



WEST CORK BEACON

Annual
Report
2024



Philosophy

West Cork Beacon believes that Domestic Violence is both a serious crime against women and a dangerous expression of gender inequality. We believe all forms of Domestic Violence, from the everyday to the most extreme expressions, are unacceptable.

Mission Statement

West Cork Beacon provides a safe and confidential listening, information and support service to women and their children in West Cork experiencing domestic violence, while also challenging social, political and judicial tolerance of violence against women.

People

page 01
Chairperson's Foreword
page 03
Board and Staff

Actions

page 05
Strategic Planning New Management Structure
page 06
Refuge Development
page 07
CUAN
page 09
Sexual Violence Project
page 11
Salary Increase for the DV Sector
page 12
Valerie's Law

Figures

page 19
Domestic Violence Statistics
page 25
Sexual Violence Statistics
page 27
Accounts

Chairperson's Foreword

Allison Aldred



As Chairperson of West Cork Beacon, I am proud to present this year's reflection on our journey, achievements, and aspirations. 2024 has been a year of consolidation, innovation, and deepened community engagement as we continue to evolve in response to the needs of survivors of domestic and sexual violence across West Cork.

Following our rebranding in 2023, this year marked the first full operational cycle under our new identity. The name West Cork Beacon has proven to be more than a title - it has become a symbol of hope, safety, and resilience for those we serve. Our expanded services, including the Sexual Violence Support programme for individuals aged 14 and over, have seen increased uptake, affirming the necessity and relevance of our inclusive, trauma-informed approach.

A significant development in 2024 has been the groundwork laid for the eventual establishment of a dedicated refuge in West Cork. This initiative, long overdue, will *eventually* provide safe accommodation and wraparound support for families fleeing abuse. We are grateful to our partners and funders for their continued commitment to progressing this important initiative.

We also continued to build capacity across the region through our Sexual Violence Training Network, equipping professionals with the knowledge and sensitivity required to support survivors effectively. Our outreach clinics in Bantry and Clonakilty have expanded their reach, and our helpline remains a lifeline for many.

Internally, we have strengthened our governance and operational structures, preparing for a leadership transition as our CEO steps down. We thank Marie Mulholland for her tireless dedication and vision, and we look forward to welcoming new leadership to guide us into the next phase of growth.

As someone who has worked globally to advance gender equality and social justice, I am continually inspired by the courage of survivors and the commitment of our team. West Cork Beacon is not just a service - it is a movement toward a safer, more compassionate society.

To our staff, volunteers, funders, and community allies: thank you. Your support enables us to shine a light in the darkest of places.

Allison Aldred
Chairperson, West Cork Beacon

Our People

2024 Board

West Cork Beacon is run by a Voluntary Board of Management (VBOM) comprising community representatives and activists, partnership organisations, legal, management, financial and mental health professionals who give of their time and commitment freely to ensure the development and good governance of the service.

Allison Aldred
Sheila Anne O'Leary
Kathryn Kingston
Ann Sullivan
Anne O'Donovan
Marie Wiseman
Fiona O'Driscoll



CEO Marie Mulholland with Chief Supt Vincent O'Sullivan, Cork West and Cork North Garda Division with West Cork Beacon staff and members of An Garda Síochána

Our Staff

West Cork Beacon has a staff of five full time and five part time who, between them, have over 60 years of experience in delivering support to women in crisis and in promoting the issues of violence against women and gender equality.

In addition, volunteers help in producing and distributing the West Cork Whisper as well as helping out with fundraising activities.



Preparing for Change

Strategic Planning

Implementing a New Management Structure

The West Cork Beacon Strategic Plan produced in 2022 mapped out the steps towards the continued growth of our support services. It also focuses on our capacity to maintain and strengthen the partnerships and collaborations with agencies, funders and community groups who have been instrumental to the success of our work.

Of necessity, the CEO's role would be to work with some of those partners to develop our potential for refuge provision, guide the Sexual Violence Project to its conclusion and if successful to core funding, while continuing the work with funders and state agencies lobbying for resources and improved policies and legislation.

The Strategic Plan identifies a middle management structure to address both the needs of increasing support staff numbers, and the additional expertise required to ensure we meet our growing responsibilities for financial oversight and accountability. In early 2024, a Finance and Operations Manager was recruited on a part-time basis to provide financial reporting overseeing and

projecting budgets, monitoring staff schedules, holiday and leave entitlements etc. The benefits of having a new F&O manager on board were soon evident when within a few months, she located a design company and worked tirelessly with them to produce the new West Cork Beacon website which went live in late 2024.

In the second half of the year, recruitment took place for the new post of Support Services Manager with responsibility for supporting and supervising the domestic and sexual violence support workers, updating and developing policies and procedures relating to the work that they do engaging with clients and the various agencies to whom they advocate for clients.

