



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Churchfield Community Trust CLG

"In the Heart of the Community"



Company Registration Office Number: 340893 CHY Revenue Number: CHY16468 Registered Charity Number: RCN 2005941

CHURCHFIELD COMMUNITY TRUST BOARD OF MEMBERS 2023



- Anne O’Sullivan, Chairperson
- Sr. Trinita Laffan
- Br. Jim Donovan
- Br. John Hunt
- Dr Larry Jordan
- Sr. Mary Hanrahan
- Billy Casey
- Helen-Mary Clancy
- Jim Daly

CHURCHFIELD COMMUNITY TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

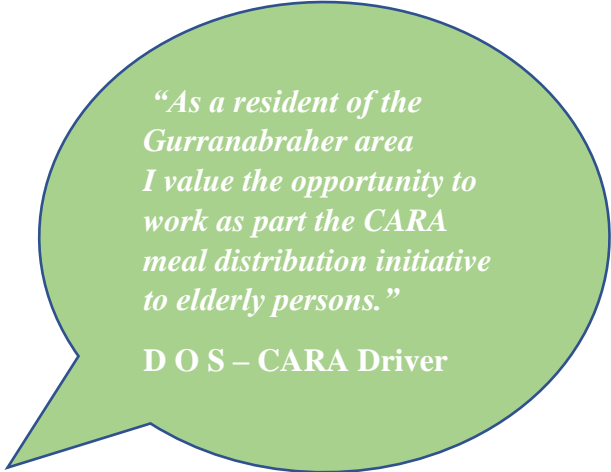


- Brendan Ryan Chairperson
- Ciaran MacCraith Vice-Chairperson
(outgoing)
- Paddy Barry (incoming)
- JJ O Connell
- Sr Jo McCarthy
- Barry Waddingham(outgoing)
- Nora O’Callaghan (incoming)
- Tracey Reddy(outgoing)
- Damien Kelleher
- Leanne Moore (incoming)

Who We Are

We are a community-based organisation located on the Northside of Cork City.

We respond to a specific group of young people who need intensive support, therapeutic interventions, stability and acceptance, to achieve sustainable change at a crucial time in their lives.



“As a resident of the Gurrabraher area I value the opportunity to work as part the CARA meal distribution initiative to elderly persons.”

D O S – CARA Driver

Our Mission

Churchfield Community Trust as an organisation believes that all people should have the opportunity and supportive environment to overcome challenges re alcohol, substance misuse and offending behaviour.

Our practice is grounded in the principles of the person-centred **Servol Model** and remains mindful of the core values:

- Maintaining a philosophy of Ignorance, in that we never assume that we know the needs of the clients we are trying to help.
- Listening attentively so that we become more informed of their needs.
- Being aware of our cultural arrogance so that we can make respectful interventions and become partners with the client as they strive towards their goals.

The project works from a relationship model.

Individual programmes are put in place in partnership with each participant according to his/her needs.

We try to make respectful interventions, to foster responsibility and model open and honest communication always.

Our Target Group

People aged 18 to 35 years.

- People with Previous lived experience.
- All having Substance misuse and /or alcohol dependency / addictions.
- All are affected by trans-generational issues of
 - Unemployment
 - Literacy
 - Homelessness
 - Mental health issues
 - Anger Management
 - Low self-esteem
 - Educational deficits
 - Difficult early life experiences
 - Relationship difficulties
 - Finance & Debt

CHAIRPERSONS INTRODUCTION

Churchfield Community Trust has a clear purpose, a purpose it has had since it was established in 1994. That is to provide people who use our services with the opportunity to overcome challenges in their lives within a supportive environment. These challenges usually relate to alcohol or substance abuse often linked with offending behaviour. Churchfield Community Trust is a community-based organisation and our emphasis in 2023 was, as always, on the delivery to vulnerable people of the sort of key strategic interventions that can help them to overcome the challenges they face and, in the process, transform their lives. These interventions include providing access to therapeutic supports relevant to substance misuse and to addiction. Related to these interventions Churchfield Community Trust seeks to create sustainable employment opportunities for people referred to us by the Probation Service, the Irish Prison Service and other statutory and community agencies. *These have been created with the support of The Dormant Accounts Fund, The Health Service Executive via Section 39, and the Pobal Community services programme.*

During 2023 Churchfield Community Trust further invested in the renovation of its premises at 103, 107, 109 Knockfree Avenue, respectively. Statutory funding was provided by Pobal Community Centres Investment Fund and Cork City Council LCDC. This funding provided much needed new facilities at Knockfree Avenue in the context of re development of meeting room space for the purposes of conferencing and blended learning. Works at Administration Offices & Enterprise Hub and were completed to include an elevated level fit out of individualised workstations to facilitate those returning to education and/or employment.

