

Association for Agency-based Counselling & Psychotherapy in Ireland



AACPI

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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Foreword from our Vice-Chair

Since March 2020, how often have we heard or spoke the words *“this has been an incredible year, a year like no other”*. It was also a year of opportunities, of creativity, of challenges and of resilience. All AACPI members can identify with these phrases as they were, like others, in the eye of the storm. When the lockdown was announced in March 2020, they put their shoulder to the wheel and turned everything around to support their clients first I would suggest, and the team and volunteers second. I say this because this is what we do. In a few short weeks our agencies moved their services online & were supporting their clients.

Working with clients remotely meant re-imagining and re-assessing how we work to ensure our staff and clients were confident & felt safe in working remotely. Policies and guidelines around remote working, storage and access to files and confidentiality had to be adapted and re-written in a short time.

Our staff had to re-train and learn about new platforms. We had to ensure everyone had safe devices where we could provide a confidential supportive space to our clients. Following all HSE updates and guidance meant more pressure and paperwork for our already over-stretched services. **Overnight, most of our services saw a reduction of income from reduced counselling fees, course fees or fundraising events.**

No words can capture the amount of work, hours, and time given from our services last year.

Personally, I never worked as hard, and I believe I am representing all members when I say that.

And yet, throughout this seemingly insurmountable set of challenges, our services stayed open throughout 2020. We saw a marginal drop in new clients engaging with our services, much of which can be attributed to the uncertainty people felt around accessing support when in lockdown.

Though 2020 was challenging, as a sector, we have been fire-fighting for many years. Since 2011, almost 50% of our funding has been cut. There has been no restoration, and yet we continue. We consistently demonstrate value for money. It is difficult to watch on as Government invest in state-run counselling, where clients must get a referral from their GP, or have a medical card, and then wait for long periods before they can meet a counsellor.

In 2020, nearly 50% of our clients self-referred and our average waiting list was 29 days. However, for most of our services, if a person presents as high-risk they will be supported immediately. Our model meets peoples' needs; we meet people where they're at. Yet, money is being poured into new systems when the existing ones are under-funded. We ask that, instead of re-inventing the wheel,

re-invest in the services like those delivered by our members.

In 2020, we adapted in a crisis. We delivered 15,654 online and remote counselling sessions. Our performance as a sector in 2020 proves our worth. Some years ago, Tusla's Service Level Agreements moved to an annual agreement, where previously they were 3 - 5 years. This change creates insecurity within the sector and increases the administrative burden on our agencies as well as the difficulty of planning & maintaining staff.

We in the AACPI want to work to create security and stability for our sector, our staff, volunteers, and our clients.

Community based counselling services have played a part in our communities throughout this country for many years. We are woven into the fabric of every community we are based in. The role we play in creating accessible and affordable services in Ireland cannot be understated. Many, if not all of our services have a sliding scale for counselling fees and our services provide a percentage of their counselling free to those who cannot afford to pay.

It is our belief that a person should be able to access counselling based on their need, not their ability to pay

Foreword from our Vice-Chair

In July 2020, we in AACPI bid farewell to Ger Matthews, National Director. Ger was our Director for seven years and she was formative. I want to thank her for her work and commitment during that time. On behalf of us all I wish her well in her new role.

We recruited a new National Coordinator in 2020 and that is Sarah Jane Hennelly. She will bring AACPI to new places with her energy, passion, interest, and skill set. We all welcome her and look forward to working with her for many years to come.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Marian Keigher, who recently resigned from our Board. Marian served on the Board for five years, and as chairperson for three. She had a drive and passion like no other. She believed in AACPI, its purpose and its mission. She had a genuine interest and care for the people that we support in our communities. We will miss her, and I thank her sincerely for all that she brought to AACPI. I wish her well in her new post and in the future.

We also welcomed Geoffrey Mc Carthy, CEO of Beacon of Light Counselling Centre, onto the Board in 2020. He is joining us with a broad range of experience across different sectors.

We welcome the support from Tusla in 2020, particularly with capacity building and training. This has given members an opportunity to engage in up-to-date training that adds value to their services and to become more skilled in the areas of online and remote counselling. Tusla also

supported our facilitated “Reflective Space” so we could build a supportive space for one another and share our experience of working through the pandemic.

AACPI looks forward with renewed energy and enthusiasm to the year ahead. **We want to build on the past, we want to inform people about our members and our excellent services.** We are going to continue to increase our membership, build our regional networks, and develop our collective national voice.

To our member agencies - no words can thank you enough for the work that you achieved in 2020. I ask you to extend that thanks to all the staff in your service.

I would like to thank Michelle McCafferty who does tremendous work on our database & governance.

I want to thank Deirdre Roche and Eifion Williams from Tusla, who are always positive about the work that we do. Your support is appreciated and invaluable.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees who have given above and beyond to AACPI this year. All the changes plus the pandemic created a lot of extra work which was completed. Your commitment, energy, leadership and good humour has been inspirational.

Máire Ní Dhomhnaill

Máire Ní Dhomhnaill
Vice-Chair



Who we are

The AACPI represents and supports a national network of professional low-cost counselling services. We were established in 2014 and we are a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. We are the only national representative organisation for agency-based counselling & psychotherapy in Ireland.

The AACPI is a strategic partner of Tusla and a member of the Tusla Commissioning Advisory Group.

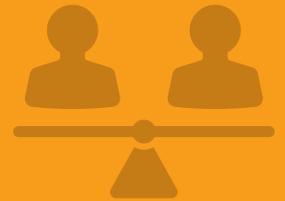
Our mission

To promote the value of community and agency-based counselling & psychotherapy in Ireland and to continue to build on our standards of excellence in clinical practice and corporate governance.



Our values

Accessibility, inclusivity, and transparency in affordable psychotherapeutic supports in all communities across Ireland.



