

West Cork Women Against Violence Annual Report 2017



**TÚSLA**  
An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency



## Chairperson’s Foreword

West Cork Women Against Violence continues to lead the way in providing an innovative response to Domestic Violence issues in West Cork. It does this through its direct supports to survivors of DV, through working in partnership with relevant organisations and initiatives, networking locally and regionally, and raising awareness of the issue of DV and its devastating impact on individual women and children whose lives are directly affected. WCWAV also aims to challenge attitudes and cultural aspects, which allow DV to continue to exist in our communities.

In our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, we aim to develop and build on work identified over the previous three years, while including new areas of work. We will work to adapt to changes in the DV sector regarding Child and Family services and structures. The recommendations arising from our 2016 Evaluation Survey and Report, ‘Someone to Turn to, Somewhere to Go’ also inform our current work plan.

Priority areas which have been identified include working to diminish the frequency of DV in intimate relationships, and to establish a coordinated and consistent response to the needs of women and children experiencing DV in West Cork.

The rural nature of our location places specific demands on our service delivery and can have a profound impact on the women we support. We engage with some of the most isolated and marginalised women in this largely rural area, including women living in Direct Provision. Their experience informs our practice, and as we respond, we share the learning with rural sister organisations in order to build evidence based best practice guidelines in a spirit of inter-professional learning.

The need for coordinated, accessible services throws up particular challenges in the rural context. We constantly work to ensure that our services are responsive, and respectful of a woman’s circumstances. The organisation has developed strong links with Health and Mental Health services, Social and community services, An Garda Síochána and court services and community and voluntary organisations. We continue to identify and highlight gaps in services, and to work towards equitable outcomes for all women, no matter where they live.

Our organisation will continue to assist other professionals by helping to raise awareness of the types and signs of Domestic Violence in women that they meet in their practice, and to respond to disclosures of DV with appropriate referrals to WCWAV.

In 2018, our work on setting up aftercare support groups for women who have left abusive relationships will be a key development, which we hope will provide additional tools and support for women who are rebuilding their lives and the lives of their children after DV.

WCWAV is working with a number of partners in order to address the chronic lack of safe, emergency accommodation for women experiencing violence in West Cork. We will continue to work towards this important outcome during 2018.

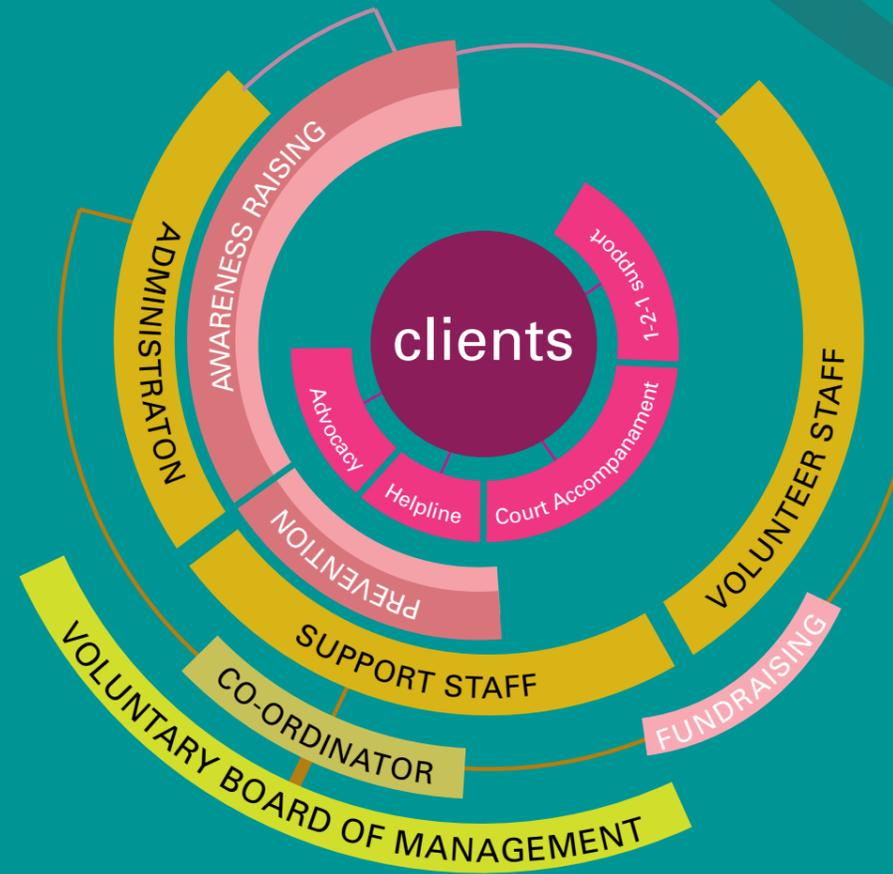
We appreciate the core funding from Tusla, with which we provide our principal services, and welcome any increase in our core budget. We also acknowledge the generosity of financial support from many individuals and agencies, which affirms the work of the project.

I want to thank our many volunteers, and my fellow members of the voluntary Board of Management, whose commitment, skills and expertise continue to enhance the capacity of the organisation in its work. Finally, I want to acknowledge the resilience and strength of the women who seek support from our organisation and who are at the heart of the work of West Cork Women Against Violence.

