

WEST CORK BEACON

Annual Report 2025

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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.

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD



As Chairperson of West Cork Beacon, I am pleased to present our Annual Report for 2025 and to reflect on a year of significant change, growth, and renewed ambition for the organisation.

This year marked the beginning of an important new chapter in the development of West Cork Beacon. Following more than thirteen years of dedicated leadership, we said goodbye to our CEO, Marie Mulholland, whose vision, commitment, and tireless advocacy helped shape the organisation we are today. On behalf of the Board, I would like once again to express our sincere gratitude for Marie's exceptional contribution to women, children, and families across West Cork.

At the same time, we were delighted to welcome MaryClare Clark as our new Chief Executive Officer. MaryClare brings extensive leadership experience, a strong commitment to survivor-centred practice, and a clear vision for the future. The Board looks forward to working alongside her as we continue to strengthen and expand our services in the years ahead.

Throughout 2025, demand for our services continued to increase significantly. We responded to 7,942 contacts during the year and supported 292 individuals seeking assistance, information, advocacy, and safety. Behind every statistic is a women and very often her children whose lives has been affected by domestic abuse, coercive control, or sexual violence. These figures serve as a powerful reminder of both the scale of need within our communities and the essential role that specialist services play in supporting recovery and safety.

I am particularly proud of the continued development of our Sexual Violence Support Project. What began as a response to an unmet need within West Cork has become an increasingly important source of support for survivors. During the year, the project provided support to 38 individuals, delivered 474 therapy appointments, and maintained a vital pathway to specialist advocacy and therapeutic services.

Partnership and collaboration remain central to our work. One notable achievement during the year was the launch of the Sábháil Resource Directory, developed in partnership with the Safe & Protected Subgroup of Cork CYPSC and other stakeholders. This initiative reflects our shared commitment to improving access to information, strengthening referral pathways, and ensuring that survivors and professionals can quickly identify and access the supports available to them.

The Board also welcomed a new member, Aileen Keating, whose expertise in human resources, governance, and organisational development strengthens our collective capacity and supports the future growth of the organisation.

Looking ahead, we continue to focus on some of the most pressing challenges facing survivors in West Cork. Access to safe accommodation remains a critical concern. While progress towards a dedicated refuge has proven complex, we remain committed to this goal while also exploring the development of additional Safe House accommodation to meet immediate needs. No woman or child should be forced to leave their home and community in order to find safety.

As we prepare to launch our new Strategic Plan, we do so with confidence in our mission and optimism for the future. The strength of West Cork Beacon lies not only in the services we provide, but in the dedication of our staff, volunteers, Board members, partner organisations, funders, and supporters who make this work possible every day.

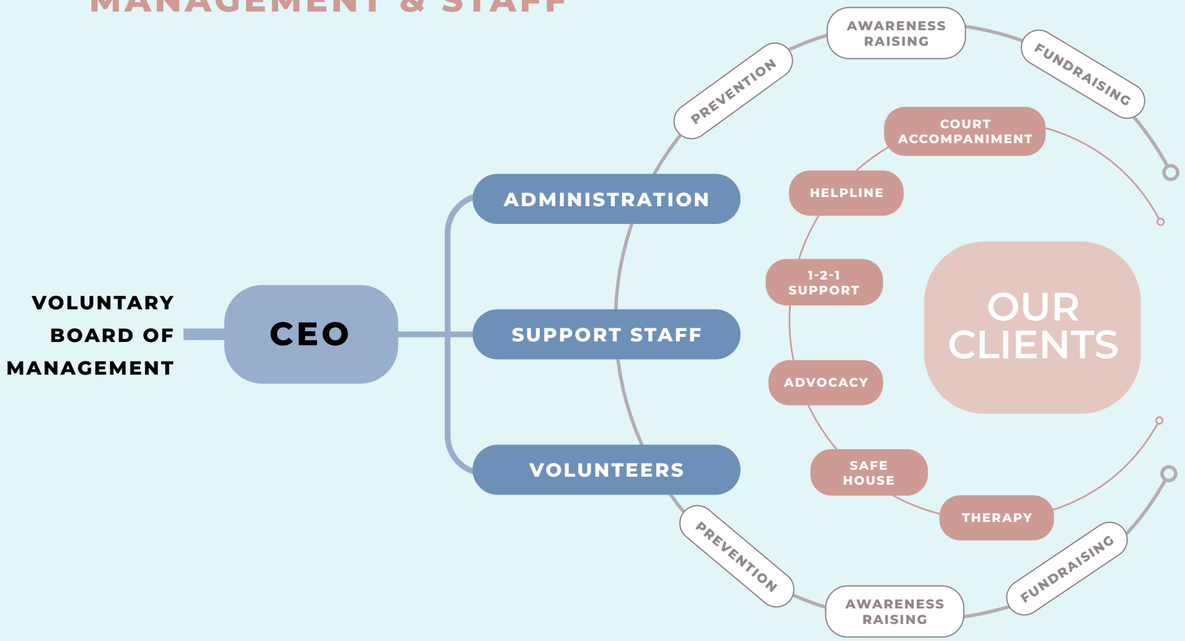
On behalf of the Board of Management, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to West Cork Beacon throughout 2025. Most importantly, I acknowledge the courage and resilience of the survivors who place their trust in our service. Your experiences continue to inform and inspire our work.

Together, we remain committed to building a West Cork where every person can live free from violence, abuse, and fear.

Allison Aldred

Chairperson, West Cork Beacon

MANAGEMENT & STAFF



2025 BOARD

West Cork Beacon is governed by a Voluntary Board of Management (VBOM) comprising community representatives, activists, partner organisations, and professionals with a diverse range of skills and experience. Board members give their time and commitment voluntarily to support the strategic development, effective governance, and long-term sustainability of the service

MEMBERS

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



INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBER, AILEEN KEATING

Aileen Keating brings over 25 years of leadership and management experience across the public, private and community sectors. Her professional background spans human resources, operations, governance, compliance and organisational development.