Our core principles

- That counselling & psychotherapy is best practiced within an agency-based professional community committed to developing centres of excellence.
- That counselling & psychotherapy is provided on a community-based and not-for-profit basis regardless of client's social, cultural, economic or domestic disadvantage.
- That member agencies have clear 'Clinical' and 'Corporate Governance' accountability structures.
- That member agencies are committed to on-going organisational development.
- That member agencies are supportive of each other and collaborate with each other in the development of standards within the sector.
- That member agencies have on-site systems of record-keeping & data collection; and continuous quality development.
- That member agencies are community-based and strive to be of benefit to these communities within the limits of their competency.

What we do

Our members deliver affordable and accessible counselling and psychotherapy to communities across Ireland. **Our professional counsellors and psychotherapists work with individuals, groups, adults, adolescents, children, families, and couples**, and they offer affordable child, adolescent, play and family therapy.

Our members primarily deliver general counselling services however **they work with a variety of presenting issues** and sometimes they do support clients around risk, self-harm, and suicide.

Our member agencies deliver therapy to some of the most marginalised and excluded people in our society and operate primarily in disadvantaged and rural communities. **Our agencies work to identify the needs of their community and adjust their service to meet those needs.** Our agencies have excellent insight into wider systemic issues such as poverty, marginalisation and lack of access to health care.

Our member agencies operate from an ethos that promotes equality, diversity and aims to deliver social justice. All of our members are non-denominational.

Our clients

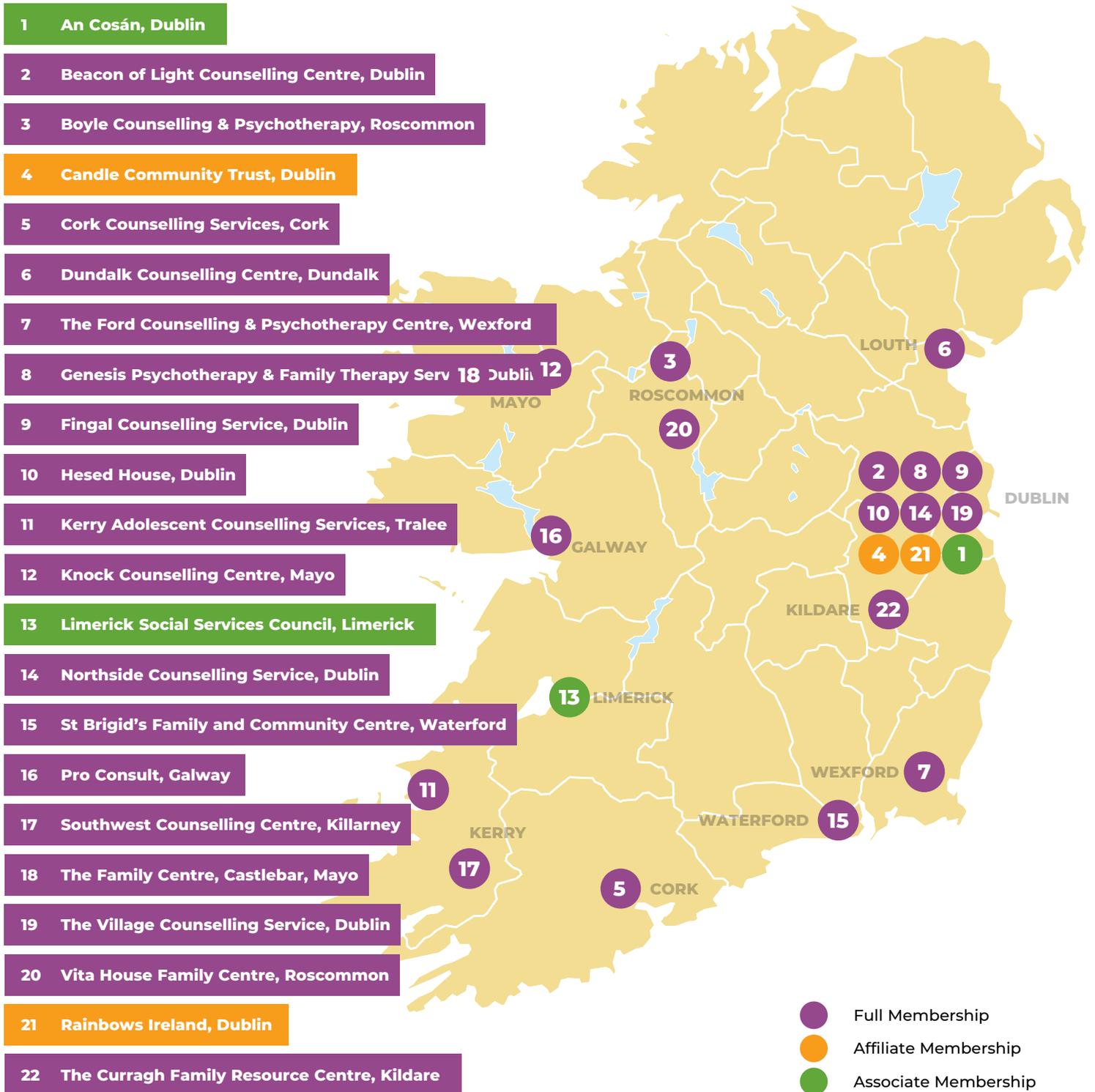
Some of our member agencies have been established in their communities for almost 40 years. Because of this, many have well established interagency relationships with GPs, Tusla, Gardaí, Social Workers, solicitors, local community groups and most importantly with the community where they have built trust. **Though the majority of our clients are self-referred, we receive a high volume of referrals from GPs, Tusla, HSE, Schools and community groups.**



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Membership 2020



Thank You!

We would like to thank and commend our member agencies for their resilience, professionalism, and adaptability throughout 2020. We are proud to support and represent such a vibrant and diverse range of services from across Ireland.



National Coordinator's Report

I am delighted to formally introduce myself as your new National Coordinator.

I would like to start off by thanking Ger Matthews, who stood down as National Director in July of 2020. I commend her years of commitment to AACPI, developing our policies and procedures, growing our membership, building our database, and advancing our overall ethos and capacity. Her work gives us a strong foundation to build on.