**Kathleen Harnedy**

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## Board Members

- Kathleen Harnedy - Chairperson
- Kathryn Kingston - Secretary
- Sheila Anne O’Leary - Treasurer
- Allison Aldred
- Anne O’Donovan
- Ann Sullivan
- Brigid Hartnett
- Clíodhna Mulcahy
- Katy Desmond
- Beth Cocker
- Mary Louise Lynch

## Board of Management & Staff

Our project is run by a Voluntary Board of Management (VBOM) comprised of community representatives and activists, partnership organisations, legal, financial and mental health professionals, who give of their time and commitment freely.

WCWAV has a staff of five - one full-time and four 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.

The Board of Management are all volunteers who give of their time, expertise and insights to ensure the development and good governance of the Project. In addition, volunteers help in producing, designing and distributing West Cork Whisper as well as helping out with fundraising and generally making themselves available whenever additional help is needed. Without their dedication and generosity WCWAV would be unable to provide the wide array of activities and services which it currently delivers.

## Philosophy

West Cork Women Against Violence 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 Women Against Violence provide 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.

## Services

WCWAV provide the following services:

- A crisis helpline
- 1-2-1 support and appointments
- Drop-in service
- Outreach service
- Court and other appointment accompaniment
- Counselling programme
- Free quarterly newsletter, The West Cork Whisper
- Awareness-raising and training to community groups, young people and professionals on domestic violence
- Support Group for women who have left DV relationships.

## key events of 2017



# TUSLA

### Expanded Service

2017 was a particularly productive and successful year for West Cork Women Against Violence.

Crucially, we have been able to increase the number of support hours available by recruiting an additional support & development worker and increasing the hours of an existing staff member. **We have gone from 50 support hours per week provided by two Support & Development Workers to three Support Workers supplying a total of 75 hours per week.** This increased capacity allows us to support more clients and extend our court accompaniment service. Court accompaniment is a time-consuming activity for our service but highly necessary. We have also received increased funding from Tusla for our counselling service and so we no longer have a waiting list as **all of the women in need of counselling supports in 2017 had access to a counsellor.**

With extra service provision comes extra administration and here too we were able to increase the admin hours from 20 to 25 hours per week.

### Tusla Additional Funding

Much of the increases in our service provision are due to increased funding from Tusla to West Cork Women Against Violence. Our Board and Co-ordinator have been making the case over the last two years, that with the number of women contacting the service rising every year, we needed to expand provision and secure additional support hours. WCWAV was able to show evidence that our service is good value for money. Consequently, when additional funding became available to Tusla, WCWAV was provided with the additional resources. The new funding provides for more support & development hours, extended counselling services and will allow us to re-institute and develop awareness raising to schools and other organisations.



## Courts Service

WCWAV was particularly assisted by the response of the courts service, who have in the past allocated funds from the court 'poorbox' to our service when our resources were low. More recently, some of those convicted of minor offences in the West Cork District Courts have been instructed to pay their fines directly to West Cork Women Against Violence. This has been of immense value to our service and ensured that unlike in previous years, we did not reach a situation where an application to the poorbox became necessary.

*Pictured: Michael Daly, son of Mary Daly, Kathleen Harnedy, Chairperson WCWAV, Sean O'Luasa, Fund Co-ordinator & Trustee, Charles Daly, Trustee Mary Daly Fund, Marie Mulholland, Co-ordinator WCWAV.*



## Mary Daly Fund

The late Mary Daly was the first wife of Charles U. Daly of the USA whose love of Bantry and West Cork saw them establish a holiday home here many years ago. After her death, her family set up a small charitable fund in her name. In 2017, having assisted a number of local Bantry charities, it was decided to close the fund and to seek to distribute the remaining capital to a worthy cause in the area. West Cork Women Against Violence was asked to meet with the steering group of the Fund and presented documentation of its work and the services it provided. It was with unreserved delight and gratitude that our organisation became the recipient of \$100,000/€86,000 from the fund and in the process became acquainted with the wide-ranging work of Charles Daly who throughout his life has supported community and charitable initiatives in Ireland and of his late wife, Mary Daly's passion to elevate the plight of women and children struggling for equality.



## Safe Housing

The additional monies brought in by independent fundraising throughout the year have permitted WCWAV to commence a longer-term strategy around safe emergency accommodation in West Cork. With the help of monies from the Mary Daly Fund, a Safe House Working Group has been set up to explore the various options to making such a project viable.

For women and children trying to escape domestic abuse in West Cork, their options have been limited by the absence of any safe emergency housing alternative. The nearest refuge is in Cork City and unfortunately it is almost continuously full. For some time, WCWAV have wanted to address this situation, now with the help of the Mary Daly Fund we can begin to explore possible options in providing safe housing. Research will be undertaken with the funds to further this aim and some of the monies will also be used to provide future support to families experiencing domestic abuse who may require additional services to lift them from homelessness to more long-term housing and safety. This is a long-term plan which may take several years to bring to fruition but for the first time we have adequate resources to investigate the potential and seek out partners willing to work with us on this initiative.