A former Defence Forces Officer, Aileen served for over 20 years in a range of leadership and management roles, including international service with the United Nations. She subsequently moved into senior HR leadership in the private sector and currently works as Practice Operations Manager with CH Vets in Skibbereen.

Aileen holds an MSc in Human Resource Management from University College Cork and brings particular expertise in people management, governance, policy development and organisational improvement.

Based in West Cork, Aileen is actively involved in a number of local community and voluntary organisations. She joined the West Cork Beacon Board in 2025.

OUR STAFF

West Cork Beacon has a staff of four full time and seven 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.

HONOURING MARIE MULHOLLAND



A BEACON OF FEMINIST LEADERSHIP

For over 13 years, Marie Mulholland served as the visionary CEO of West Cork Beacon (formerly West Cork Women Against Violence), transforming the organisation into a vital lifeline for survivors of domestic and sexual violence across the region.

A lifelong feminist activist, Marie's leadership was rooted in decades of community work, advocacy, and systemic change.

MARIE'S LEGACY INCLUDES:

- **Founding the Safe House in West Cork:** After years of campaigning, Marie secured a property for emergency accommodation, allowing women and children to remain in their community while accessing safety and support.
- **DV Rent Supplement:** In 2021 Marie initiated a conversation with Eoin Ó Broin, housing spokesperson for Sinn Fein, Safe Ireland and eventually the Department of Social Protection that led to the 3 month trial of the DV Rent Supplement. Minister for Social Protection Heather Humphries announced plans to make the domestic violence rent supplement a permanent feature of housing supports in 2021.
- **National Advocacy:** As CEO of WCWAV at the Oireachtas Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Pre- Committee Stage Consideration of- The Organisation of Working Time (Domestic Violence Leave) Bill 2020, highlighting the unique challenges faced by rural survivors and advocating for systemic reform.
- **Rebranding the Organisation:** Marie oversaw the transition from WCWAVP to West Cork Beacon, reflecting a broader, more inclusive mission and a renewed commitment to hope, safety, and empowerment.
- **Expanding Services to Include Sexual Violence Support:** In 2023, she led the launch of WCB's sexual violence service for survivors aged 14+, regardless of gender.
- **Community Voice and Visibility:** Marie's work consistently centred survivors, especially those marginalised by geography, gender, or age. Her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic ensured continuity of care, emergency housing, and traumainformed support.

Marie's career began in Belfast, where she co-founded the Women's Support Network and led campaigns for housing justice, LGBTQ+ rights, and visibility for working-class women. She received the Constance Markievicz Award in 1987 for her **contributions to trade unionism and community activism.**

Her legacy at WCB is one of fierce compassion, strategic brilliance, and unwavering commitment to justice. We thank her for lighting the way.

WELCOMING MARYCLARE CLARK



A NEW CHAPTER FOR WEST CORK BEACON

In August 2025, MaryClare Clark stepped into the role of CEO at West Cork Beacon, bringing over 15 years of executive leadership in traumainformed, gender-based violence and public health services. She led transformative initiatives in the U.S. before relocating to Cork in 2024 with her spouse and child.

MARYCLARE'S BACKGROUND INCLUDES:

- **CEO of a Public Health Consortium:** She grew the budget from under €400K to €1.5M, expanded services for survivors of violence and addiction, and led strategic planning and coalition building.
- **Director of Rape Crisis and Transitional Housing Services:** Her work included court accompaniment, therapeutic programming, and wraparound supports for women and children.
- **Founder of MC Squared, LLC:** A consultancy supporting nonprofits with grant writing, strategic planning, and trauma-informed systems development.
- **Educator and Mentor:** She has taught and supervised social work students across five universities and served on multiple boards and review committees focused on maternal mortality, youth suicide, and homelessness.

MARYCLARE'S VISION FOR WCB IS ROOTED IN:

- **Survivor-Led Systems Change:** Elevating lived experience in service design and delivery.
- **Feminist, Rights-Based Practice:** Embedding empowerment, inclusivity, and accountability.
- **Strategic Growth:** Strengthening partnerships, expanding refuge development and enhancing outcome tracking.
- **Community Voice:** Ensuring West Cork's diverse communities are heard, respected and supported.

"I am honoured to follow in Marie's footsteps," MaryClare shares. "Her work laid a powerful foundation. My goal is to continue that legacy with integrity, innovation and deep respect for the communities we serve."

TEAM AND CULTURE

INVESTING IN PEOPLE, STRENGTHENING SERVICES

At West Cork Beacon, our greatest strength is our people. Every day, our staff, volunteers, Board members, and partners work together to ensure that survivors of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence receive compassionate, professional, and trauma-informed support.

Throughout 2025, we continued to invest in developing a positive organisational culture built on collaboration, respect, accountability, and care. As the organisation entered a new chapter of leadership, we remained committed to supporting staff wellbeing, professional development, and continuous learning. This has helped us maintain a resilient and adaptable team capable of responding to increasingly complex client needs across West Cork.

Our culture is grounded in shared values and a collective belief that everyone has the right to live free from violence and abuse. Whether providing frontline support, managing administrative systems, developing partnerships, advocating for survivors, or contributing through governance and volunteering, every member of the West Cork Beacon community plays a vital role in achieving our mission.

During the year, staff participated in ongoing training, supervision, and professional development opportunities to strengthen expertise and ensure best practice in service delivery. We also continued to develop our internal systems and processes to support effective communication, information sharing, and organisational learning.

We recognise that working within the DSGBV sector can be both demanding and emotionally challenging. Creating a supportive workplace where staff feel valued, heard, and connected remains a priority. Through regular team engagement, reflective practice, and a strong commitment to wellbeing, we strive to foster an environment where our people can thrive while continuing to deliver high-quality support to those who need it most.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to building a workplace culture that reflects our values, supports innovation, encourages learning, and strengthens our capacity to meet the evolving needs of survivors and communities across West Cork.