I am very proud to be working in and for this sector. While there has been much focus on mental health in recent times, very little has changed in terms of funding or major reform. For many years, AACPI members have met a need in mental health in Ireland. We are accessible and affordable, locally based and embedded in our communities. **In 2020, almost 400 of our new clients were referred to us by a family member or a friend.** Accessing mental health supports can be daunting for people and so, the role of our services cannot be understated.

Our data from 2020 shows the resilience of our sector. **The majority of our 21 members remained open throughout the year, maintaining their services by moving to remote and online counselling.** This sea-change resulted in a decline in new clients engaging with our services. Based on

feedback from agencies, there are a multitude of reasons for this. Many clients did not feel comfortable meeting a counsellor remotely, or they did not have the private space or suitable device to do so. Others were unsure about engaging with therapy for the first time during lockdown, and with this, **many of our members expect to see a dramatic increase in new clients seeking therapeutic supports in 2021.**

The AACPI represents a professional group of highly trained and interconnected community counselling agencies, many of whom have been working with families and communities for decades. While our sector is diverse and varied, we share the same challenges.

Our sector's funding has been cut by almost 50% since 2011. There has been no restoration, and this has had an enormous impact on the overall well-being of our sector. Our managers, Directors and CEOs have experienced burn out, and it is becoming harder and harder to plan due to shorter funding contracts. Our therapists who study, train and work for several years to become qualified, find themselves in an increasingly precarious sector. Many are underemployed or working short-term contracts. It is the mission of AACPI to achieve greater recognition for the

professionalism and value our therapists and staff give to communities across Ireland.

AACPI member agencies consistently demonstrate value for money. **Our therapy hours cost the state 1/3 of the cost of statutory services.** In 2018, the cost to our member organisations to provide 72,815 hours of therapy was 2.8 million but only 1.5 million funding was provided by Tusla. If statutory services were to provide this number of therapy hours, it would cost over 5 million.

Regardless of our track record in communities, the onus is on us to demonstrate our value, and to find the right channels to positively influence our political environment.

In the year ahead, I look forward to developing our shared mission and goals as an Association. **Our collective identity and shared objectives will be crucial for us to build our profile and brand into the future.**

In the summer of 2021, we will engage in the Tusla budget estimates process, further building on our strategic partnership with the Agency. In the Autumn, we will advocate for our sector through the Pre-Budget Submissions process, and through this process I hope we can continue to build our relationships with policy-

makers, funders, allied-organisations and the public.

Towards the end of 2021, we will begin work on our Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025. I hope this process will bring us together as an Association and give us an ambitious and exciting focus for the years ahead.

Today, **I am proud to present our newly re-designed Annual Report for 2020.** I hope it duly reflects the incredible work done by our members in what was a challenging year.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board and Database and Finance Consultant Michelle McCafferty for their support and for giving me such a thorough induction despite the challenges of remote working. I would also like to thank the many members who have reached out to me with their kind words and their insight. **I look forward to growing the AACPI with you all.**

Sarah Jane Hennelly

Sarah Jane Hennelly
National Coordinator



2020 at a glance

AACPI Members:

Delivered

57,790

Face to Face Therapy sessions countrywide



Met

4,382

new clients



Delivered

15,654

Phone and remote (online) therapy sessions



1,927

Clients self-referred to our services



399

Clients were referred by a friend or family member



516

Clients were referred by their GP



29 DAY DROP

in waiting lists in 2020



5%

Increase in child protection cases



2%

Increase in clients under 21 years of age



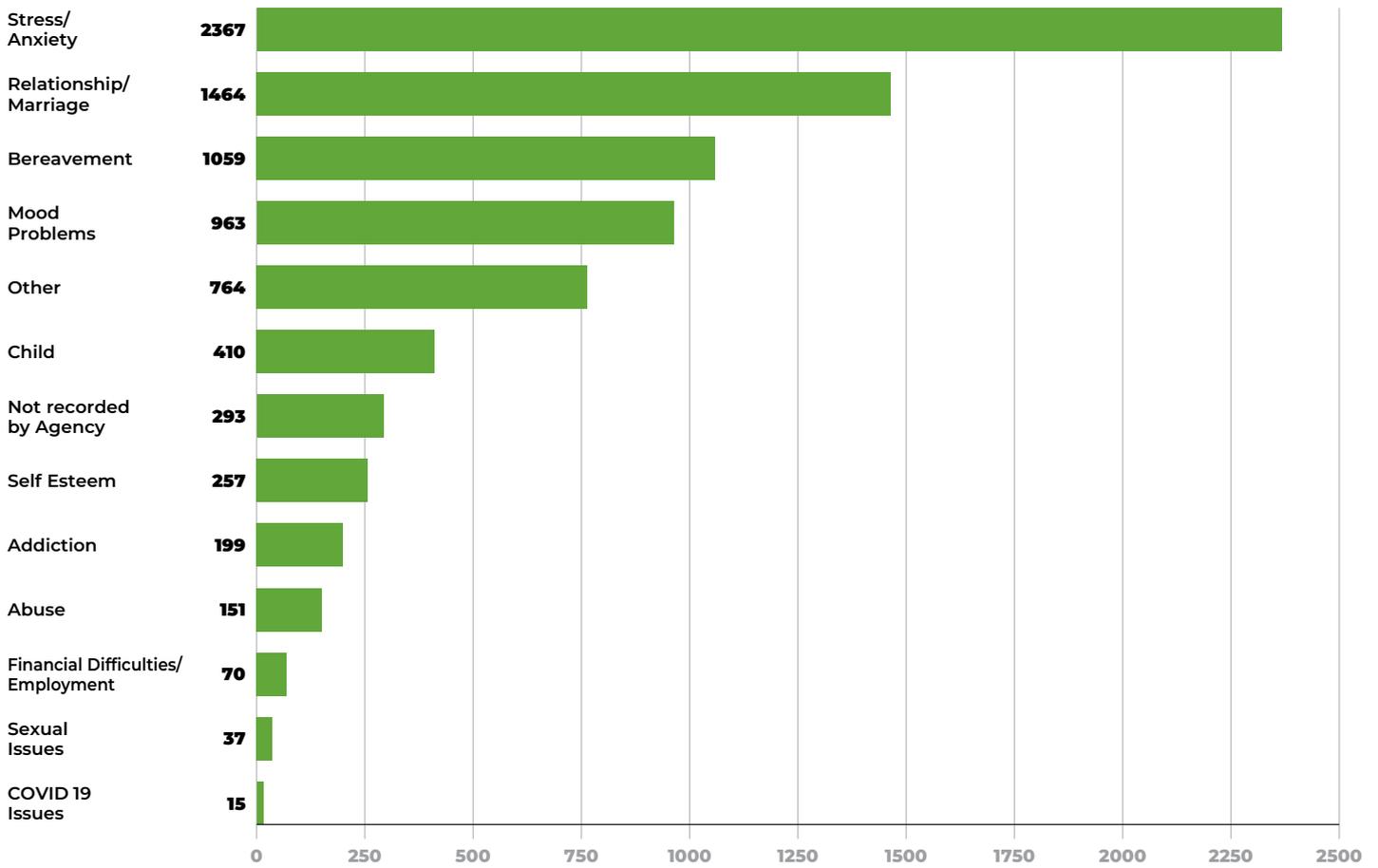
2%

Decrease in male clients

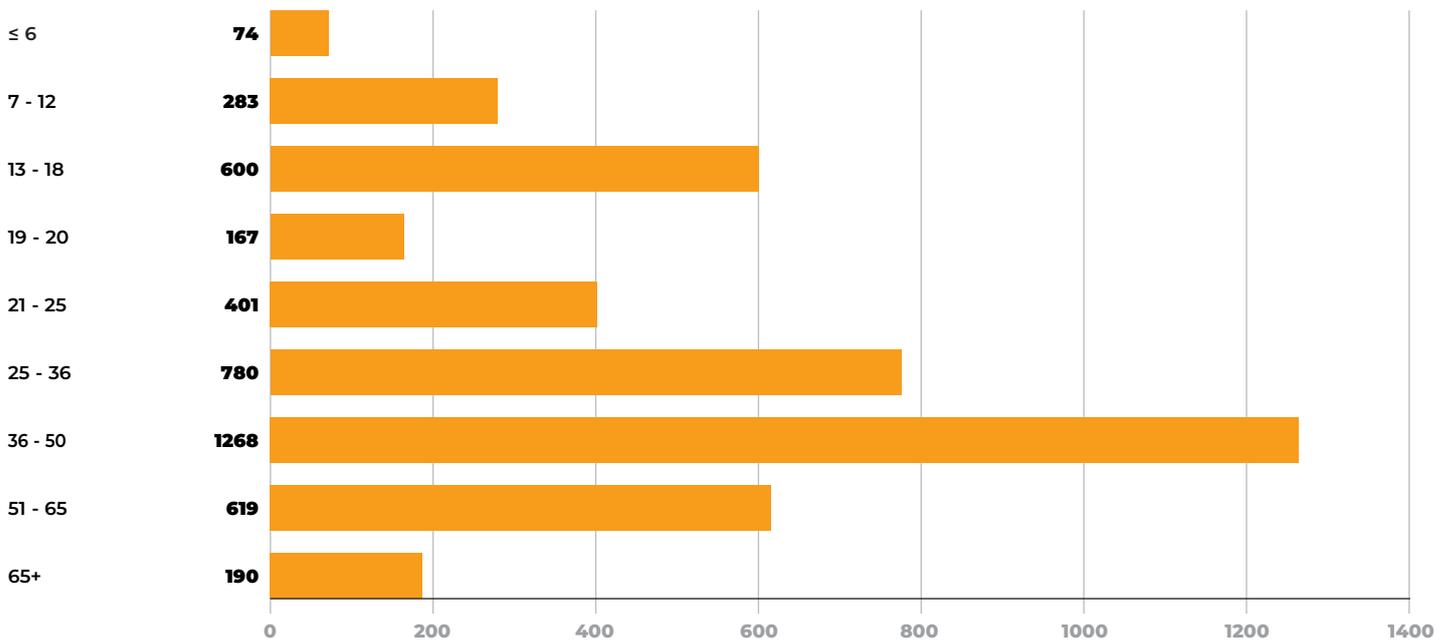