The people who use our services have challenging and often complex needs. These include addiction, mental health struggles, offending behaviour, educational deficits, and unemployment. All of these are accentuated by the current homelessness crisis. Churchfield Community Trust works in co-operation with statutory agencies to support people in their struggle to overcome these challenges. These therapeutic and other services often work to reduce recidivism.

Continuing adult education initiatives provide a platform for progression to sustainable employment and re-integration within communities of origin for our participants. **Churchfield Community Trust** collaborates with people on **Special Category Substance Misuse Community Employment**, Tus & Community Service Programme through the provision of employment, personal, vocational, and educational supports. During 2023 our organisation engaged with three hundred and seventy-one referrals via a range of strategic interventions while thirty-one people were employed through various employment activation initiatives each contributing significantly to our local community.

In 2023 Churchfield Community Trust provided a diverse range of services in areas such as **Outreach, Therapeutic Supports, Education and Employment**. Participants were trained and mentored daily in key vocational skills such as catering, horticulture, and wood craft by skilled staff with Industry experience in the context of social enterprise development and social inclusion.

I would like to thank all who contributed to Churchfield Community Trust in 2023, staff, facilitators, tutors, and our service users who engaged so constructively with us, during what was an extremely effective year. Welcome to Paddy Barry and Nora O Callaghan who were recently appointed to Churchfield Community Trust Board of Directors.

I also wish to acknowledge the significant contribution and distinguished service of recently retired Directors Ciaran McCraith, Barry Waddingham and Tracey Reddy. In closing, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Directors and members of Board sub committees for their ongoing commitment to the achievement of organisational objectives during 2023.



Brendan Ryan, Chairperson 18/04/24



CORE OBJECTIVES 2023

- ESTABLISH SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH REDUCTION OF RECIDIVISM
- PROMOTION OF INTEGRATION OF PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE
- PROVISION OF KEY THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS
- PROVISION OF ADDICTION SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY
- CREATION OF SUSTAINABLE TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION
- DEVELOPMENT OF KEY INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL PROJECTS



UNESCO LEARNING CITIES EVENT A SHARED ISLAND INITIAIATIVE



"LEARNING Limerick hosted a 'Shared Island' learning city exchange programme earlier this week for the Irish Network of Learning Cities (INLC) which includes Limerick, Dublin, Cork, Derry Strabane, and Belfast.

The three-day programme included a welcome reception in Shannon Rowing Club, a conference and site visits to centres of learning in Limerick. Funded by the Shared Island Programme, the visit was supported by the Government through the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, as well as the INLC.

The programme supports projects and initiatives between Local Government partners North and South. Working with the support of all INLC partners, it involves a series of exchanges and consultation workshops in all five cities, culminating in a Learning City Conference in Derry in June. The project's main goal is to support opportunities for cross-city learning exchange between the five INLC learning cities.

A conference took place on Tuesday morning as the main part of the Limerick programme. This provided an opportunity for the Irish Network and Learning Limerick members to interact with colleagues and the visiting speakers, to renew links with partners and colleagues, and forge some new ones".

Limerick Live (2023) 19th May.

Speaking at the event, Paul O'Donnell addressed delegates re Churchfield Community Trust its Mission, Ethos, and the work which this organisation engages in within the community on the northside of Cork City. This was an excellent opportunity for Churchfield Community Trust to be part of the Cork delegation which engaged with four other cities in the Irish Network in May 2023. This was a wonderful opportunity to witness the valuable commitment each city has, to work together and provide mutual support to help deliver on the vision of a Learning City.

Speaking at the opening of this event, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Cllr Francis Foley, said

"Peer support and empathy are key drivers of our partnership. We are delighted to be committed to being close working partners with our Learning City friends in the Irish Network of Learning Cities."

Community Returns Programme a Personal Reflection

"I was released from Limerick Prison in 2019. I engaged on a scheme called Community Returns. I had to do three days voluntary work where the Probation Service placed me in The Garden Café. Before starting in The Café, I was nervous and anxious. First of all, I never worked in a Café before and secondly, I was thinking the staff would be judging me on my past. The day I started I was met by the Project Manager and the Café Supervisor. Immediately they put my mind at ease explaining the café is a training café and nobody judges anyone, and everyone is treated equally. For three months I continued to do my Community Returns and was then asked if I would like to start a Community Employment Programme. I took this offer straight away as I felt so comfortable and was learning a lot. In 2021 a full-time job came available with a title of Café Co Ordinator. There was an interview process which I attended and was successfully chosen for the position.