A SPECIAL MEMBER OF THE TEAM

No overview of our office year would be complete without mentioning Bella, our resident Boston Terrier. A daily presence in the office, Bella keeps spirits high with a combination of enthusiastic ball chasing, strategic treat-seeking, and an endless supply of cuddles. While she may not appear on the organisational chart, her contribution to team morale is undeniable



2025 TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing investment in staff training and professional development
- Continued focus on staff wellbeing and reflective practice
- Further development of organisational systems and digital infrastructure
- Strengthened collaboration across teams and services
- Leadership transition and organisational growth
- Continued commitment of volunteers and Board members
- Strong partnership working across the DSGBV sector

Our work is only possible because of the dedication, professionalism, and compassion of the people who make up West Cork Beacon. Their commitment continues to ensure that survivors are met with safety, understanding, and hope at every stage of their journey.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

RESPONDING TO GROWING NEED ACROSS WEST CORK

Throughout 2025, West Cork Beacon continued to provide vital support to women and children experiencing domestic violence, coercive control, and abuse. The year saw a significant increase in demand for our services, reflecting both the ongoing prevalence of domestic abuse and growing awareness within communities of the supports available through West Cork Beacon.

Our work encompasses crisis intervention, emotional support, advocacy, court accompaniment, safety planning, housing support, referrals, and practical assistance. Every engagement is guided by a trauma-informed and survivor-centred approach that recognises the courage it takes to seek help and the complex challenges involved in rebuilding lives affected by abuse.

In 2025, the service recorded 7,942 contacts, representing an increase compared to the previous year. This rise demonstrates the growing need for specialist domestic violence supports across West Cork and highlights the trust that survivors place in our service during times of crisis and uncertainty.

Over the course of the year, West Cork Beacon supported 292 individuals, including 257 clients directly affected by domestic violence and an additional 35 professional and family enquiries seeking advice, information, and support. Of those engaging with the service, 189 were new clients reaching out for assistance for the first time, while 103 were returning clients continuing their journey towards safety and recovery.

Communication with clients occurred through a range of accessible channels, recognising that safety, privacy, and personal circumstances often influence how survivors seek support. During the year, the service responded to 3,400 text messages, 2,336 telephone calls, 1,648 emails, and 436 drop-in contacts. For many individuals, these interactions represented an essential first step in seeking help, accessing information, and exploring options in a safe and confidential environment.

Face-to-face support remained a central component of service delivery. A total of 436 in-person sessions were provided throughout the year, including 87 court accompaniments. Supporting survivors through legal processes continues to be a critical aspect of our work, helping individuals navigate what can often be an intimidating and emotionally demanding system. Our advocacy team worked alongside clients to ensure they felt informed, supported, and empowered throughout their engagement with the courts and other statutory agencies.

The impact of domestic violence extends far beyond the individual experiencing abuse and frequently affects children and wider family networks. Among the women supported during 2025, there were 443 children. Many of these children have experienced the effects of abuse directly or indirectly, highlighting the importance of early intervention, specialist support, and coordinated responses that prioritise safety and wellbeing for the entire family.

Housing instability remained a significant issue for many clients. During the year, 37 clients and 61 children experienced homelessness, illustrating the continued challenges faced by survivors attempting to leave abusive situations in the context of an ongoing housing crisis. Access to safe and affordable accommodation remains one of the most significant barriers to achieving long-term safety and independence for many women and their children.

Behind every statistic is a person seeking safety, dignity, and hope. Whether through a single helpline call, months of ongoing advocacy, support through court proceedings, or assistance in securing housing and practical resources, West Cork Beacon remains committed to walking alongside survivors as they navigate their path towards safety and recovery.

2025 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- 7,942 total contacts
- 292 individuals supported, including 257 clients and 35 professional or family enquiries
- 189 new clients and 103 returning clients engaged with the service
- 3,400 text messages, 2,336 phone calls, 1,648 emails, and 436 drop-in contacts to whom we responded
- 436 face-to-face support sessions delivered
- 87 court accompaniments provided
- 443 children connected to families receiving support
- 37 clients and 61 children experienced homelessness during the year

The continued increase in demand for our services demonstrates both the scale of domestic violence within our communities and the critical importance of ensuring survivors have access to timely, specialist, and compassionate support when they need it most.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

EXPANDING ACCESS TO SPECIALIST SUPPORT

The Sexual Violence Support Project continued to grow throughout 2025, reflecting both the ongoing need for specialist services and the increasing awareness of the supports available to survivors across West Cork.

Developed in response to the identified needs of survivors living in rural communities, the service provides a trauma-informed, survivor-centred approach that places dignity, choice, and recovery at the heart of every interaction. The project was established to address significant gaps in local support provision and to ensure that survivors could access specialist assistance closer to home, without the additional barriers often associated with travelling long distances to access services.

Throughout 2025, the service provided support to 38 individuals through a combination of specialist advocacy, emotional support, referral pathways, and therapeutic intervention. Survivors engaged with the service at different stages of their journeys, from recent disclosures and crisis situations to those seeking support for the long-term effects of historical abuse.

The service recorded 55 new helpline contacts during the year, highlighting the importance of having an accessible and confidential first point of contact. For many individuals, reaching out for support can be one of the most difficult steps in the recovery process. Ensuring that survivors are met with understanding, validation, and practical guidance remains a core element of our work.

Demand for therapeutic support remained strong throughout the year. A total of 474 therapy appointments were delivered, providing survivors with dedicated space to process their experiences, develop coping strategies, and support their recovery and wellbeing. Access to specialist therapy is often a critical component of healing, helping survivors regain confidence, rebuild trust, and move forward following experiences of sexual violence.

In total, the service recorded 571 contacts related to sexual violence support, demonstrating the breadth and intensity of engagement required to meet the needs of survivors. These contacts included helpline calls, advocacy, therapy intake assessment, therapeutic interventions, liaison with other services, and ongoing support throughout a survivor's engagement with the project.

The continued growth of the Sexual Violence Support Project demonstrates both the effectiveness of the service model and the ongoing need for locally accessible specialist supports. Through strong partnerships, professional expertise, and a commitment to survivor-centred practice, West Cork Beacon continues to provide a vital service for individuals affected by sexual violence across the region.

