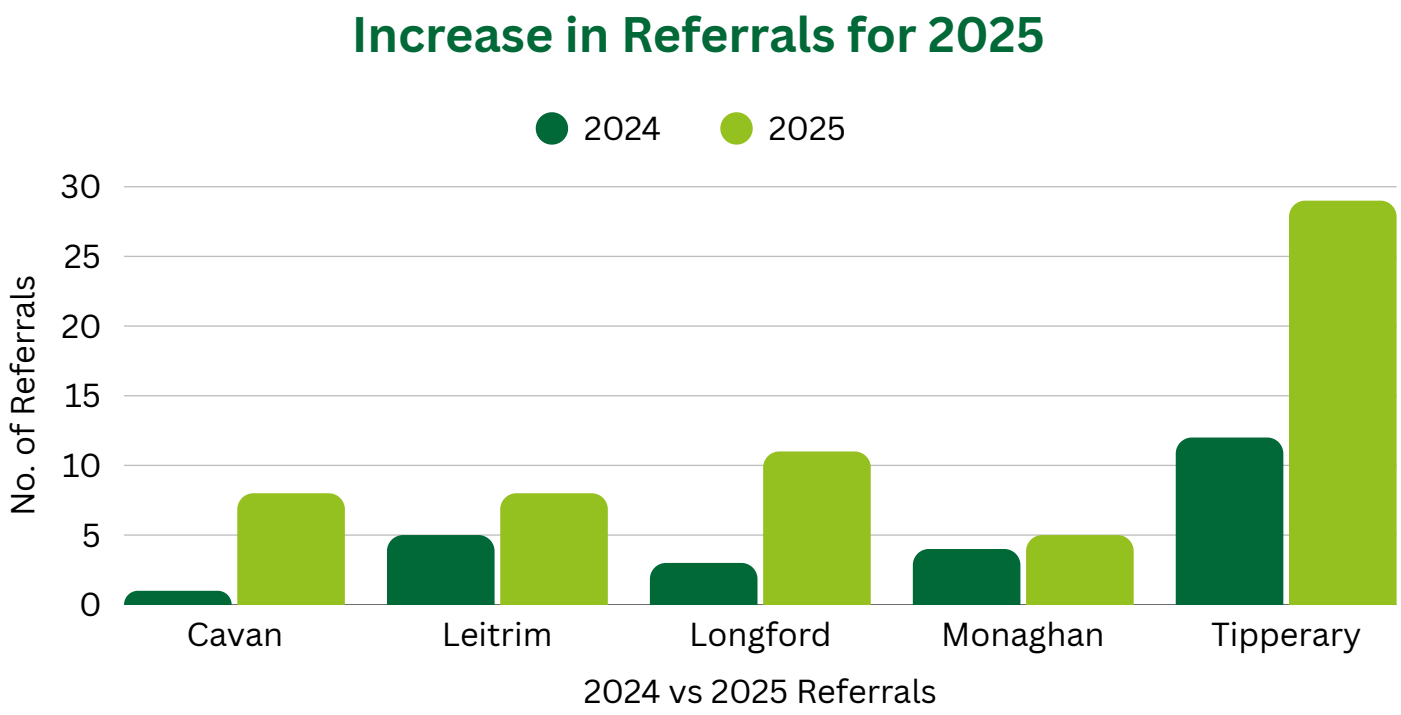
> *Alcohol is the accelerant, not the cause.*
> **Dr Michelle Walsh**

Following the Oireachtas Briefing an opinion piece was published in the Irish Examiner, 'Joining the dots between alcohol and domestic violence'. Most recently, MOVE's input can be seen in AAI's published report 'Childhood Interrupted'.

ONLINE EXPANSION

2025 was the first full year of delivering 4 online programmes. Certain groups were moved online in 2024 to address attendance challenges faced by those living in rural Ireland, and with limited or no access to public transport. The impact this transition has had can be seen through our overall increased number of referrals for 2025.

An interesting finding when looking at 2025 referrals was the number of referrals recieved from counties where an in person group is not available. Referrals from counties **Cavan**, **Leitrim**, **Longford**, **Monaghan** and **Tipperary** increased in 2025.



Referrals were also received from counties where none had been received the year before, for example, Kilkenny, Laois, Waterford and Wexford.