Together with the CEO, these new posts provide West Cork Beacon with a management team that can make preparations for the next phase of changes: refuge development which will eventually require additional staff to deliver specific refuge services and programmes, increasing our safe house provision and maintaining the organisation through the transition to come with the retirement of the existing CEO in 2025.

Desperately Seeking a Site...

Refuge Development

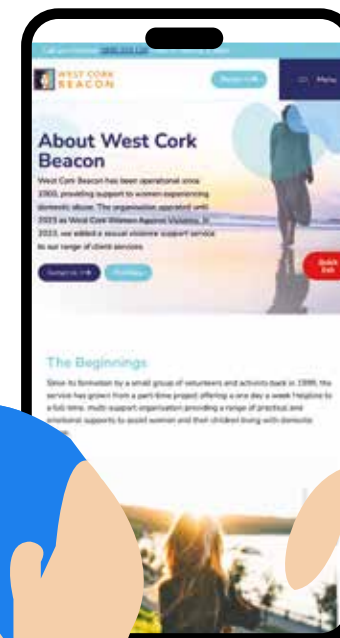
West Cork was designated a priority area for a refuge by the Department of Justice in 2023 and so 2024 was spent keeping a close eye on potential properties and sites for either renovating an existing property or building new. There are several requirements when looking for a refuge location; the property or site must accommodate five independent units (small apartments) for families/individuals with space for staff offices, staff sleepover, children's play space, therapy/one-to-one space, adequate storage for clothing and children's supplies, bedding, sanitary and hygiene essentials, toys, nappies and baby goods.

It needs to be situated no more than one kilometre from a town centre within easy walking distance of schools, shops, post office and other services such as medical, social protection and public transport. It would be advantageous if it were within an easy commute for garda support.

This has not been an easy ask in West Cork. Large enough properties and sites within 1km of a town centre with access to public transport routes are scarce. During 2024, our CEO visited; three B&B properties for sale, two convents, one large private residence on the market, and four vacant sites, but all had to be ruled out eventually for a variety of reasons:

- being too close to a very busy road with no footpath access
- sites that were either not big enough when measured or where the build would be on rock
- no access to water supply
- no access to public transport
- built on a flood plain.

But we have not given up and have a strong feeling that 2025 will bring us closer to our best location yet.



A New Era for Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence Services

Welcoming the
establishment of



CUAN



Senator Tim Lombard, Marie Mulholland, Minister Helen McEntee and Counsellor Caroline Cronin, 18 April 24

It would not be inaccurate to say that for several decades now, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSGBV) have been in need of a permanent home within an agency specifically tasked to work with and support local services from the perspective of victims' needs. Over the years, we were appendaged to the HSE which is primarily a health agency, then we spent ten years with Tusla, a family agency primarily concerned with child protection social work. Neither were good fits. The challenges of working within agencies who did not have the same priorities or the level of understanding of domestic violence posed difficulties for both sides.

However, with the appointment of Helen McEntee as Minister for Justice, things began to change. Finally, there was a Minister who pushed for domestic and sexual violence to be a major element of her department's work and focus. In 2023, the Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Agency Act was passed which specifically brought into being an agency designed for DSGBV services support and development.

The new agency was launched in February 2024, named CUAN and resides in the Department of Justice (DOJ). The DSGBV sector has lobbied to be recognised within DOJ as a more fitting home for our work. Victims of domestic abuse need the

protections of the courts and the Gardai; perpetrators need to know there are real consequences and punishments for their actions. We have seen how, when the political will is strong enough within government, significant improvements in policy, practice and outcomes for those who experience abuse and violence and those of us who support them with services can be achieved.

Coercive control, stalking and non-fatal strangulation have all been recently recognised in legislation after extensive campaigning by survivors who have been unceasing in their efforts for more protections for victims while also bringing to light the truly intimidating and murderous nature of some forms of DSGBV.

CUAN has spent much of 2024 getting to grips with its remit, meeting with services and learning from them. There is no doubt that they are focused on bringing about major changes to the range of services available to victims, their drive to increase refuge provision has already gotten off to an immediate start in many parts of the country. CUAN and the DSGBV sector can deliver in a partnership of equals. The expertise of services on the ground, their knowledge and understanding of domestic and sexual violence and the central experience of victims must inform any progress. CUAN has gotten off to a fast start. Tackling the extent and nature of abuse, primarily endured by women and children requires that listening and learning

from services locally and nationally is a strategic and operational priority for CUAN. With that kind of partnership moving towards zero tolerance in society will pick up speed. West Cork Beacon looks forward to playing our part both individually and as part of the DSGBV sector in a new partnership with CUAN.



Doing It Differently

West Cork Beacon Sexual Violence Support Service



It has been five years in the making. It began when a very courageous young woman went to the Gardai. They suggested she talk with Marie Mulholland, CEO of West Cork Beacon. It was 2020 and COVID restrictions were very much in force. This young woman had first attended the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) in Cork City soon after her assault, and was to attend for a follow up appointment. Getting to the city involved a lengthy journey by public transport. On her first trip she was distressed and alone but determined to get there. Our CEO, Marie, accompanied the young woman to the city for her follow up.