2025 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- 55 new helpline contacts received
- 38 survivors supported through advocacy and therapy
- 474 specialist therapy appointments delivered
- 571 total service contacts recorded
- Continued delivery of trauma-informed, survivor-centred support
- Strengthened pathways to specialist services and community supports
- Increased visibility and awareness of sexual violence supports across West Cork

Every contact represents an individual who reached out for support, and every interaction reflects our commitment to ensuring that survivors are believed, supported, and empowered in their recovery.



THE MEANING OF SÁBHÁIL IS ‘TO SAVE’ OR ‘TO RESCUE’.
THIS REFLECTS THE PROJECT’S FOCUS ON SAFETY, PROTECTION AND SUPPORT



SÁBHÁIL DIRECTORY

The purpose of the Sábháil project was for the Safe & Protected Subgroup of the Tusla Children and Young People’s Service Committee (CYPSC) to identify the need for an accessible and user-friendly resource to help both DSGBV (Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence) support and professionals to access services.

THE PROJECT SET OUT TO DEVELOP A RESOURCE THAT:

1. Provides clear, up to date information on DSGBV services and referral pathways
2. Encourage collaboration and awareness among service providers.
3. Make accessible to a wide range of users.

To achieve this a survey containing a number of questions was sent to all DSGBV Services operating in Cork.

Questions covered location, type of service and target groups. The returned answers were then compiled into a full directory of DSGBV Services in Cork and Cork County.

The Directory also helped identify collaborations and partnerships made frequently through the Gardaí, Tusla, ETBs and other community and voluntary groups.

LAUNCH

On the 26th November 2025, the Sábháil Directory was launched in County Hall, Cork. This was organised in collaboration with CYPSC, Tusla and West Cork Beacon.

Various speakers introduced themselves and spoke a little bit about how they contributed to the directory.

SPEAKERS

Tracey Holt – Children and Young People’s Service Committee (CYPSC) & MC

MaryClare Clark -West Cork Beacon

Seamus Mullen – App Creator/Directory

Miriam McAuliffe – Barnardos

Prof Louise Crowley - UCC

Mayor Mary Linehan Foley

CYPSC





The Sábháil Resource Directory can be found at www.westcorkbeacon.ie/resourcedirectory

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

EXPANDING ACCESS TO SPECIALIST SUPPORT

At West Cork Beacon, we believe that no single organisation can address domestic abuse and sexual violence alone. Meaningful and lasting support for women and children is achieved through strong partnerships, shared expertise, and a collective commitment to safety, dignity, and recovery.

We work collaboratively with survivors, recognising them as experts in their own lives and ensuring that their voices, experiences, and choices guide the supports they receive. Through respectful and empowering relationships, we help individuals access the services, information, and opportunities they need to rebuild their lives and achieve their goals.

We value the strength of partnership across the statutory, community, voluntary, health, education, justice, and housing sectors. By working together with local, regional, and national organisations, we create coordinated pathways of support that reduce barriers, improve outcomes, and ensure that women and children can access the right help at the right time.

Collaboration also means sharing knowledge, building capacity, and advocating collectively for change. We actively contribute to networks, partnerships, and initiatives that promote prevention, raise awareness, strengthen service provision, and advance the rights of women and children affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Guided by mutual respect, trust, transparency, and accountability, we foster partnerships that enhance our impact and strengthen our communities. Through collaboration, we seek to create a West Cork where survivors are supported, communities are informed, and violence against women and children is never tolerated.



KEY COMMITMENTS

Through our commitment to partnership and collaboration, we will:

- Build and maintain strong relationships with community, statutory, and voluntary sector partners
- Promote coordinated and survivor-centred responses to domestic and sexual violence
- Share knowledge and best practice to improve services and outcomes
- Work collectively to influence policy, systems, and social change
- Foster trust, respect, and accountability in all our partnerships
- Amplify the voices and experiences of survivors in shaping services and responses
- Strengthen community awareness and engagement in preventing violence against women and children

KEY PARTNERS

Cuan, the Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) Agency

Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

Safe Ireland, National Social Change Agency, CLG

Rape Crisis Ireland

Community Foundation Ireland

Cork County Council

The Housing Agency

American Ireland Fund

Green Solids, ATD

PAY INCREASES

A POSITIVE STEP FOR OUR STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The recently approved pay agreement for the Community and Voluntary Sector is a significant and welcome step forward for our staff and for organisations like ours working on the frontline.

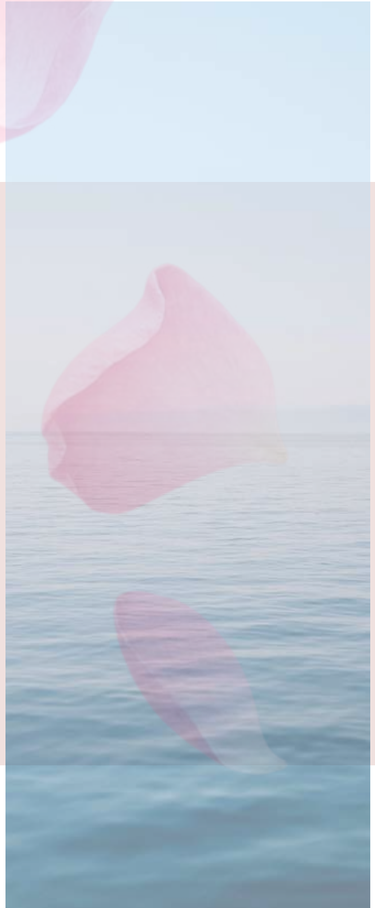
For many years, pay levels across the sector have fallen behind those in the public sector. The new agreement recognises the vital contribution of community and voluntary organisations and, importantly, establishes a link to future public-sector pay increases.

For our team in West Cork Beacon, this is about more than an increase in pay. It is recognition of the skills, commitment and expertise required to provide specialist domestic & sexual violence support, often in challenging circumstances and within a rural community where resources can be limited.

The Government has committed approximately €140 million in additional annual investment to support organisations in delivering these services. For our organisation, the priority now is ensuring that the funding reaches services in a timely and sustainable way so that these pay commitments can be met without putting pressure on frontline service provision.