Client Profile

Presenting Issues

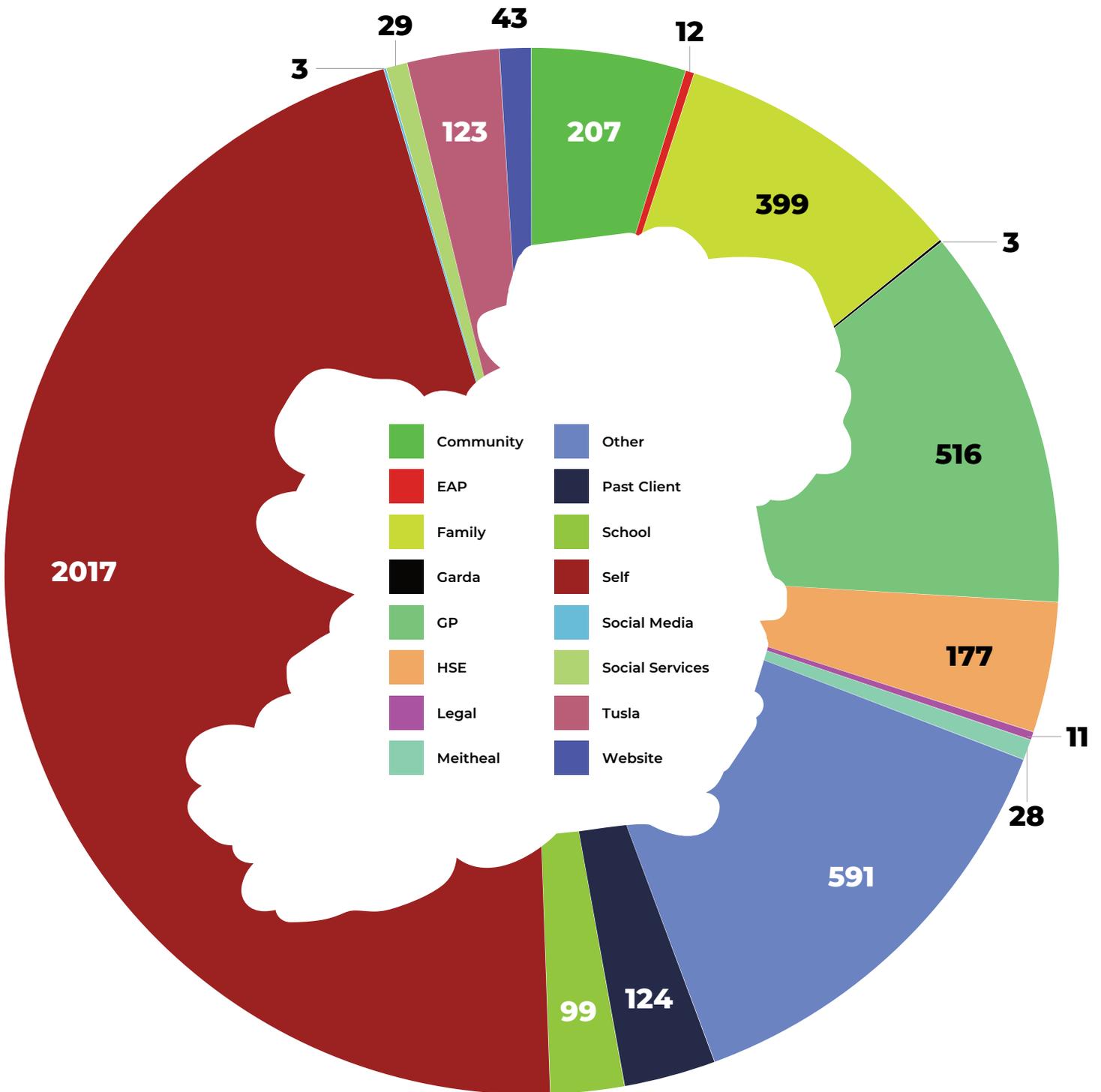


Ages



Referrals

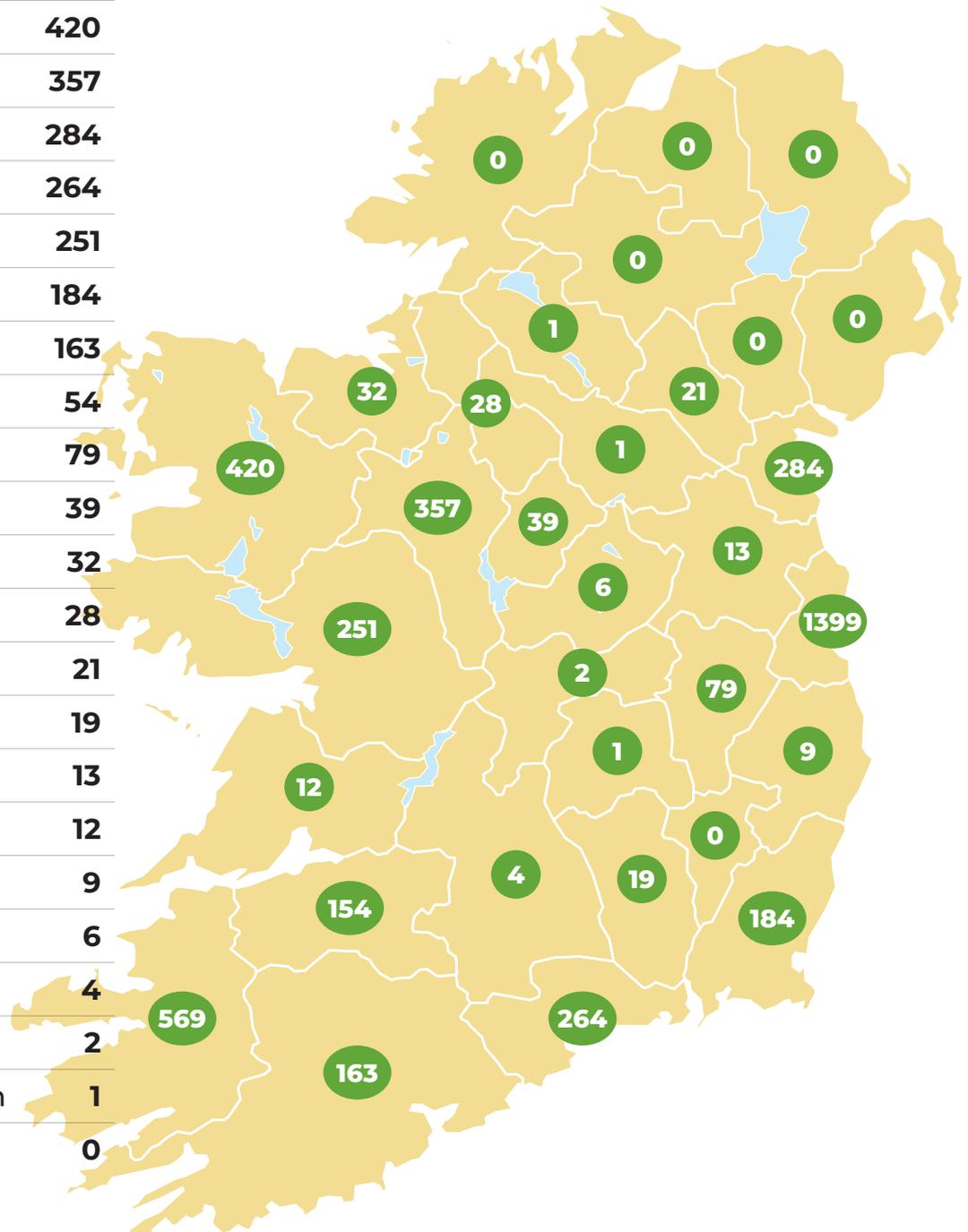
Where our referrals come from



New Clients in 2020

Residence by County

Dublin	1399
Kerry	596
Mayo	420
Roscommon	357
Louth	284
Waterford	264
Galway	251
Wexford	184
Cork	163
Limerick	54
Kildare	79
Longford	39
Sligo	32
Leitrim	28
Monaghan	21
Kilkenny	19
Meath	13
Clare	12
Wicklow	9
Westmeath	6
Tipperary	4
Offaly	2
Laois, Fermanagh, Cavan	1
Armagh, Antrim, Carlow, Down, Donegal, Tyrone, Derry	0
Not recorded	43
Total	4382