## Protective Services Unit

In the summer of 2017, the new Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan of the West Cork Garda Division, invited a range of organisations from business, farming and community to work with him in implementing the objectives of the new National Plan on Policing. One of the recommendations of that Plan is the establishment of Protective Services Units. These Units have specially trained personnel to investigate, interview and provide support to victims of sexual, domestic and child abuse including crimes like sexual exploitation and trafficking. WCWAV have been in full support of the West Cork Garda Division efforts to have such a Unit located in our region. Commitment from the senior management at West Cork Garda has been demonstrated by the recruitment and training of specific personnel to staff the Unit and WCWAV will continue to support the development of the Unit both professionally and publicly. At the end of 2017, all of the actions required to locate a Protective Services Unit in West Cork had been taken locally and the resources from central government to provide accommodation for the work of the Unit had been requested.



## West Cork Fit- Up Festival

Our service was delighted to be the designated charity of 2017 West Cork Fit-Up Festival. This four-week Festival which brings some of the best of Irish theatre directly to the villages and islands of West Cork is an extremely popular and not to be missed event on the summer schedule. Each year the Festival identifies a charity and invites its audiences to put something in the collection buckets after every performance in places like Ballydehob, Kilcrohane, Glengariff, Whiddy Island, Heir island and further afield. Having thoroughly been entertained in some of the most stunning settings that West Cork has to offer, audiences donated a total sum of €2075.69. West Cork Women Against Violence would like to thank West Cork Fit- Up Festival for their support and the generosity of their audiences.



## Seminar on Impact of DV on Children

Towards the end of 2017, West Cork Women Against Violence invited Professor Stephanie Holt of Trinity University, Dublin to give a seminar for interested professionals and individuals on her work with children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse in their homes. The seminar held in December at the Maritime Hotel, Bantry was attended by over 70 people and every statutory agency in West Cork with a role to play in supporting children and families was in attendance. Professor Holt who has a social work background is the leading academic in Ireland researching, recording and listening to children's voices who speak of their feelings and experiences of living with domestic abuse. Professor Holt's work is informing social services, health and mental health services, Garda Síochána, children's rights advocacy and the work of the domestic and sexual violence sector. Her research is powerful because she lets the voices of the children speak directly. The response to the seminar was so encouraging that WCWAV intends to have Professor Holt visit with us again later in 2018.



## Other activities and involvements

Our first three year Strategic Plan drew to a close this year. In producing our new Strategic Plan 2017-2020 we have taken on many of the recommendations highlighted in our 2016 Evaluation Report- Someone To Turn To, Somewhere To Go in which women who use the service and professional workers who seek our support and expertise gave feedback about the service. Our Strategic Plan 2017-2020 focuses on extending the service, strengthening relations with other organisations to provide a holistic service and developing work on a Safe Housing initiative for women and children who need a place of safety.

The WCWAV Co-ordinator represents our service at the West Cork Child & Family Support Network. During the year, she along with 3 other colleagues from the CFSN helped to develop a survey to identify gaps in services for children and young people in West Cork. This survey and the co-operation which member organisations of the CFSN has provided will feed into a County-wide

Survey and Plan for Children & Young People which will be used to identify actions in response to their needs.

A major needs analysis project (NAPS) funded and supported by TUSLA looking at the future development of domestic and sexual violence supports in Cork began its work over the course of 2017. As a member of the Needs Analysis Advisory Group overseeing the project, WCWAV invested time and staff resources to the initiative, also working with a number of colleagues from other services to oversee the writing up of the research as a member of the Editorial group. This important Tusla- backed research will help to map a course for better, more accessible and more effective supports and services to those who experience domestic and/or sexual abuse in the Cork region.

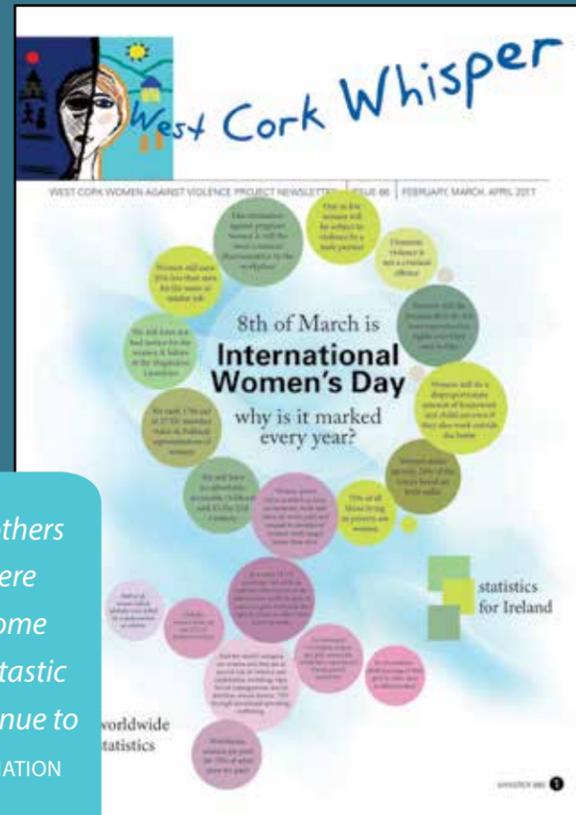
We greatly value the WCW. Thank you for your faithfulness to putting out the publication over the years. Staff and service users alike read it.

ADAPT DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LIMERICK

# whisper

There were three issues of the West Cork Whisper in 2017.