ADDRESSING BARRIERS

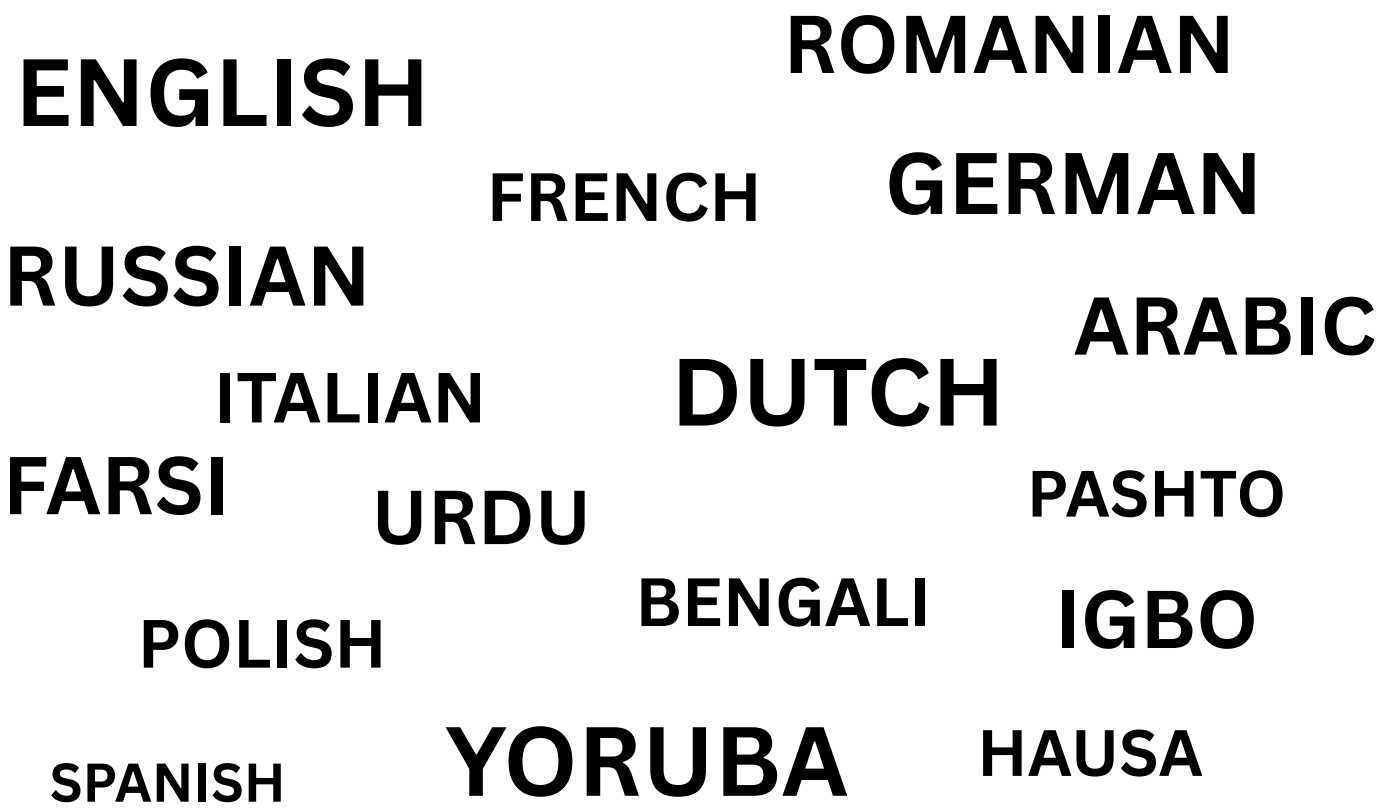
Alcohol misuse and group locations are just two examples of barriers which can have a significant impact on engagement and retention levels. Another barrier identified, which appears to be on the rise, is language barriers. From 2024 to present, MOVE has recordeed an increasing number of men who were unable to continue with the programme due to language barriers.



2024 2025 2026

At the time of running the report the figure was 14, but is expected to rise further by the end of the year.

Towards the end of 2025, further steps were taken to begin addressing this barrier. Thanks to funding from Tusla, MOVE Ireland was able to introduce a translation plug-in to our website. This resulted in our website and it's content being available in 17 languages.



In 2025, MOVE Ireland's CEO Dr. Michelle Walsh was invited to join a Working Group to review the IPAS DSGBV Policy. This was a very welcome invitation as initaitives such as these help co-create a collective response to domestic violence, allowing MOVE Ireland to raise awareness and understanding of our services.