Our staff are our most important resource. Fair and sustainable pay is essential to attracting and retaining experienced staff and ensuring that women and children affected by domestic & sexual violence in West Cork continue to receive the high-quality, specialist support they deserve.

This agreement is an important step towards recognising the true value of the community and voluntary sector - and the people who deliver its services every day.



FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND INDIVIDUAL GIVING

The continued support of our local communities played an important role in helping West Cork Beacon respond to the growing demand for services throughout 2025. During the year, donations, fundraising activities, and charitable giving generated €14,903.90 in unrestricted income, providing valuable additional resources to support women and children affected by domestic and sexual violence across West Cork.

Funding was received through a combination of direct donations, community fundraising events, sponsored activities, online campaigns, and charitable giving platforms. Highlights included fundraising initiatives organised by Ardgroom Santa Day, Lough Hyne Swimmers, and the 15th Lodge Masonic Benevolent Fund, alongside generous contributions from local businesses, organisations, and individual supporters.

Online giving continued to provide an important avenue for support, with donations received through platforms including Enthuse, iDonate, and PayPal Giving Fund. Many contributions were linked to personal challenges, awareness campaigns, and community-led initiatives, reflecting growing recognition of the need for specialist domestic and sexual violence services across the region.

Every contribution helped strengthen our ability to provide practical assistance, advocacy, emotional support, information, and specialist services to those who need them most. Beyond the financial value of these donations, they demonstrate a shared commitment to ensuring that survivors can access safety, support, and hope within their own communities.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed during the year. The generosity of individuals, community groups, charities, and businesses continues to make a meaningful difference to the lives of women and children across West Cork.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2026-2027

LOOKING AHEAD: BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

As West Cork Beacon moves into the next phase of its development, our focus remains firmly on strengthening support for survivors while ensuring the organisation is equipped to meet future challenges and opportunities. Throughout 2025, significant work was undertaken to review our current strategic direction, assess emerging needs within our communities, and engage with stakeholders about the future of the organisation.

This work will inform our new Strategic Plan 2027-2031, which is currently being finalised. The plan will set out a clear vision for the next five years, building on the achievements of recent years while responding to the evolving needs of survivors of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence across West Cork. The process has provided an important opportunity to reflect on our progress, identify areas for growth, and ensure that the voices of survivors, staff, volunteers, partners, and funders help shape our future direction.

While this longer-term strategy is being developed, a number of key priorities have emerged that will guide our work throughout 2026 and into 2027.

ENHANCING SURVIVOR SUPPORT SERVICES

Providing high-quality, accessible, and trauma-informed support will remain at the heart of everything we do. We will continue to strengthen our domestic and sexual violence services, ensuring that survivors can access timely support, advocacy, information, and therapeutic interventions that respond to their individual needs. We will also continue to explore ways to improve accessibility for people living in rural and isolated communities.

STRENGTHENING ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

As demand for services continues to increase, maintaining a resilient and sustainable organisation is essential. We will focus on securing long-term funding, strengthening governance and operational systems, improving reporting and evaluation processes, and ensuring that West Cork Beacon is well positioned to meet future challenges and opportunities.

EXPANDING COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Raising awareness and improving understanding of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence remains a critical part of our mission. We will continue to engage with communities throughout West Cork through awareness campaigns, information sessions, training, and partnership initiatives that encourage early intervention, prevention, and access to support.

DEVELOPING DIGITAL RESOURCES

Digital services and information platforms are becoming increasingly important in ensuring survivors can access support safely and easily. Building on recent investments in technology and digital infrastructure, we will continue to develop online resources, improve accessibility to information, and explore innovative ways of connecting survivors with the supports they need.

BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

No single organisation can address domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence alone. Strong collaboration with statutory agencies, community organisations, funders, and sector partners remains central to achieving meaningful and lasting change. We will continue to strengthen existing relationships while developing new partnerships that enhance service delivery, improve referral pathways, and create better outcomes for survivors.

SUPPORTING WORKFORCE WELLBEING

Our staff, volunteers, and Board members are our most valuable resource. Working within the DSGBV sector can be both rewarding and demanding, and we remain committed to fostering a supportive workplace culture that prioritises wellbeing, professional development, reflective practice, and continuous learning. Investing in our people is essential to maintaining the quality, consistency, and compassion that define our services.

As we look towards the publication of our 2027-2031 Strategic Plan, these priorities provide a strong foundation for the future. Guided by our mission, values, and commitment to survivor-centred practice, we remain focused on building a safer, more informed, and more supportive community for everyone across West Cork.

ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF SAFE ACCOMMODATIONS

The development of a dedicated refuge in West Cork remains one of the most significant priorities for West Cork Beacon and for the wider response to domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence in the region. While West Cork Beacon continues to provide vital support services, advocacy, court accompaniment, and emergency Safe House accommodation, the absence of a purpose-built refuge means that many women and children fleeing abuse must leave their communities in order to access emergency accommodation.

West Cork was identified by government as a priority area for refuge provision, reflecting the long-recognised gap in specialist accommodation for survivors in the region. During recent years, West Cork Beacon has worked closely with statutory agencies and sector partners to progress plans for refuge development. Significant effort has been devoted to identifying suitable properties and sites capable of meeting the requirements for a modern refuge service, including independent family units, support facilities, children's spaces, and accessible links to local services and public transport. As outlined in the 2024 Annual Report, a number of potential sites were explored but ultimately ruled out due to challenges including location, infrastructure limitations, flood risk, and accessibility concerns.

Despite these challenges, the need for safe accommodation has never been more evident. Demand for emergency and transitional accommodation continues to grow, while limited housing options and the ongoing housing crisis create additional barriers for women and children seeking to leave abusive situations. West Cork Beacon's Safe House has provided an essential interim response, supporting women and families experiencing domestic abuse, but it was never intended to replace the comprehensive accommodation and wraparound supports offered through a dedicated refuge service.