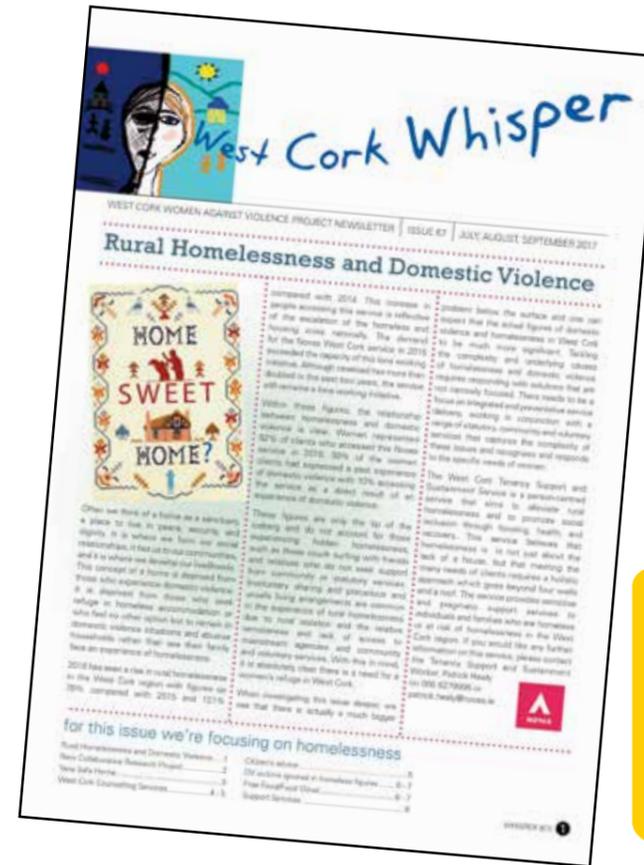
We read it and have it passed around to others in the centre. We feel that when its' out there freely to read, it may be reaching out to some person/s. Your project has done some fantastic work over the years and long may it continue to do so. NCCWN/SOUTHWEST KERRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



## Issue 66

Issue 66 discussed how any woman, from any walk of life can suffer abuse. We looked at the supports available for disabled, travelling, migrant and LGBT women.

Thank you for sending us your publication of WCW every season, we are very grateful for this over the years, and enjoy the articles that you produce on and about Domestic Violence. RAPE CRISIS AND SEXUAL ABUSE COUNSELLING CENTRE. SLIGO, LEITRIM & WEST CAVAN



## Issue 67

Issue 67 focussed on homelessness, the housing crises and available counselling services for those who find themselves in this situation.



## Issue 68

Issue 68 looked at supports for women parenting alone and the related supports for children who have witnessed and/or suffered domestic violence.

Many thanks for forwarding the West Cork Whisperer. It is a very informative, up to date, well-presented newsletter and we find it a useful resource in our work with FRCs in the area. WEST TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CLG

## statistics 2017

181 individual clients were supported in 2017

There were 1,387 instances of contact  
151 of these were new clients.  
30 were repeat clients

27 clients phoned about friends or family



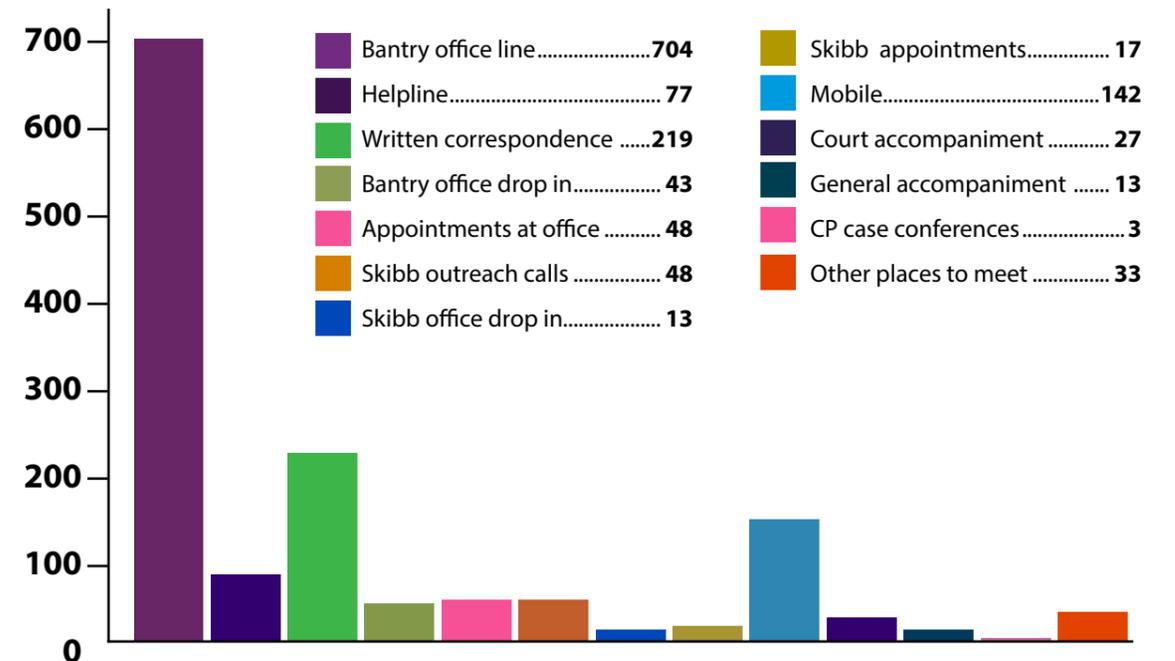
### Location and number of contacts

The majority of contacts came from West Cork. Two were from other countries.