Together they met with Margo Noonan the lead forensic nurse at SATU and her highly skilled and compassionate team of specialist nurses.

It was not the first time that a victim of sexual violence had come to our service, despite the fact that we were not expert in, or equipped for, supporting them. But we listened, we affirmed them and where we could we referred them to specialist rape crisis services which unfortunately were either in Cork city or Kerry.

But this time, the seeds of a response were sown because of that young woman's experience and the fact that she prevailed against challenges and obstacles

that should not have been in her way. Her determination to access support brought together a circle of women who against the backdrop of a COVID locked- down city tended to her physical, medical and emotional needs. Margo was to become a key mover in what developed, soon after Caroline Crowley, a much respected researcher and friend of West Cork Beacon, was co-opted to undertake a major piece of work to identify what survivors of sexual violence in West Cork needed if they were to be properly supported in a way which put them at the centre of any service development. Along the way, we invited a number of experts to join us. Vera O'Leary, CEO of Kerry Rape and Abuse Services had decades of experience and expertise both as a manager of a major service and as a counsellor. Dr Laura Cullen GP was instrumental in helping with the research, encouraging survivors to come forward and providing insights to disclosure and trauma. Kirstie Smith, the highly regarded Senior Co-ordinator of the West Cork Child & Family Support Network had an extensive network of community and statutory organisations in West Cork supporting families and young people living in complex circumstances. Finally, Anne O'Donovan, manager of Citizens Information Services in

West Cork and board member of West Cork Beacon. Anne had been a rape crisis volunteer when she was working in Dublin some years before but was also alert to how her own service was often a point of contact for those in crisis because of domestic or sexual violence seeking information and referrals. These were the women brought together by West Cork Beacon's CEO to help the organisation build a sexual violence support service. Their collective expertise, insights and integrity forged the shape of the service that would most answer the needs of survivors.

The CEO of West Cork Beacon negotiated with Tusla, making the argument that they should resource the kind of service that survivors, through the research, had told us they needed. Budgets, fundraising, training, recruiting staff, liaising with a range of statutory agencies, working with community organisations to understand and better support survivors, building networks of counsellors, lobbying public representatives and funders- was the work of the next four years.

The Sexual Violence Support Service was an experiment. An experiment in producing a specifically West Cork response to the needs of West Cork survivors who, faced with rural isolation, sparse access to specialist services such as rape crisis supports,

sexual assault forensics, advocacy for protection and recognition, had mostly been left to live with the impact of profound trauma caused by their abuse, and the silence that surrounded what had happened to them.

Our 'experiment' is better understood as a pilot project- a time-defined piece of work with a time-defined budget in which there is the opportunity to test out what works most effectively for survivors. This was concluded in December 2024. The experiment is no longer a pilot project. WCB has paved the way with the new DOJ agency CUAN to resource a permanent support service for victims of sexual violence in West Cork.

For more details about the background and work developed by West Cork Beacon's Sexual Violence Service, see Caroline's report on her research with survivors 'Listen to me, Support me, Believe me, Help me'

Because We Are Worth It

Salary Increase for the Domestic Violence Sector

After 15 years with no salary increase the government reached an agreement with the Work Relations Commission between the representatives of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), Department of Health and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions regarding pay increases.

Unions had secured an agreement at the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) in relation to the long-running pay dispute between workers in Section 39 (health and disability services)/ Section 56 (services to children),

Section 10 (homeless and addiction services), in community services and their counterparts employed directly by the state.

A proposal was agreed that acknowledges workers in Section 39, 10 and 56 agencies deserve pay equality.

This proposal is a significant step forwards for workers in Section 39, 10 and 56 organisations, and brings us closer to pay parity than we have been in a decade. It sets out a clear path for pay increases and there is a clear commitment to restoration of the link with public sector pay.

As an added bonus it looks like 2025 is to bring another round of increases too, a sure sign that workers in this sector are finally being recognised for the work that is done.



Valerie's Law



West Cork Beacon is very much behind the legislation to introduce changes to the law that allows Domestic Violence killers to retain their guardianship of their children. Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan will bring a memo to Cabinet in 2025 seeking approval for the new 'Valerie's Law' legislation to be introduced

The law is named after Valerie French, a mother of three who was killed by her husband James Kilroy at their home in Kilbree Lower, near Islandeady, on June 14, 2019. She was 41 when she died. Ms French was originally from West Cork and worked as a senior occupational therapist in Castlebar.

Her husband received a life sentence for inflicting 57 injuries on Ms French in the horrific knife and hatchet attack.

Valerie French's family had called for a review of the law to stop people who kill their partners from having parental

rights to their children.

Her brother, David French, said that Ireland should follow the lead of the United Kingdom where people who have killed their partners are now unable to have parental rights to their surviving children.

"This legislation is very important for families and someone like Kilroy, who deprived Valerie's children of a devoted mother, should not have guardianship rights."