Recognising the immediate need for additional safe accommodation, West Cork Beacon has also been actively exploring the development of a second Safe House in West Cork. This work is being supported through engagement with both CUAN and the Community Foundation for Ireland, whose commitment to strengthening accommodation options for survivors has been instrumental in progressing these discussions. While a second Safe

House would not replace the need for a dedicated refuge, it would significantly enhance the availability of emergency accommodation within the region, reduce waiting times, and increase the organisation's ability to respond quickly to women and children fleeing abuse.

The establishment of CUAN has created renewed opportunities for progress in both refuge development and accommodation expansion. West Cork Beacon continues to work closely with CUAN, local authorities, elected representatives, funders, and community stakeholders to advance these critical initiatives. Developing accommodation provision in West Cork is about more than buildings and infrastructure; it is about ensuring that women and children can access safety, support, and recovery within their own communities, close to schools, healthcare, family networks, and other essential services.

While a suitable refuge site has yet to be secured, West Cork Beacon remains committed to achieving this goal. Alongside ongoing efforts to establish a dedicated refuge, the exploration of a second Safe House reflects a practical and proactive approach to addressing current demand. Together, these initiatives represent an important investment in the future safety and wellbeing of women and children across West Cork, helping to move closer to a future where no one is forced to choose between remaining in an unsafe situation and leaving the community they call home.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

we were contacted
7,942 times

We supported
292
individuals

189 were new clients

103 were repeat clients

5 were male clients

29 clients phoned about friends or family 62 times

48 enquiries phoned for professional support



LOCATION & NUMBER OF CLIENTS

In addition we supported one client in Kilkenny and a further 48 clients from locations unknown

INFORMATION ABOUT CLIENT CONTACT

CONTACT METHOD

Drop in	**436 x 392 clients**
Email	**1,648 x 149 clients**
Phone	**2,336 x 234 clients**
Letter	**80 x 24 clients**
Text Messages	**3,400 x 142 clients**
Video Conference	**3 x 2 clients**
Other	**66 x 15 clients**

SOURCE OF CLIENT REFERRALS

Citizens Information Service	**9**
Community Service	**11**
Courts	**1**
Friends/Family	**22**
Gardaí	**23**
General practitioner	**3**
Legal Aid / Private Solicitor	**2**
Mental Health Service / Primary Care Psychology	**7**
Other	**15**
Other Domestic Violence organisation	**8**
Other medical professional	**2**
Other Refuge or Crisis Accommodation	**6**
Self	**108**
Social Welfare	**1**
Social Work	**9**
Tusla	**2**
Unknown	**21**

BREAKDOWN OF FACE TO FACE SESSIONS

436 SESSIONS

At Centre	**191**
At Court	**87**
Outreach	**30**
In Cafés	**23**
At Cork County Council	**11**
At Hospital	**10**
At Safe House	**8**
In Car	**7**
At Family Resource Centre	**7**
At Hotel	**6**
At Client's Home	**4**
At Citizen's Information Centre	**2**
At Garda Station	**2**
At Primary Care Centre	**1**
At Solicitor's Office	**1**
Other	**2**

CLIENT PERSONAL DETAILS

AGE RANGE

18-19	1
20-24	3
25-29	10
30-34	13
35-39	13
40-44	35
45-49	24
50-54	12
55-59	7
60-64	8
65-69	2
Unknown	129

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Republic of Ireland	145
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	11
Albania	1
Brazil	2
Bulgaria	2
Croatia	1
France	1
Germany	2
Ghana	1
Hungary	7
Libya	1
Lithuania	2
Moldova	1
Morocco	1
New Zealand	1
Nigeria	1
Pakistan	2
Poland	12
Portugal	2
Romania	2
Russian Federation	1
Republic of South Africa	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Spain	2
Switzerland	2
Thailand	1
Turkey	1
Ukraine	3
United States of America	1
Unknown	27

RACE & ETHNICITY

White Irish	154
Irish Traveller	4
White Other	53
Black African	5
Black Other	5
Asian Other	2
Roma	2
Other	4
Unknown	29

RESIDENCY STATUS

Irish Citizen	161
EU Citizen	55
Stamp 4	4
International Protection Applicant	1
Partner Work permit	4
Other work permit	1
Unknown	31

DURATION OF ABUSE

463 years of abuse in total

Less than 1 year	5
1-2 years	11
3-5 years	17
6-10 years	31
11-15 years	9
16-20 years	3
21-30 years	3
Over 30 years	0
Unknown	178

RELATIONSHIP TO ABUSER

Civil Partner	2
Ex civil partner	4
Husband	64
Ex husband	12
Wife	4
Ex-wife	1
Partner	18
Ex partner	31
Boyfriend	4
Sibling	5
Parent	7
Adult child	4
Unknown	37

MANY WOMEN EXPERIENCE MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF ABUSE

Coercion	36
Control	41
Emotional	126
Financial	36
Physical	66
Sexual	14
Social	35
Spiritual / Faith based	1
Stalking	8
Tech / Social Media	7
Verbal	66



CHILDREN

258 women had **443** children between them

70 women did not have children

315 children were under 18 years

108 were adult children

37 women were pregnant

37 unknown

HOMELESSNESS

37 clients with 61 children

5 women had no children

1 client was pregnant

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE

Times when specific child protection concerns arose	14
Child protection welfare referral reports completed	12

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED



COURT ACCOMPANIMENT

Total: 268 ½ hours

Requests	**84**
Completed	**79**
Cancelled prior	**5**

TYPES OF ORDERS GRANTED

Barring Order	**9**
Breach	**1**
Emergency Barring Order	**1**
Interim Barring Orders	**10**
Maintenance	**1**
Protection Orders	**21**
Safety Orders	**11**

84 court cases attended, which was **78** hours with **44** individual clients in court.