RAISING AWARENESS

In 2025, MOVE Ireland attended a number of events affording us the opportunity to raise awareness and understanding of our services.























ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH

NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

Last year, MOVE Ireland held their joint National Training Conference with the Men's Development Network in the Anner Hotel Thurles, on the 28th and 29th October. This two day joint event is a valuable platform for our organisation and other DSGBV-related agencies to come together, share insights, and foster collaboration in addressing Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence.

The theme of the conference was RESET – Rethinking, Engagement, Safety, Empowerment, and Transformation. The conference set out to explore the evolving landscape of DSGBV intervention and to discuss strategies for resetting the narrative through innovative approaches in rethinking practices, engagement, safety protocols, empowerment initiatives, and transformative solutions.

On day 1, attendees had the opportunity to attend two of four available workshops.

- Debbie Ging: The Mainstreaming of the Manosphere and its Impact on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.
- Davina James-Hanman: Coercive control - what do perpetrator programme workers need to know?
- Louise Crowley: Bystander Intervention - A Sexual Violence Prevention Programme.
- Ruth Breslin: Exploring the links between pornography consumption and the perpetration of violence against women & girls.

The workshops were followed by a Q&A session, moderated by Sianna Williams, Senior Education, Training & Intervention Specialist at CUAN. In the afternoon, Professor Jane Monckton-Smith OBE joined the conference virtually to deliver The Homicide Timeline Training; a framework for understanding risk escalation patterns in intimate partner relationships where Coercive Control and Stalking are present.



Day two of the conference kicked off with an interactive workshop facilitated by Dr. Lisa Marmion. 'In Their Shoes,' is an activity that helps participants understand the challenges victims/survivors experience in their daily lives. This session was followed by a grounding and meditative exercise led by John Doyle. The purpose of this session was to emphasise the importance of mindfulness and self-care in this sector.

Day two concluded with a workshop for all participants. After breaking into smaller groups, facilitators moved between stations, each one representing a different CHOICES module. At each station facilitators were afforded the opportunity to collectively explore the various elements of each module; what is working well, and what challenges are emerging.

"Reflective exercises help identify unconscious beliefs (Gender Module)"

"Good foundation module (Support & Trust Module)"

"Opens mens' eyes to when they were abusive but wouldn't have called it abuse (Respect Module)"

"More focus on self-worth (Support & Trust Module)"

"Reflections of own childhood and impact on own behaviour (Parenting Module)"

"Add in section on self-respect (Respect Module)"

"Vulnerability needs to be more explicitly dealt with (Emotional Intimacy Module)"

"Exercises are good for generating conversation on 'What is consent?' (Sexual Respect Module)"

While feedback was generally positive, facilitators noted some content and activities are becoming outdated. Coercive control and consent were two concepts in particular facilitators suggested be expanded within the CHOICES Programme.

SETU FACILITATOR TRAINING

In 2025, MOVE Ireland registered 11 staff and newly independent contracted facilitators to participate in the 'Certificate in Facilitating Domestic Violence Intervention Programmes with Men.' This Level 8 Special Purpose Award of ten credits was conducted by MOVE Ireland and Men's Development Network on behalf of the National Choices Programme and in cooperation with South East Technological University (SETU) Carlow.

The overall aim of the programme is to provide participants with a broad understanding of the factors underpinning domestic violence/abuse, with a particular emphasis on upskilling participants in engaging safely and effectively with men who use violence, abuse and coercively controlling behaviours within their intimate partner relationships, within the context of an interagency response to the issue. This training course consists of seven days over Zoom and two residential mid-week trainings.



Participants consistently indicated that they found the online sessions beneficial. These sessions covered key areas such as personal and professional development, awareness building of the foundations and principles underlying the approach to Working with Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, the Structure and Content of the Choices programme, the Roles and Responsibilities of Local Area Managers and Risk Management, Provision of Partner Support and Domestic Violence Intervention Programmes and the Legal System.