"My sister died defending her children and I hope that other families can benefit from Valerie's Law once it has been implemented," said David, who has campaigned tirelessly to achieve this.

David French is also to establish a trust fund for Valerie's three children after securing a court order making him the administrator of her estate.

The legislation would require an application to be brought before the District Court to remove guardianship of a parent who is convicted of the murder or manslaughter of another parent or guardian.

It states that this should be within six months of a conviction and that the court should order another guardian to be appointed for the child or children.

The Programme for Government contains a commitment to examine proposals *"to remove guardianship rights from those convicted of killing their partners or a parent of their child"*.



West Cork Beacon Safe House

A report from one of our Safe House workers.

Since it opened in 2021, the West Cork Beacon Safe House has provided a safe and supportive environment for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

Over the past four years, the house has accommodated seven women and nine children, each with their own individual circumstances and support needs.

Some women have arrived in crisis, requiring immediate refuge and safety, while others used the house for shorter respite stays. The flexibility of the Safe House model allows for both short and longer-term stays, depending on need. The maximum length of stay is ideally 12 weeks but due to the housing crisis this has varied greatly as it is very difficult for women to find accommodation.

The house is designed to be a calm, comfortable, and secure home. It accommodates one woman or one family at a time which ensures privacy and a sense of stability. While the house is unstaffed, it is equipped with additional security measures. Local Gardaí are informed when the house is in use and occupants are supported throughout their stay by our dedicated Safe House worker.

The role of the Safe House worker is to work closely with clients in the Safe House and this support is often most intense at the beginning. The first steps involve helping a woman prepare to leave an abusive home, which requires careful safety planning and emotional support. Once the woman/family has moved into the house a care plan is developed which covers a range

of issues including accessing social welfare payments, applying for social housing, looking for private rentals, finding new schools and legal issues. If there are ongoing court proceedings this support may also include court accompaniment. The work tends to be varied and often complex but it is essential to helping each woman navigate the transition toward independence and safety.

One of the key challenges faced by both the Safe House service and its occupants is the difficulty in accessing long-term accommodation after a stay. The ongoing housing crisis continues to be a significant barrier to women moving on from domestic abuse. The shortage of private rental properties has made it increasingly difficult for women and families to secure safe, affordable housing once they are ready to leave the Safe House. We are working closely with Cork County Council and other housing services in relation to this.

This lack of housing options is also preventing some women from leaving unsafe environments in the first place. In some cases, women and children are remaining in homes where abuse is present simply because there is nowhere else to go. This has serious implications, particularly for children, whose emotional wellbeing and development can be negatively affected by prolonged exposure to domestic conflict.

Due to the high demand for safe accommodation, we often operate with a waiting list. There are very few alternative options in West Cork as

we currently do not have a refuge. Cuan Lee Refuge in Cork City is the nearest Domestic Violence Shelter and is almost always running at capacity these days. This can leave women in vulnerable situations without anywhere safe to turn. It is clear that there is a need for more Safe Houses in West Cork and beyond. Expanding this type of service would make a significant difference in ensuring that no woman or child is left without a safe place to go when they need it most.

Despite these challenges the West Cork Beacon Safe House remains a vital resource and offers a critical stepping stone for women and families seeking safety, stability, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.



Poster for artist Dianne Curtin's Exhibition GBV.

We were delighted to offer input and advice to this art enquiry into gender-based violence



Funding Schemes for our Clients

The Safe Ireland Accommodation Fund

This Fund is in an extension of the partnership between Safe Ireland and Airbnb, €5000 was allocated to each DV service in December 2024 and was to be used solely for accommodation purposes. In 2024, this fund was immediately accessed by three clients. One client was a crisis referral from the Protective Services Unit: she had been assaulted and needed accommodation for one night as she planned to return to her own country the next day. Detectives brought her to a B&B in Cork city. A three-night stay in hotel accommodation was sourced for another family, a client and three children, who were able to move in with family in another county. Another woman was supported with a payment towards her electricity bill as she was struggling financially post separation with many of her ex-partner's outstanding bills. The remainder of the fund was brought over into 2025.

Women's Aid Legal Support Fund

For the last four years, Women's Aid have distributed €10,000 to each Domestic Violence Service to support that service's clients. In West Cork Beacon we have chosen to use this money to assist our clients with legal expenses. Domestic Violence services recognise the extreme financial debt that is imposed on women having to go through the Irish courts. Whilst legal aid may be applied for, this aid may relate to only one issue. When issues such as access or custody become complicated and lengthy, the legal aid solicitor refers the client onto a private practitioner. Many women have to use their own funds to have ongoing representation and this can cost thousands of Euros. The stress imposed on the family unit is enormous with many needing to choose between legal fees and food or electricity. Many perpetrators use the legal system to summon the client repeatedly to court even though agreements may already have been reached. This strategy is a parallel process of the abuse that occurred within the relationship and it is also an attempt to financially punish the client for leaving.