We also received a number of contacts from the following regions:

Limerick.....2 Fermoy.....1 Cavan.....1 Wexford.....1 Unknown.....34

### How contact is made



### Age Range of Clients

18 to 25	14
26 to 30	7
31 to 45	28
61 to 70	18
70 +	2
Unknown	87

### Race/ethnicity

White	101
Asian	2
African	2
Mixed race	1
Traveller	2
Unknown	46

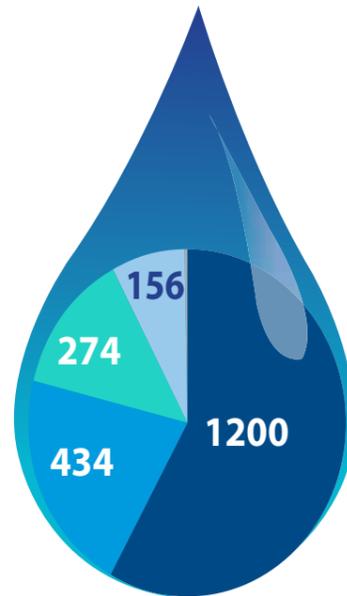
### Legal status

Irish Citizen	68
Other EU citizen	10
Non- EU Migrant	20
Asylum seeker /Refugee	3
Unknown	53

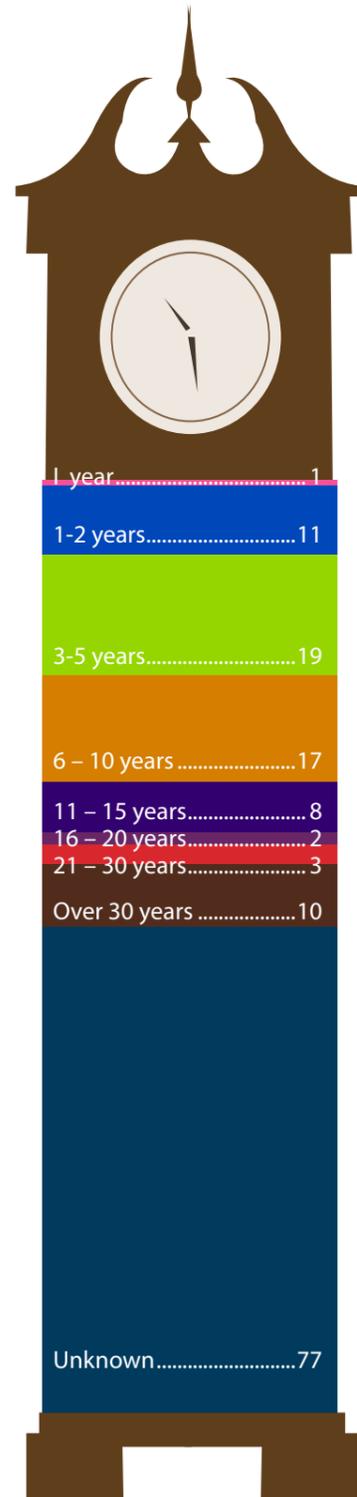
### Types of abuse (per contact)