> *Training provided for facilitators was both intense and rewarding. Geordie and the team provided a comprehensive framework which gave new facilitators the belief and confidence to be able to recognise the characteristics of a typical DV abuser, and to be able to work through the modules on the Choices programme. The way they imparted the knowledge of the programme meant we were fully equipped before entering live groups.*
>
> **SETU Facilitator Trainee Feedback**

The training programme included two residentials of seven days conducted in April and May in Mount St. Annes Conference and Retreat Centre. The students had the opportunity to interact in person and practice the concepts of Collusion, Collaboration, Confrontation, Trauma Informed Care and Self-care, Facilitation Styles, Engaging Men in the Process of Change and do Group Experiential Work tackling the six modules of the National Choices Programme.



I undertook 2 residential weeks of CHOICES Facilitator Training in Mount St. Annes in the Spring of 2025.
The beautiful scenery, comfortable venue and exceptional, nutritious and plentiful food enhanced the learning experience. However, it was the quality of the training itself that truly distinguished the experience. The training was superb, exceeding my expectations in every respect. I have never undertaken a programme that so thoroughly prepared me for the work I was about to undertake. The immersive approach used, provided an invaluable understanding of both the participant experience and the responsibilities of facilitation. By the time I commenced co-facilitating live Choices sessions in May 2025, I felt thoroughly prepared, confident and ready to undertake the role.

SETU Facilitator Trainee Feedback

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

At MOVE Ireland we take pride in our work and in delivering operational excellence in everything that we do. One of the ways we endeavor to promote professionalism and strengthen our organisation is by fostering an environment that supports staff career development. In 2025, MOVE Ireland's four Regional Managers completed the LEAP Leadership 'Front Line Leader's Programme'; aimed at helping frontline managers develop the necessary skills to effectively manage teams. Another member of staff was encouraged to apply to the Certificate in the 'Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse' (FURDA) programme. Below is staff feedback on these training opportunities.

DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA DHÚN DEALGAN

RiveR Project
Domestic, Sexual & Gender-based Violence
Training. Education. Research.

I was delighted to have the opportunity to participate in and complete the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence at DKIT. Being new to the DSGBV sector, I was looking for opportunities to further my learning and understanding. This programme exceeded my expectations. The lecturers and trainers who deliver the training possess a wealth of knowledge. As a student, I was afforded the opportunity to not only explore the theoretical bases that inform DSGBV related work but was also taught practical skills that have had a positive impact on my professional practice and overall confidence. I am very grateful to MOVE for affording me this opportunity and encouraging the course.

FURDA Course Feedback from Staff Member

LEAP | Make Leadership Happen

As a regional manager, I had the opportunity to participate in the Leap Leadership Programme between September to December 2025. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which gave me valuable insights into effective leadership and reinforced that one size does not fit all.
My biggest takeaway was the importance of emotional intelligenc and self-awareness, understanding different personality types and recognising the need to adapt my leadership style to suit different people and situations. The programme highlighted that being an effective leader means having flexibility to use a range of leadership styles rather than relying on just one.

Programme Feedback from Regional Manager

SECTION 3
FINANCIAL REPORT
2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

M.O.V.E. Ireland
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 €	2024 €
Income		1,066,288	936,587
Expenditure		(1,100,748)	(964,301)
Deficit before interest		(34,460)	(27,714)
Interest receivable and similar income		53	35
Deficit for the financial year	15	(34,407)	(27,679)
Total comprehensive income		(34,407)	(27,679)

Approved by the board on 10 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Tom O'Leary
Director

Fiona Clancy
Director

M.O.V.E. Ireland
BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 €	2024 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	9	35,003	28,834
Current Assets			
Debtors	10	28,226	15,709
Cash and cash equivalents		263,530	160,328
		291,756	176,037
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(221,708)	(65,413)
Net Current Assets		70,048	110,624
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		105,051	139,458
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account	15	105,051	139,458
Members' Funds		105,051	139,458

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the small companies' regime.

Approved by the board on 10 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Tom O'Leary
Director

Fiona Clancy
Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025

Chairperson	Tom O Leary
Secretary	Orlaith Morrissey
Treasurer	Fiona Clancy
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	Aidan Ruane
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	Gráinne Carr
	Danny Lambert
	Fiachra Barrett
	Shannon Barrett
	Gráinne Carmody (Resigned Nov 2025)
	Sean Kinsella (Resigned April 2025)

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MOVE Ireland would like to acknowledge the support of our statutory funders

CUAN
An Ghníomhaireacht um Fhoréigean Baile, Gnéasach agus Inscnebhunaithe
The Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency

pobal
government supporting communities