West Cork Beacon were successful in their application for this fund which has run every year since 2022. The conditions relating to the fund state that the €10,000 would be used specifically for legal purposes. 17 clients were supported to pay for legal affidavits, legal aid contribution fees, private solicitor's bills for consultation and court representation.

The Domestic Violence Rent Supplement Scheme

This scheme has been running since 2020 when our CEO brought a proposal to Safe Ireland for an easier rent payment for victims of Domestic Violence. With Safe Ireland's expertise, a structure to provide this payment was presented to Government as a pilot for the duration of Covid. The pilot was so successful that government has made the DV rent supplement scheme permanent. They devised new perimeters, brought same to government and the Domestic Violence Rent Scheme was created. Whilst it initially was set up to go through the local Community Welfare Office, this has been changed and it now goes centrally into the Department of Social Welfare. This system can only be applied for through the Domestic Violence services, and whilst initial plans had been to roll this out through Community Welfare Offices and Gardai, this hasn't happened. Support workers work with the clients in this application, which if granted, allows quick access to rent supplement. The support isn't means-tested for the first three months. This space of time enables the support workers to complete housing and HAP applications. In 2023, eleven clients were referred to the Domestic Violence Rent Supplement Scheme, six were awarded the scheme, three didn't progress, one returned home and one found a shared facility.

The Children and Young Persons Programme

A programme which continues to be a valuable and well-used part of our service, is specifically for the children of the mothers whom we support. Domestic violence is commonly witnessed and experienced by the children in the home. Every child or young person's experience and impact of that abuse is unique to them.

If a mother identifies that her child may require support, she can talk with the support workers about accessing one of the therapists on this programme. Pre or post-separation, it can be difficult to navigate a new path for both the child and the mother. We aim to provide a safe space for children and young people to share and process what they have uniquely experienced while living with the abuser. This could be through the medium of play, art or therapy. Each child or young person, when referred can access ten individual sessions with the therapist with review mid-way. A wrap-around service is provided for the mother via our support workers, with the aim of assisting her to process and navigate any issues that may arise. In 2024, a total of seven children were offered therapeutic supports with four children completing 47 sessions. Three children did not progress with their referral.

Counselling

Our subsidised counselling scheme often requires additional fundraising as it is in continuous demand. We would like to sincerely thank all of the counsellors on our panel for their partnership work and their expertise with our clients. A set of sessions comprises six counselling appointments with an accredited counsellor. This year we expanded the genre and included shiatsu and art therapy alongside traditional talk therapy.

Demand was higher this year with forty-seven clients requesting counselling in 2024 in comparison to thirty-two clients the year before. Fourteen clients did not follow up with the counseling scheme. Thirty-three clients completed 200 sessions at a cost of €8,000. Five clients needed a second set of sessions.



Fundraising and Donations

We are so fortunate here at West Cork Beacon to have such consistent, thoughtful and generous community support from groups and individuals in the region.

A number of fundraising events were held throughout 2024, which included a Wellness Information Day, an Open Garden event, music evenings and a Beach Workout. Together they raised €5,471.

We received €14,000 in donations in 2024.

- €11,135.39 was donated in cash
- Three branches of the Mother's Union, West Cork gave us vouchers amounting to over €700
- 22 individuals donated €2,165

We were also delighted to receive some much appreciated household items from Lorna and Noel of Gallán Mór and a turkey, donated by another kind supporter for Christmas.

We are truly grateful for your support and kindness.



Marie with the UBAKA fundraising group



A selection of posters from our fundraisers



Domestic Violence Statistics

we were contacted
4592 times
an increase of 581 contacts



We supported
280
individuals

186 were new clients

74 were repeat clients

23 clients phoned about friends or family 62 times

20 enquiries phoned for professional support

Location and number of clients

In addition we supported one client in North Cork, one in Portlaoise and a further 61 clients from locations unknown



Contact method

Drop in.....	306 x 96 clients
Email	1,340 x 149 clients
Phone	1,877 x 227 clients
Face to Face	300 sessions
Text Messages	985 x 116 clients
Video Conference	3

Breakdown of Face to Face sessions 300 sessions

At Centre	168
Court Accompaniments	90
At Cafes.....	11
Clonakilty Outreach.....	5
Family Resource Centre.....	2
At Direct Provision.....	2
Transport	22
To Court	13
To Gardaí post court	5
To Homeless Assessments	3
To Refuge	1

Source of client referrals

Self.....	80
Other	20
Friends/Family	19
Community Service	16
Gardaí.....	14
Social Work.....	7
Other Domestic Violence organisation	6
Legal Aid/Private Solicitor	6
General Practitioner.....	4
Other Refuge or Crisis Accommodation	3
Mental Health Service/Primary Care Psychology ..	3
Other medical professional	2
Tusla.....	1
Social Welfare.....	1
Courts.....	1
Unknown.....	81