GENERAL ACCOMPANIMENT

20 accompaniments for 14 clients

Citizens Information Centre	**1**
Gardai post court	**2**
Housing for homeless assessment	**10**
Social Welfare	**1**
Solicitor	**1**
To bank to obtain statements	**1**
To hotel	**1**
To hospital	**1**
To phone shop	**1**
Transport	**1**

OTHER ASSISTANCE

25 sessions of advocacy to **16** clients

235 hours of counselling to **35** women

3 Clients and **7** children used the Safe House for **8** months

12 Women availed of Women's Aid Legal Fund to support their legal costs

6 Women were referred to the DV Rent Supplement: **3** were awarded, **2** didn't progress and **1** refused

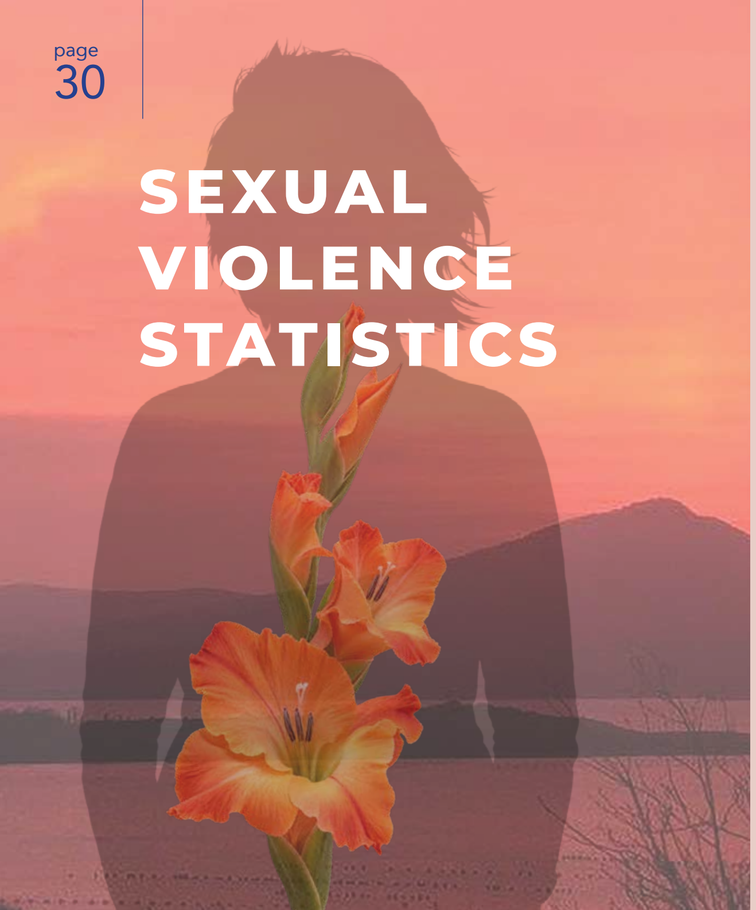
13 Women and **12** children availed of Safe Ireland accommodation fund

- **2** clients helped with rent
- **2** clients New house / removal costs
- **3** clients & **2** children B/B hotel stay 6 nights
- **1** client Hotel stay x 6 nights while waiting refuge
- **1** client helped with camera and lock changes

REFERRALS TO PROFESSIONALS

Addiction Support	**5**
Citizens Information Services	**27**
Community Welfare Officer	**3**
Counsellor	**15**
Court Clerk	**5**
Dept of Social Protection	**3**
Emergency DV Accommodation - incl refuge	**4**
Family Support including FRCs, Treoir etc	**3**
Gardaí / PSU	**15**
Housing Supports	**13**
Legal Support	**32**
Mediation	**3**
Mental Health Services	**1**
Other	**12**
Other DV service	**32**
Samaritans	**1**
Social Work - Child Protection(Notification)	**12**
Social Work – primary care	**2**
Victim Support	**1**





SEXUAL VIOLENCE STATISTICS

we were contacted
571 times

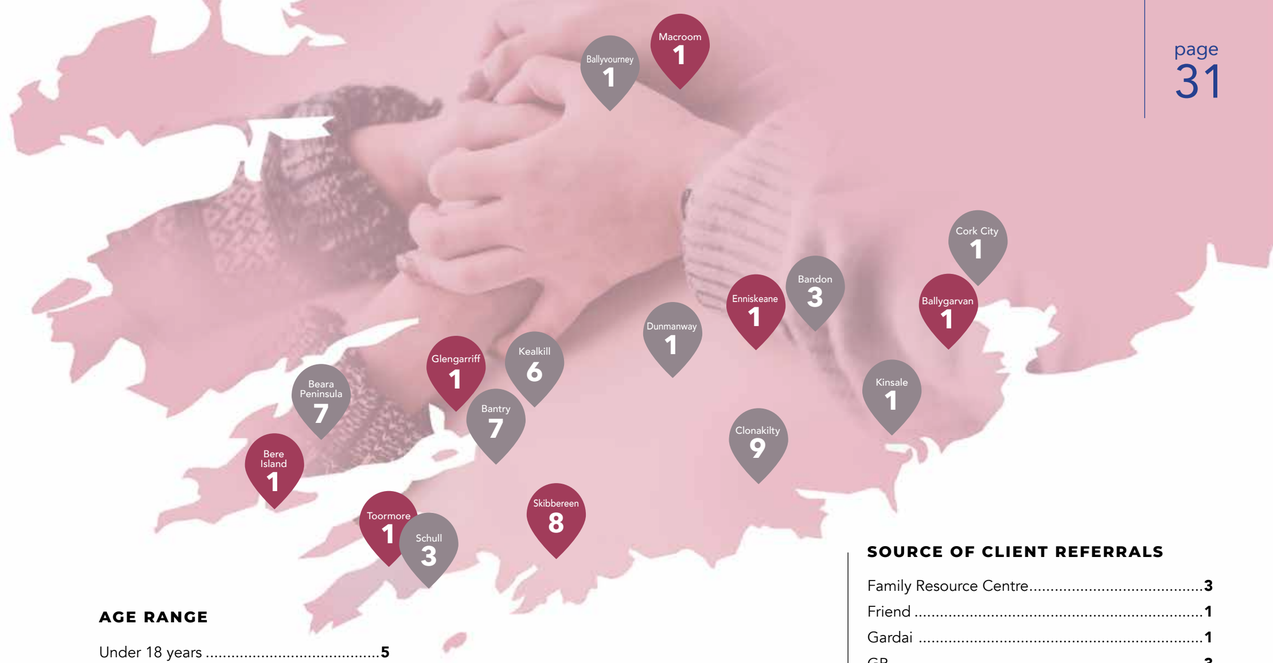
We supported
38
individuals

53 were female
one undisclosed

36 were survivors of sexual abuse

7 were supporters of someone who had experienced abuse

12 were professionals seeking advice



AGE RANGE

Under 18 years	5
Over 18 years	49
Undisclosed	1

NATURE OF INCIDENT

Recent/single incident	20
Historic/complex	35

CLIENT ENGAGEMENT

Face-to-Face Advocacy Support	20
Therapy Appointments	474
Therapy Intake Assessments	26
Waiting List for Therapy	3