Many women experience more than one type of abuse

Emotional	1200
Physical	434
Financial	274
Sexual	156



### Duration of abuse

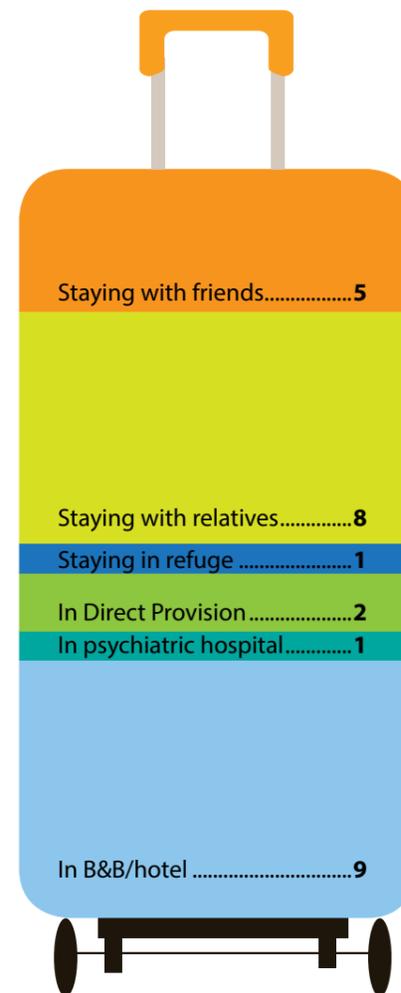


### Children



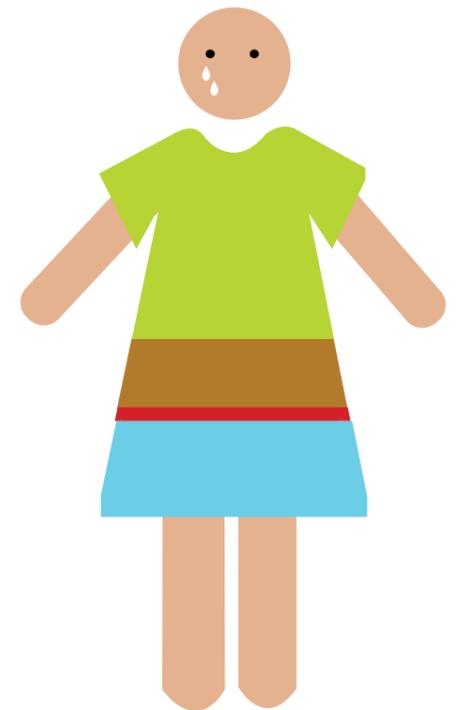
### Homelessness

26 clients with 18 children



### Other issues presenting

Mental health	31
Suicidal ideation	10
Substance use issues	2
Disability	14



### Advocacy contacts 26

Court clerk	3
CWO	6
Social Welfare	1
Legal Aid	5
Housing Dept	7
Gardai	2
St Vincent de Paul	1
Coisceim	1

### Child protection

Child protection discussions	7
Child protection referrals	6

### Sources of Self Referral

Self.....	44
Unknown.....	31
Friends.....	23
Family.....	20
Brochure.....	3
Website.....	1

### Professional referrals from

*some had two professional referrals prior to contact*

Citizens Information Services.....	11
Novas.....	11
Gardai.....	8
Child Protection Social Worker.....	8
Other DV Service.....	5
YANA.....	1
OSS.....	4
WA.....	1
Counsellor.....	5
Court Clerk.....	3
Family Resource Centres.....	3
Mental Health Nurse.....	3
Social Worker CUMH.....	2
GP.....	2
West Cork Travellers Centre.....	2
Drug & Alcohol Services.....	2
Mental Health Social Worker.....	2
Hospital Social Worker.....	2
Solicitor.....	2
National Learning Network.....	1
Refuge.....	1
CAMHS.....	1
TD.....	1

### General accompaniment

13 requests received and completed



### One to one sessions

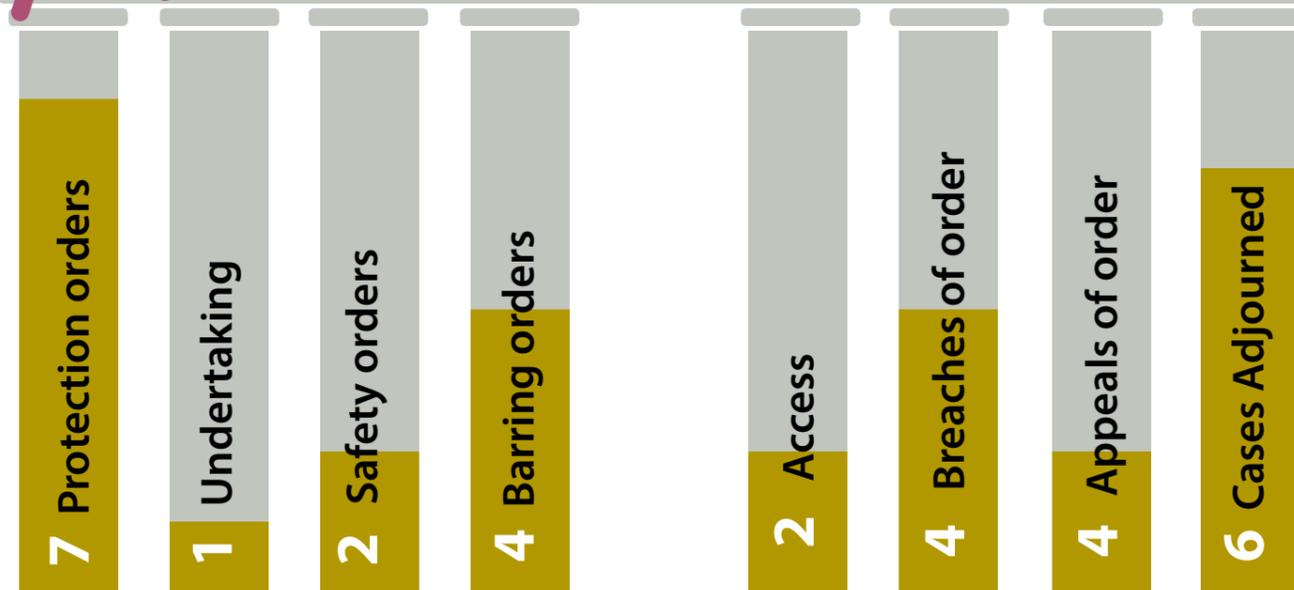
139 one to one sessions were undertaken



Base.....	91
Skibb.....	28
Other.....	20
Café.....	14
B&B.....	2
Client House.....	3
Primary Care.....	1