Domestic Violence Statistics

Age Range

20-24	6
25-29	7
30-34	11
35-39	14
40-44	26
45-49	11
50-54	9
55-59	10
60-64	3
65-69	1
Unknown.....	162

Race & Ethnicity

White Irish.....	128
Irish Traveller.....	5
White Other.....	50
Black African.....	5
Black Other.....	4
Asian Other	3
Roma	1
Other	7
Unknown.....	57



Country of origin

Republic of Ireland	35
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....	11
Botswana	1
Brazil.....	5
Croatia.....	1
Czech Republic.....	1
Egypt.....	1
Estonia.....	2
Finland.....	1
France.....	1
Germany.....	1
Hungary	3
Ireland.....	12
Jordan	1
Lebanon.....	1
Libya	1
Lithuania	2
Morocco	1
Netherlands.....	1
Nigeria.....	1
Philippines	1
Poland	13
Republic of South Africa.....	3
Romania	1
Spain.....	7
Switzerland	1
Thailand.....	1
Ukraine	2
United States of America.....	4
Unknown.....	56

Residency Status

Irish Citizen	132
EU Citizen	47
Stamp 4	6
International Protection Applicant.....	2
Partner Work permit.....	2
Other work permit.....	2
Unknown.....	69

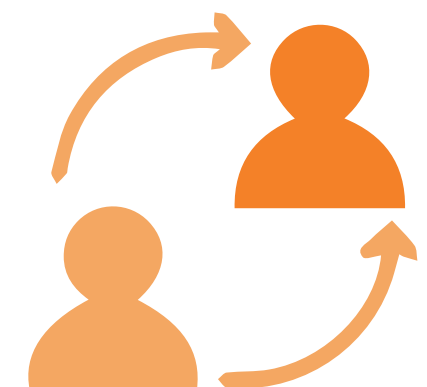
Many women experience more than one type of abuse

Emotional	271
Physical.....	163
Verbal	139
Coercion	101
Control.....	89
Financial	65
Sexual	36
Social	22
Tech/Social Media	19
Stalking.....	12
Spiritual / Faith based	2

Duration of abuse

463 years of abuse in total

Less than 1 year.....	14
1-2 years.....	11
3-5 years.....	33
6-10 years.....	64
11-15 years.....	13
16-20 years.....	9
21-30 years.....	3
Over 30 years	2
Unknown.....	111



Relationship to abuser

Husband	78
Ex partner	64
Partner	44
Ex husband.....	24
Other	15
Parent	8
Boyfriend	7
Sibling.....	6
Adult child	6
Child	4
Civil partner.....	1
Ex civil partner.....	1
Wife	1
Rather not disclose	1

Domestic Violence Statistics



Court Accompaniment

Total: 313 ½ hours
(an increase of 119.75 hours)

Requests	91
Completed	86
Cancelled prior.....	2
Cancelled by service	1
Failure to appear	2

1 Coercive Control case
took **10** court appearances: (65 hours)
and was proven on **2** charges

Types of orders granted

Protection Orders	18
Interim Barring Orders.....	9
Safety Orders.....	14
Barring Order	8
Access.....	2
Custody	1
Coercive control	2

78 hours spent at court, with **18** clients,
with cases that were adjourned **22** times



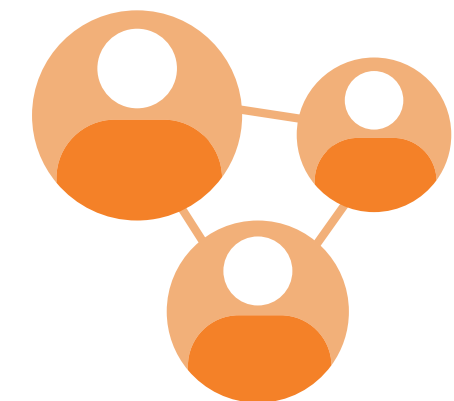
General Accompaniment

16 accompaniments for 10 clients

Gardai post court.....	7
Housing for homeless assessment	3
Citizens Information Centre.....	2
Meitheals	2
Interagency meetings.....	2

Other Assistance

24 sessions of advocacy to **15** clients
94 hours of counselling to **16** women
47 hours of CYP therapy to **4** children
19 women availed of Womens Aid Legal Fund
to support their legal costs
8 women availed of Safe Ireland
Accommodation Fund
11 women referred to the DV Rent Supplement
8 were awarded, **5** did not progress



Referrals to Professionals

Legal Support.....	48
Other DV service	35
An Garda Síochána / PSU.....	26
Citizens Information Services	15
Court Clerk	14
Housing Supports.....	6
Community Welfare Officer.....	5
Department of Social Protection	5
Family Support including FRCs, Treoir etc	5
Counsellor	4
Social Work - Child Protection (Notification)	4
Other	3
Somatic Health Service	3
Emergency DV Accommodation - incl. refuge	2
Addiction Support.....	1
Mediation	1
Tusla - Meitheal	1

Children

202 women had **449** children
between them
302 children were under 18 years and
120 were adult children
2 women were pregnant
34 clients who were homeless
had **50** children
33 women did not have children