New Clients in 2020

Clients' Nationality



Others

Brazil	5	Other	2	Guyana	1
China	5	Pakistan	2	Jordan	1
Croatia	4	Venezuela	2	Mauritius	1
Denmark	3	Zimbabwe	2	Mexico	1
Hungary	3	Afghanistan	1	Netherlands	1
India	3	Algeria	1	New Zealand	1
Iran	3	Argentina	1	Slovakia	1
Malaysia	3	Australia	1	Slovenia	1
Portugal	3	Bangladesh	1	Somalia	1
Spain	3	Belarus	1	Sweden	1
Albania	2	Cameroon	1	Uganda	1
Botswana	2	Czech Republic	1	Ukraine	1
Canada	2	Ethiopia	1	Uruguay	1
Chile	2	Ghana	1		
Kenya	2	Greece	1	Not Recorded by Agency	117



AACPI

Association for Agency-Based Counselling
& Psychotherapy in Ireland Ltd

DATABASE REPORT

2020

New Clients in 2020

	2020	2019
Number of New clients	4,382	6,283
Tusla funding - New clients	2,096	3,129
Tusla funding - New sessions	7,681	16,238
Self funding - New clients	1089	1607
Self funding - New Sessions	4043	10,021
New Under 18's Clients	957	1,318
New Clients at Risk	804	1,793
New Child Protection cases	64	58
Waiting list	41 days	70 days
Number of clients in sector	6,990	8,639
Tusla Sector clients	3,321	5,081
Tusla Sector sessions	37,375	49,584
Self funding clients in sector	1,927	2,342
Self funding Sessions in sector	26,520	35,250
Under 18's Clients in sector	1424	1741
At risk clients in sector	1484	1564
Child Protection cases in sector	93	120

Gender

NEW	2020	2020	2019	2019
	No. Clients	%	No. Clients	%
Not recorded	4	0.1%	64	1.0%
Female	2955	67%	4102	65%
Male	1421	32%	2115	34%
LGBT+	2	0.05%	2	0%
Total	4382	100%	6283	100%

	2020	2020	2019	2019
(New and existing clients)	No. Clients	%	No. Clients	%
Not recorded	8	0%	66	1%
Female	4740	68%	5678	66%
Male	2240	32%	2893	33%
LGBT+	2	0%	2	0%
Total	6990	100%	8639	100%

Sessions

SESSION STATUS	2020		2019	
	No. Sessions	%	No. Sessions	%
Attended	29999	52%	55376	76%
Cancelled	8239	14%	10290	14%
Cancelled by Counsellor	989	2%	1931	3%
Cancelled Late	573	1%	1062	1%
Did not attend	2413	4%	4469	6%
DLP Consultation	66	0%	94	0%
GP Consultation	11	0%	17	0%
Social worker Consultation	26	0%	6	0%
Phone Consultation	7041	12%	0	0%
Remote Consultation	8613	15%	0	0%
Total	57970	100%	73245	100%

Presenting Issues

NEW AND EXISTING CLIENTS	2020		2019	
	Occurrences	%	Occurrences	%
Abuse	151	2%	206	2%
Addiction	199	2%	207	2%
Bereavement/Loss	1059	13%	1213	12%
Child	410	5%	518	5%
COVID 19 Issues	15	0%	0	0%
Financial Difficulties/Employment	70	1%	124	1%
Mood Problems	963	12%	1247	12%
Not Recorded by Agency	293	4%	420	4%
Other	764	9%	929	9%
Relationships/Marriage	1464	18%	2084	20%
Self esteem	257	3%	347	3%
Sexual Issues	37	0%	73	1%
Stress/Anxiety	2367	29%	2877	28%
Total	8049	100%	10245	100%

Relationship Status

NEW AND EXISTING CLIENTS	2020		2019	
	Occurrences	%	Occurrences	%
Not Recorded	1441	20.62%	1858	21.37%
Civil Partnership	11	0.16%	10	0.12%
Cohabiting	128	1.83%	161	1.85%
Divorced	125	1.79%	129	1.48%
In Relationship	806	11.53%	1080	12.42%
Married	1343	19.21%	1798	20.68%
Separated	474	6.78%	554	6.37%
Single	2493	35.67%	2939	33.81%
Widowed	169	2.42%	164	1.89%
Total	6990	100.00%	8693	100.00%

Age

NEW CLIENTS IN 2020	2020		2019	
	Occurrences	%	Occurrences	%
Years				
≤ 6	74	2%	103	2%
7 - 12	283	6%	384	6%
13 - 18	600	14%	831	13%
19 - 20	167	4%	192	3%
21 - 25	401	9%	536	9%
25 - 36	780	18%	1196	19%
36 - 50	1268	29%	1921	31%
51 - 65	619	14%	849	14%
66+	190	4%	271	4%
Total	4382	100%	6283	100%

NEW AND EXISTING CLIENTS

≤ 6	141	2.02%	207	2.38%
7 - 12	411	5.88%	514	5.91%
13 - 18	872	12.47%	1020	11.73%
19 - 20	245	3.51%	251	2.89%
21 - 25	607	8.68%	725	8.34%
25 - 31	1295	18.53%	1753	20.17%
36 - 50	2148	30.73%	2672	30.74%
51 - 65	991	14.18%	1199	13.79%
66+	280	4.01%	352	4.05%
Total	6990	100%	8693	100%