### Court accompaniment

33 court accompaniments requests received  
27 completed



Orders granted

### Referrals to

Counsellor.....	54
Solicitor.....	35
Garda.....	25
Community Welfare Officer.....	23
Court Clerk.....	20
Free Legal Advice Centre.....	18
Housing.....	17
Legal Aid.....	14
Child Protection Social Worker.....	12
Citizens Information Services.....	12
Other DV.....	11
GP.....	10
Homeless Persons Unit.....	9
Drug & Alcohol Services.....	8
NOVAS.....	8
Refuge.....	7
Mediation.....	7
Dept Social Protection.....	5
Family Resource Centres.....	4
Embassy.....	4 (3 clients)
Elder Abuse Social Worker.....	3
Child Psychology.....	3
WCCSS.....	3
Sexual Violence Centre.....	3
Mental Health Services.....	3
Education Welfare Officer.....	2
Hospital.....	2
MABS.....	2
Society St Vincent de Paul.....	2
Couple counselling.....	1
Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime.....	1

## Finance 2017

The following has been taken from:

West Cork Women Against Violence Ltd  
(a company limited by guarantee without a share capital)  
supplementary information relating to the financial statements  
detailed income and expenditure account  
for the year ended 31st December 2017

income	2017 €	2016 €
Tusla core funding	213,931	191,310
Other grant funding	91,319	-
Other income	12,655	5,465
	<b>317,905</b>	196,775

## expenses

	2017 €	2016 €
Wages & salaries	129,381	120,193
Social welfare costs	13,439	12,383
Staff defined contribution pension costs	9,064	8,334
Staff training and support	1,600	1,333
Board expenses and training	933	327
Rent & rates	17,280	17,333
Insurance	1,478	1,468
Light and heat	1,687	1,757
Repairs & maintenance	2,536	1,569
Office expenses	4,019	4,386
Advertising	1,547	1,257
Telephone	3,822	3,515
Computer costs	1,427	845
Staff travel expenses	5,573	6,489
Professional fees	1,230	1,230
Bank charges	286	315
Volunteer expenses	45	602
Client support expenses	3,872	4,188
Relief worker	-	3,318
Other programme costs	-	3,990
Subscriptions	280	130
Auditor's remuneration	1,169	1,181
Depreciation	462	744
	<b>201,609</b>	196,887
Net surplus/(deficit)	<b>116,269</b>	(112)



### January

Child & Family Support Network (CFSN) (Dunmanway)  
 Skibbereen Community and Family Resource Centre Board (Skibbereen)  
 Cultural Awareness Training at West Cork Traveller Centre (Clonakilty)  
 Citizens Information Services (CIS) Board (Bantry)

### February

CFSN (Bantry)  
 In Safe Hands Conference, YANA (Mallow)

### March

CIS Board (Bantry)  
 CFSN (Dunmanway)  
 International Women's Day at Áras an Uachtaráin (Dublin)  
 Service Level Agreement Review, Tusla  
 Tusla Needs Analysis Project (NAPS) Advisory Group (Cork)  
 Child & Family Support Network (CFSN) Research Group

### April

Awareness Raising talk given to women on Sheepshead (Bantry)  
 Homelessness Forum (Clonakilty)  
 West Cork Traveller Centre (WCTC) Women's Group discussion (Clonakilty)  
 Citizens Information Services (Dublin)  
 WCTC Women's Group (Bantry)  
 CFSN (Dunmanway)  
 Stakeholders Consultation, West Cork Garda Division (Bandon)

### May

WCTC Women's Group (Bantry)  
 Tusla NAPS Advisory Group (Cork) - two meetings  
 CFSN Survey Group (Bantry)  
 West Cork Counselling Support Services (WCCSS) Board (Dunmanway)  
 CIS AGM (Bantry)  
 Skibbereen Community and Family Resource Centre Board (Skibbereen)  
 West Cork Development Partnership (Clonakilty)  
 C103 Radio Interview given

### June

WCTC Women's Group (Bantry)  
 CFSN (Dunmanway)  
 WCWAV AGM  
 CIS Board (Bantry)  
 Skibbereen Community and Family Resource Centre Board (Skibbereen)  
 Parenting & Domestic Violence – SDWs and Mental Health Team  
 Tusla NAPS Advisory Group (Cork)

### July

DV Service Users Dialogue Day (Tusla Dublin)  
 WCCSS Board  
 Safe Ireland - Understanding Coercive Control Conference (Dublin)  
 Tusla NAPS Advisory Group (Cork)  
 CIS Board (Macroom)  
 Fit Up Theatre Festival –  
 Fundraising at various locations around West Cork

### August

Stakeholders Consultation, West Cork Garda Division (Bandon)  
 Consultation support advice re dissertation given.  
 Mary Daly Trustees  
 CFSN (Dunmanway)  
 Official Announcement of Mary Daly Fund Donation (Bantry)

### September

CIS Board (Bantry)  
 Employment Law Seminar (Bantry)  
 Database Training, Safe Ireland (Athlone)  
 Homelessness Forum (Clonakilty)  
 Novas Tenancy Support & Sustainment Coordinator

### October

Skibbereen Community and Family Resource Centre Staff Liaison (Skibbereen)  
 CIS Board (Dunmanway)  
 CFSN (Dunmanway)  
 Sacred Heart Secondary School Awareness Training (Clonakilty)  
 Tusla Commissioning (Dunmanway)