Child Protection and Welfare

Individual times when specific
child protection concerns arose**24**
Child protection welfare referral
reports completed.....**10**
Informal consultations with
social work department.....**3**

Sexual Violence Pilot Project

August 2023 to
December 2024

we were contacted
68 times



We supported
50
individuals

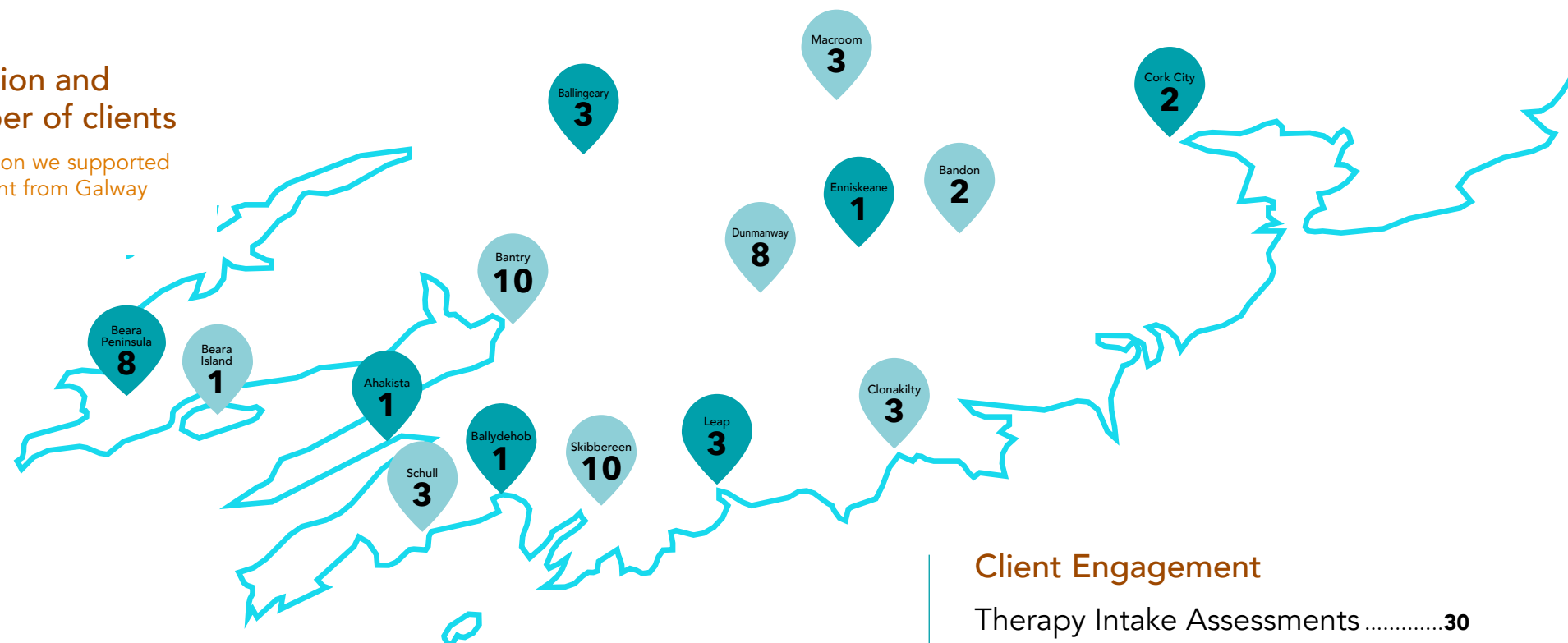
34 were survivors of
sexual abuse

14 were supporters of someone
who had experienced abuse

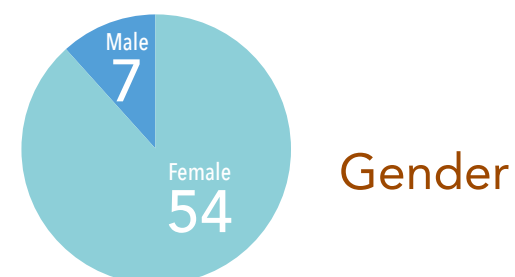
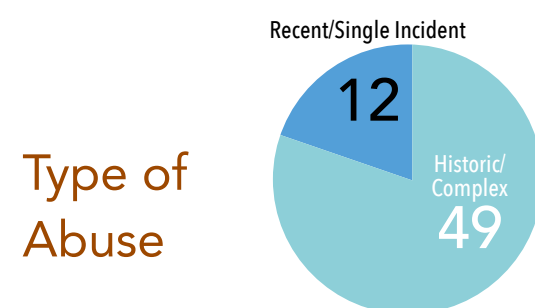
20 were professionals