Episode Referral Source

	2020		2019	
	Referrals	%	Referrals	%
Community-Based Group	207	4.7%	271	4.3%
EAP	12	0.3%	12	0.2%
Family/Friend	399	9.1%	271	4.3%
Garda	3	0.1%	7	0.1%
GP	516	11.8%	897	14.3%
HSE	177	4.0%	175	2.8%
Legal	11	0.3%	13	0.2%
Meitheal	28	0.6%	4	0.1%
Other	591	13.5%	896	14.3%
Past Client	124	2.8%	98	1.6%
School	99	2.3%	118	1.9%
Self	2017	46.0%	3297	52.5%
Social Media	3	0.1%	7	0.1%
Social Services	29	0.7%	43	0.7%
Tusla	123	2.8%	164	2.6%
Website	43	1.0%	17	0.3%
Total	4382	100%	6283	100%

Employment Status

NEW CLIENTS IN 2020	2020		2019	
	Clients	%	Clients	%
Disability	76	2%	111	2%
Employed	860	20%	1270	20%
Homeworker	167	4%	228	4%
Not record by agency	1400	32%	2144	34%
Part-time Employment	254	6%	401	6%
Retired	132	3%	196	3%
Self Employed	85	2%	128	2%
Student	851	19%	1048	17%
Unemployed	557	13%	757	12%
Total	4382	100%	6283	100%

NEW AND EXISTING CLIENTS	2020		2019	
	Clients	%	Clients	%
Disability	152	2.17%	159	1.83%
Employed	1448	20.72%	1819	20.92%
Homeworker	295	4.22%	342	3.93%
Not Recorded by Agency	2157	30.86%	2722	31.31%
Part-time Employment	464	6.64%	610	7.02%
Retired	211	3.02%	266	3.06%
Self Employed	138	1.97%	187	2.15%
Student	1180	16.88%	1363	15.68%
Unemployed	945	13.52%	1225	14.09%
Total	6990	100%	8693	100%

Risk Assessment

NEW CLIENTS IN 2020	2020	2020	2019	2019
	Occurrences	% Episodes	Occurrences	% Episodes
None	3578	81.65%	4490	71.46%
Risk Cases	804	18.35%	1793	28.54%
	4382	100%	6283	100%
Risk of self-harm - Mild	133	3.04%	259	4.12%
Risk of self-harm - Moderate	44	1.00%	23	0.37%
Risk of self-harm - Severe	16	0.37%	9	0.14%
	193	4.40%	291	4.63%
Risk of Suicide - Mild	320	7.30%	357	5.68%
Risk of Suicide - Moderate	31	0.71%	21	0.33%
Risk of Suicide - Severe	10	0.23%	3	0.05%
	361	8.24%	381	6.06%
Risk to others - Mild	246	5.61%	284	4.52%
Risk to others - Moderate	3	0.07%	1	0.02%
Risk to others - Severe	1	0.02%	0	0.00%
	250	5.71%	285	4.54%

Average Waiting Times

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
	Days						
From Contact until Assessment	24	30	23	18	15	13	28
From Assessment to First Session	16	40	14	17	19	18	14
From Contact to First Session	41	70	37	35	34	30	33



AACPI

Association for Agency-Based Counselling
& Psychotherapy in Ireland Ltd

AUDITED ACCOUNTS & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Audited Accounts and Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

HLB Ryan Limited

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

5 Clarinda Park North

Dún Laoghaire

County Dublin

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors

Maura Callaghan
Marian Keigher (Resigned 13 April 2021)
Joseph Enright
Máire Ní Dhomnaill
Geoffrey McCarthy (Appointed 23 November 2020)
Michael Dillon (Appointed 13 April 2021)
Elizabeth McGuckin (Appointed 13 April 2021)

Company Secretary

Maura Callaghan

Company Number

545085

Charity Number

CHY 18950

Registered Office and Business Address

Block D, Iveagh Court,
Harcourt Street, Dublin 2
Dublin D02 VH94
Ireland

Auditors

HLB Ryan Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
5 Clarinda Park North
Dún Laoghaire
County Dublin

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
50-55 Baggot Street Lower
Dublin 2

Solicitors

Liston & Company
Argyle House
103-105 Morehampton Road
Donnybrook
Dublin 4

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the company is to establish and maintain an accreditation scheme for counselling agencies.

The charity has been granted charitable tax status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, Charity No CHY 18950 and is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority.

There has been no significant change in these activities during the financial year-ended 31 December 2020.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

Financial Results

The surplus for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €33,741 (2019 - €5,798).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €197,704 (2019 - €112,397) and liabilities of €54,681 (2019 - €3,115). The net assets of the company have increased by €33,741.

Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Maura Callaghan	Marian Keigher	Joseph Enright
Máire Ní Dhomnaill	Geoffrey McCarthy (Appointed 23 November 2020)	

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Maura Callaghan.

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. Therefore the directors and secretary who served during the period did not have a beneficial interest in the company.

In accordance with the Constitution, one-third of the Directors shall retire from office. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election.

Future Developments

The directors are not expecting to make any significant changes in the nature of the business in the near future.

Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year end.

Political Contributions

The company did not make any disclosable political donations in the current financial year.

Auditors

The auditors, HLB Ryan Limited, (Chartered Accountants) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have contracted the services of a subcontractor and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are maintained at the company's office at Unit No. 6, The Village Centre, Churchlands, Slane, Co. Meath.

Signed on behalf of the board

Maura Callaghan
Director

31 May 2021

Joseph Enright
Director

31 May 2021

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard, issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards;

and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware,

and

- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the board

Maura Callaghan
Director

31 May 2021

Joseph Enright
Director

31 May 2021

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Association for Agency-Based Counselling & Psychotherapy in Ireland
Company Ltd by Guarantee

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Association for Agency-Based Counselling & Psychotherapy in Ireland Company Ltd by Guarantee ('the company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Reconciliation of Members' Funds and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council, applying Section 1A of that Standard.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2020 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities, in the circumstances set out in note 5 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. In our opinion the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Association for Agency-Based Counselling & Psychotherapy in Ireland
Company Ltd by Guarantee

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is contained in the appendix to this report, located at page 9, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Derek Ryan

for and on behalf of

HLB RYAN LIMITED

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

5 Clarinda Park North

Dún Laoghaire

County Dublin

Date _____

APPENDIX TO THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

		2020	2019
	Notes	€	€
Income	6	123,315	132,750
Expenditure		(89,574)	(126,952)
Surplus for the financial year		33,741	5,798
Total comprehensive income		33,741	5,798

Approved by the board on 31 May 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Maura Callaghan
 Director

Joseph Enright
 Director

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2020

		2020	2019
	Notes	€	€
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	9	444	92
Current Assets			
Debtors	10	7,365	7,820
Cash and cash equivalents		189,895	104,485
		197,260	112,305
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(54,681)	(3,115)
Net current Assets		142,579	109,190
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		143,023	109,282
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		143,023	109,282
Members' Funds		143,023	109,282

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard.