SOURCE OF CLIENT REFERRALS

Family Resource Centre	3
Friend	1
Gardai	1
GP	3
Mental Health Social Work	2
Psychotherapist	2
Divisional Protective Services Unit	1
Sexual Assault Treatment Unit	1
Self	31
West Cork Beacon DV services	10

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

West Cork Women Against Violence
Company Limited by Guarantee
Supplementary Information Relating To
The Financial Statements

Detailed Income And Expenditure Account

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

	2025 €	2024 €
Cuan Grant Funding (restricted funds):	**€699,701**	€572,842
Other grant funding (restricted funds):	**€4,222**	€5,000
Women's Aid (restricted funds):	**€9,547**	€9,550
Other restricted Funding:	**€4,125**	€5,237
Donations:	**€14,904**	€11,631
Grant Amortisation:	**€10,314**	€10,535
Total Income:	**€742,813**	€614,795

expenses

	2025	2024
Employee Wages & Pension Costs:	**€561,454**	€411,645
Staff Training & Recruitment:	**€7,874**	€7,266
Board Expenses & Training:	**€396**	€444
Rent, Rates & Insurance:	**€41,168**	€39,467
Light & Heat:	**€7,779**	€8,801
Repairs & Maintenance:	**€8,797**	€9,818
Office Expenses:	**€5,341**	€13,384
Advertising:	**€2,234**	€7,082
IT Costs:	**€18,724**	€17,635
Employee Travel Expenses:	**€17,163**	€12,486
Professional Fees:	**€23,072**	€26,118
Bank Charges:	**€814**	€811

	2025	2024
General & Volunteer Expenses:	**€216**	€296
Client Support & Programme Costs:	**€56,947**	€41,084
Auditors Remuneration:	**€4,305**	€4,305
Depreciation:	**€12,696**	€13,047
Total Expenses:	**€768,980**	€613,689
Miscellaneous Income		
Bank Interest:	**€171**	€172
Net Summary		
Net (Deficit)/Surplus:	(€25,996)	€1,278

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS

At West Cork Beacon, our work is only possible because of the extraordinary commitment, generosity, and support of so many individuals and organisations. As we reflect on 2025, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to our mission of supporting those affected by domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence across West Cork.

To our dedicated staff team, thank you for your professionalism, compassion, and unwavering commitment. To those working behind the scenes, managing administration, finances, governance, communications, and operational supports, your efforts provide the foundation upon which our services are built. Your contribution is invaluable.

To our frontline staff, advocates, court accompaniment workers, therapists, helpline responders, and outreach workers, we are continually inspired by your commitment to providing life-changing support to clients, survivors, and their families. Every day, you bring empathy, expertise, and hope to those who need it most.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for generously giving your time, knowledge, and leadership. Your guidance, governance, and belief in our mission enable West Cork Beacon to continue growing and strengthening its impact throughout the region.

We extend our sincere appreciation to An Garda Síochána, the Community Foundation Ireland, Women's Aid, Tusla, Cork County Council, and our many statutory and community partners. Your collaboration, support, and commitment to addressing domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence help ensure that survivors can access the services and supports they deserve.

To all those who have supported the development and expansion of our Sexual Violence Support Service, thank you for your advocacy, expertise, encouragement, and belief in the importance of accessible specialist support in West Cork. We are particularly grateful to the professionals, community partners, and volunteers who have championed this work and helped strengthen the service throughout the year.

To our colleagues across the domestic and sexual violence sector, thank you for your partnership, collaboration, and willingness to share knowledge and experience. Together, we are creating safer communities and improving outcomes for those affected by abuse and violence.

We extend our sincere appreciation to **Rape Crisis Ireland** for its leadership, expertise, and unwavering commitment to supporting survivors of sexual violence across Ireland. Through training, advocacy, policy development, and the promotion of best practice, Rape Crisis Ireland continues to strengthen the capacity of frontline services and ensure that survivors receive the highest quality of support.

We are deeply grateful to **Safe Ireland** for its tireless advocacy and leadership in addressing domestic violence and coercive control. Safe Ireland's commitment to amplifying the voices of survivors, supporting member organisations, and driving systemic change is invaluable. We greatly value the guidance, resources, and collaborative opportunities it provides to services throughout the country.

We also wish to acknowledge **The Wheel** for the exceptional training, resources, and organisational development supports it provides to the community and voluntary sector. Through its learning programmes, governance guidance, funding supports, and sector leadership, The Wheel has been an important resource in strengthening West Cork Beacon's organisational capacity and supporting our continued growth and development.

To everyone who has donated, fundraised, volunteered, attended events, shared our message, or offered words of encouragement, please know that your support makes a real difference. Every contribution, large or small, strengthens our ability to provide essential services to those who need them most.

Most importantly, we acknowledge the courage and resilience of the survivors who place their trust in us. It is a privilege to support you on your journey, and your strength continues to inspire our work every day.

Finally, we offer our thanks to the team at **Cuan**. Your leadership, guidance, funding, and ongoing commitment to improving services for those affected by domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence across Ireland continue to be instrumental in helping organisations like West Cork Beacon deliver meaningful, survivor-centred support. We are immensely grateful for your partnership and for your commitment to strengthening services and outcomes for survivors nationwide.

To everyone who has played a part in our work during 2025, thank you. Your support, commitment, and belief in our mission make everything we do possible.



Photography: Deirdre Fitzgerald Design: Jenny Dempsey





WEST CORK BEACON

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