Location and number of clients

In addition we supported
one client from Galway



SURVIVOR PROFILE



Age Range

Under 18 years	8
18-29	7
30-39	17
40-49	18
50-59	10
60+	1

Source of Client Referrals

Barnahus	2
Beara Family Resource Centre	2
CAMHS	1
CDYS	1
Childhood Matters	1
Community Mental Health Nurse	1
Coolmine Addiction Services	2
Councillor/TD	1
Counsellor/Therapist	1
DPSU	3
Dunmanway Family Resource Centre	1
Family member	4
Gardai	3
GP	1
HSE Addiction Counsellor	6
Mental Health Social Work	9
Pieta House	1
Sexual Assault Treatment Units	2
Self	18
St Finbarrs	1
Tusla	1
West Cork Beacon DV services	5
West Cork Counselling and Support Services	1

Client Engagement

Therapy Intake Assessments	30
Female	29
Male	1
Under 18 years	4
Face-to-Face Advocacy Support	12
Female	12
Male	0
Under 18 years	1
Accompaniment Support	1
Female	1
Male	0
Under 18 years	0
Therapy	19
Historic/Multiple Incidents of SV (max of 60 sessions offered)	16
Recent/Single Incident of SV (max of 12 sessions offered)	3
Female	18
Male	1
Under 18 years	3
Waiting List for Therapy	3
Referral to Addiction Service	1
Referral to Mental Health Service	1
Pending Client Engagement	1
Female	3
Male	0
Under 18 years	0

Financial Statement

The following has been taken from: West Cork Women Against Violence Company Limited by Guarantee Supplementary Information Relating To The Financial Statements Detailed Income And Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2024.

The supplementary information does not form part of the audited financial statements. Audited Accounts are filed with the Charities Regulator and are available on www.westcorkbeacon.ie

income

	2024 €	2023 €
Tusla core funding (restricted funds)	482,061	361,747
Tusla once-off funding (restricted funds)	90,781	99,034
Department of Justice Victims of Crime (restricted funds)	-	15,750
Other grant funding (restricted funds)	5,000	11,595
Women's Aid (restricted funds)	9,550	10,300
Other restricted funding	5,237	14,759
Other income	11,631	27,445
Grant amortisation	10,535	10,535
	614,795	551,165

expenses

	2024 €	2023 €
Wages and salaries	349,850	302,470
Social welfare costs	38,338	33,174
Staff defined contribution pension costs	23,457	21,238
Staff training and support	4,088	2,573
Recruitment	3,178	539
Board expenses and training	444	1,247
Rent and rates	35,800	35,412
Insurance	3,667	3,385
Light and heat	8,801	2,540
Repairs and maintenance	9,818	6,030
Office expenses	13,384	8,747
Client database	1,200	2,000
Advertising	7,082	4,915
Telephone	10,120	9,292
Computer costs	5,754	4,695
Staff travel expenses	12,486	10,542
Professional fees	26,118	3,106
Bank charges	810	797
General expenses /Volunteer expenses	296	273
Client support expenses	729	1,146
Client support	23,068	10,098
Other programme costs	17,287	49,912
Subscriptions	561	345
Auditor's remuneration	4,305	4,305
Depreciation	13,047	12,255
	613,688	531,036
Miscellaneous income		
Bank interest	172	44
Net surplus	1,279	20,173

Our thanks

West Cork Beacon are filled with gratitude to a range of individuals and organisations who make our work possible.

To the staff of West Cork Beacon, we are extremely grateful to our behind-the-scenes staff who ensure the smooth running of our service, from the financials to the admin and everything in between, your contribution is invaluable.

We are in awe of the work our frontline staff do, on the phones and in the courts, in outreach locations and the wider community. They continue to offer life-changing support for clients, survivors & their families.

To our Charity Trustees who volunteer their time and expertise, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our cause.

To An Garda Síochána, The Community Foundation of Ireland, Women's Aid and Safe Ireland for the support provided to us and by extension the victims of domestic & sexual violence in West Cork.

To Margo Noonan, Caroline Crowley, Dr. Laura Cullen, Vera O'Leary, Kirstie Smith and Anne O'Donovan for their engagement and belief in the Sexual Violence Support Project. To the many other organisations & community members that have offered their support and expertise to the project; and to our dedicated sexual violence support staff who have been unwavering in driving the success of the project.

To our industry colleagues who collaborate and share their knowledge with us, we are grateful to get to work and learn within such a knowledgeable and supportive sector. To all who have donated, volunteered their time and simply gave encouragement, your support of our service is appreciated, and we wouldn't be able to continue our important work without you.

To everyone who plays a part in the work we do, no matter how small, your support makes everything possible, and we cannot thank you all enough.

Finally, to the amazing team at Cuan, for prioritising the delivery of excellent services to those affected by DSGBV and coordinating all Government actions set out in the Third National Strategy, we absolutely could not do this work without your support.



WEST CORK BEACON
TACKLING DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Wolfe Tone Square, Bantry
County Cork P75 TN96

Phone: 027 53847
Helpline: 1800 203 136

www.westcorkbeacon.ie
email: westcorkwomensbeacon.ie