Signed on behalf of the board

Maura Callaghan
Director

31 May 2021

Joseph Enright
Director

31 May 2021

RECONCILIATION OF MEMBERS' FUNDS

as at 31 December 2020

	Retained	Total surplus
	€	€
At 01 January 2019	103,484	103,484
Surplus for the financial year	5,798	5,798
At 31 December 2019	109,282	109,282
Surplus for the financial year	33,741	33,741
At 31 December 2019	143,023	143,023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Association for Agency-Based Counselling & Psychotherapy in Ireland Company Ltd by Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. Unit 6, The Village Centre, Churchlands, Slane, Co. Meath is the registered office and business address. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2020 have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A (Small Entities) and the Companies Act 2014.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" Section 1A, issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The company qualifies as a small company as defined by section 280A of the Companies Act 2014 in respect of the financial year, and has applied the rules of the 'Small Companies Regime' in accordance with section 280C of the Companies Act 2014 and Section 1A of FRS 102.

Income

Income comprises total contributions from state agencies, membership subscriptions and conference fees.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	25% Straight line
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The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price (including transaction costs) unless a financing arrangement exists in which case they are measured at the present value of future receipts discounted at a market rate. Subsequently these are measured at amortised cost less any provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. All movements in the level of the provision required are recognised in the profit and loss.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Balance Sheet bank overdrafts are shown within Creditors.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

Continued

Taxation

The company is limited by guarantee under the Companies Acts 2014 and is not established for the profit or gain of its members. The company is solely trading for the mutual benefit of its members and accordingly is not liable to Corporation Tax in the current period.

3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the entity financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The directors make estimates and assumptions concerning the future in the process of preparing the entity financial statements. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below;

(i) Useful economic lives of tangible fixed assets

The annual depreciation on tangible fixed assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reviewed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See Note 10 for the carrying amount of the tangible fixed assets, and Note 2 for the useful economic lives for each class of tangible fixed asset.

(ii) Provisions and accruals

Provisions are recognized when the Company has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Company will be required to settle the probable outflow of resources, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

(iii) Prepayments

Prepayments have been estimated based on payments made in one period, for goods and / or services which the company expects to receive the benefit in a future period. The basis of estimation used by the company has been formed by a calculation of the number of days to which the expense relates, and therefore the deferral of this expense.

4 DEPARTURE FROM COMPANIES ACT 2014 PRESENTATION

The directors have elected to present an Income and Expenditure Account instead of a Profit and Loss Account in these financial statements as this company is a not-for-profit entity.

5 PROVISIONS AVAILABLE FOR AUDITS OF SMALL ENTITIES

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

6 INCOME

The income for the financial year has been derived from:-

	2020 €	2019 €
Membership Fees	3,315	4,350
Conference Fees	-	8,400
Funding	120,000	120,000
	123,315	132,750

The whole of the company's income is attributable to its market in the Republic of Ireland and is derived from the principal activity of maintaining an accreditation scheme for counselling agencies.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

Continued

7 OPERATING SURPLUS

	2020	2019
	€	€
Operating surplus is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	158	31

8 EMPLOYEES

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the financial year was 1, (2019 - 1).

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
Management and Administration	1	1

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	€	€
Cost		
At 01 January 2020	3,254	3,254
Additions	510	510
At 31 December 2020	3,764	3,764
Depreciation		
At 01 January 2020	3,162	3,162
Charge for the financial year	158	158
At 31 December 2020	3,320	3,320
Net book value		
At 31 December 2020	444	444
At 31 December 2019	92	92

10 DEBTORS

	2020	2019
	€	€
Taxation	973	972
Prepayment	6,392	6,848
	7,365	7,820

11 CREDITORS

	2020	2019
Amount falling due within one year	€	€
Trade creditors	1,581	15
Accruals	3,100	3,100
Deferred Income	50,000	-
	54,681	3,115

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

Continued

12 TAXATION

	2020	2019
	€	€
Debtors:		
PAYE	973	972

13 STATUS

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding €1.

14 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no material capital commitments at the financial year-ended 31 December 2020.

15 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Michelle McCafferty, a contractor who acts as the company's Financial Advisor and Database Administrator, would be considered a key member of the management personnel and therefore would be considered a related party. Michelle McCafferty was paid an amount of €13,437 during the period ending 31 December 2020 (2019: €13,887) .

16 POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end.

17 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 31 May 2021.

Supplementary Information relating to
the Financial Statements for the
Financial Year ended 31 December 2020.

Not covered by the Report of the
Auditors the following pages do not form
part of the Audited Financial Statements.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	€	€
Income		
Member Subscriptions	3,315	4,350
Conference fees	-	8,400
Tusla	120,000	120,000
	123,315	132,750
Expenditure		
Wages and salaries	21,405	32,445
Social welfare costs	2,365	3,488
Staff training	12,196	5,504
Rent payable	1,800	3,600
Insurance	1,744	1,601
Light and heat	510	925
Printing, postage and stationery	301	8,896
Advertising	377	230
Telephone	1,784	1,805
Computer costs	24,602	20,566
Hire of equipment	1,375	1,085
Travelling and entertainment	4,055	29,094
Consultancy fees	13,314	13,887
Bank charges	94	276
General expenses	(124)	354
Subscriptions	470	60
Auditor's remuneration	3,100	3,105
Depreciation	158	31
	89,574	126,952
Net Surplus	33,741	5,798



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