### November

Skibbereen Community and Family Resource Centre Staff Board (Skibbereen)  
 CIS Emergency Board (Bantry)  
 Finance for Non-Financial Managers training (Cork)  
 Stakeholders Consultation, West Cork Garda Division (Bandon)  
 FGM Seminar (Cork)

### December

CIS Board (Bantry)  
 CFSN (Dunmanway)  
 Stephanie Holt Seminar (Bantry)  
 Tusla SLA Review (Bantry)  
 NAPS Editorial Group (Cork)



## Our thanks

West Cork Women Against Violence wish to thank the following people for their support, assistance, co-operation and goodwill throughout the year:

Our colleagues in West Cork Citizens Information Services who have supported many of our clients with vital information and advice with efficiency and sensitivity;

Those members of the Garda Síochána in West Cork who have referred women to our services and given a caring response to women in violent situations;

Our colleagues in Dunmanway, Skibbereen, Bandon and Castletownbere Family and Community Resource Centres who are stalwart supporters of the work of WCWAV and who provide invaluable complementary services to many of our clients and their children;

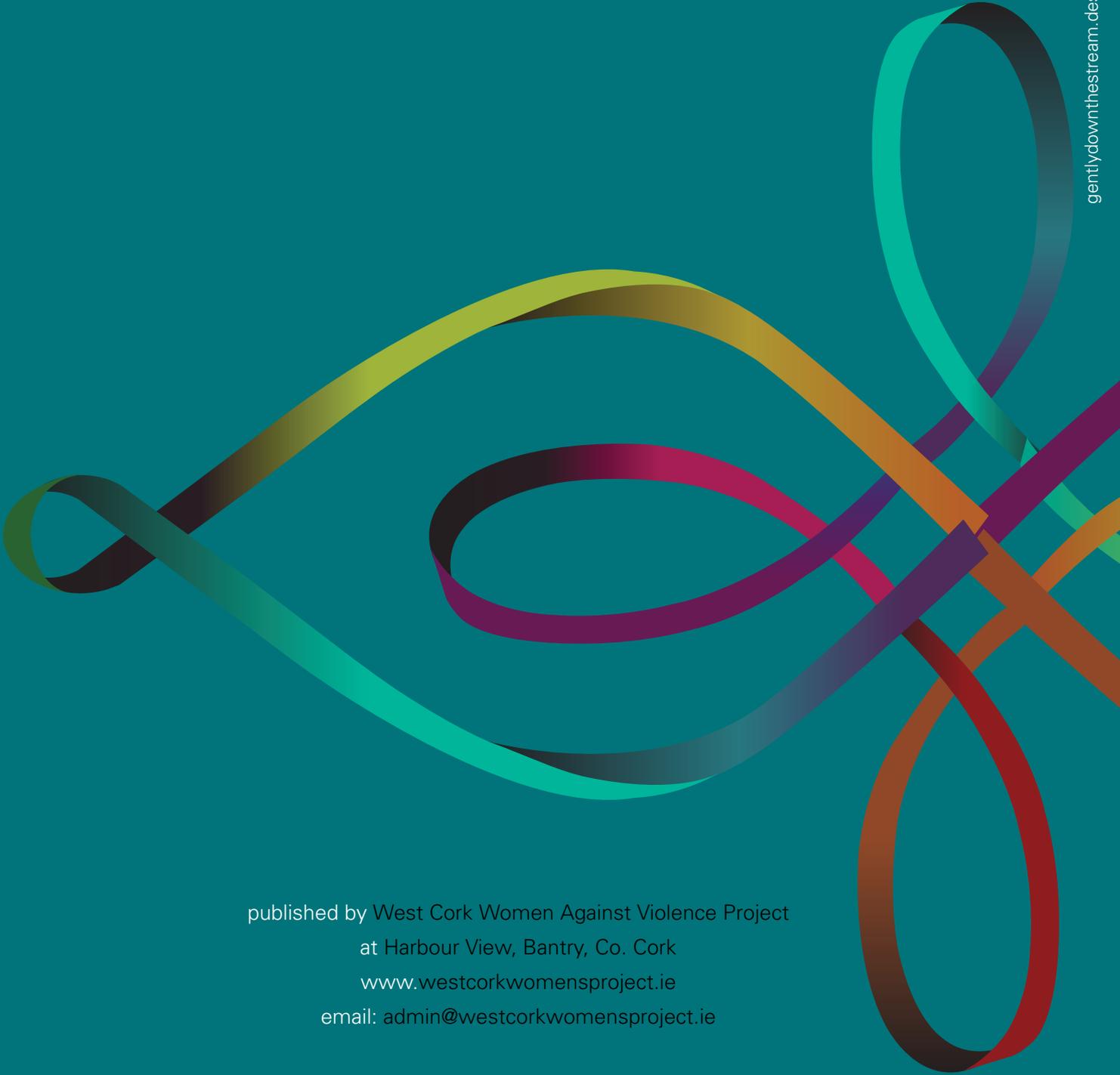
The many professional staff in frontline agencies who work with WCWAV to develop better responses and co-operation between our various services;

The counsellors who provide a subsidised service to our clients and are an essential part of their recovery;

The Tusla Child and Family Agency for their continued professional and financial support;

All of our volunteers in every capacity for your dedication and commitment- to all of you our profound thanks and deepest appreciation.

Marie Mulholland, Co-ordinator



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