"In the last two years I have learned so much, and I am so proud, of myself in how far I have come." Churchfield Community Trust has changed my life for the better and I could not be more grateful."

Fig 1.0 Lord Mayor of Limerick Cllr Francis Foley with Delegates from Irish Network of Learning Cities (INLC) at a Learning Limerick hosted 'Shared Island' Learning City Exchange Programme.



Infrastructure Investment

Churchfield Community Trust as a community-based organisation during 2023 further invested in the renovation of premises at 103, 107, 109 Knockfree Avenue, respectively. Statutory funding was provided by Pobal Community Centres Investment Fund, Cork City Council LCDC. This funding provided much needed new facilities at 107 Knockfree Ave in the context of redevelopment of meeting room space for the purposes of conferencing and blended learning.

Works at the Enterprise Hub at 103 Knockfree Ave were completed to include a high level fit out of individualised workstations to facilitate those returning to education and/or employment.

Administration offices at 109 Knockfree Ave were also redeveloped during 2023. Community Culture and Place making Directorate of Cork City Council provided funding for a paint grant to community organisations across Cork City. Churchfield Community Trust collaborated with Dulux AkzoNobel & Northside Community Enterprises Relove Paint initiative to complete these works. The mission for NCE Relove Paint is both Social and Environmental. This supports training, work experience and employment opportunities in a supportive environment. Waste paint is redirected from Landfill back to consumers through, mixing, rebranding, retail, and distribution.



Fig 2.0 Recently renovated 103 Knockfree Ave Premises funded by statutory agencies.

Collaborating, leading, and impacting in the circular economy

In 2023 Churchfield Community Trust was a leading partner in an initiative which saw agencies and businesses collaborating so that clients of Penny Dinners Cork and other people in need could get free kindling, at a time of rising fuel prices and cost of living increases.

The Irish Prison Service at Cork Prison donated pallets they received with deliveries, these were then transported free of a charge by a local courier company, DPD Ireland, to the Churchfield Community Trust premises in Ballyvolane. There, participants on the Community Service and the early release Community Returns schemes from the Probation Service, dismantled the pallets into fireplace or stove sized kindling. Kindling bags were donated by Kerry based packaging company, MF Packaging Ltd.

Penny Dinner clients received the kindling with food parcels, importantly, packaged in the same way as kindling purchased at any retail outlet. Churchfield Community Trust Ballyvolane site is less than one kilometre from the prison, much of the kindling was collected from the Penny Dinners centred or delivered locally to families in need, resulting in a low carbon project footprint.

Damaged or unrequired pallets were saved from waste, used this project which gave persons meaningful work which not only benefitted the environment but resulted in people in need getting a little help with their fuel bills. Community Service scheme participants, under the supervision of Con O'Sullivan of the Probation Service, were delighted with the opportunity to be involved in the project. They engaged in a structured, restorative, and purposeful initiative which saw vulnerable people from their own communities, avail of the scheme. Colm Carey, of IASIO at Cork Prison was instrumental in connecting the agencies and businesses, having engaged with the employers and agencies over previous years. The Probation Service, Community Service scheme participants were fully supported by staff at Churchfield Community Trust and the IASIO Training and Employment Officer, based at the Probation Service.

It was particularly beneficial for people leaving prison, as it gave them an immediate structure, in a supportive environment, which research says is vital in the early days after release.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

"I have been a client and have been linking in with Churchfield Community Trust since February of 2017 and in the last seven years I have been supported by CCT in many ways. Firstly, I began with one-to-one sessions with the outreach worker Graham, as well as counselling before I entered treatment. While in treatment, Graham checked in with me and made sure I was doing alright and has been helping me as a guide ever since. When I was clean for several months and had been continually linked in with CCT and then I began getting educational support and after getting support with various different courses, I eventually moved onto an addiction studies course in college of commerce. I then went into doing Youth and Community work Level 5 in college of commerce full time and during this time was supported by CCT while being diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD. Since then, I have completed a diploma in Youth & Community with University College Cork. I am currently Studying Addiction Studies in University College Cork, with financial help from Churchfield Community Trust, as they have agreed to support me with my fees. They also supported with my driver theory test, which was a huge help to me personally.

During all this, I have had the confidence to go for a job and am now working full time in addiction services. The time and space as well as a place to study that CCT have given me has been so important to where I am today." K P - Service User

Fig 3.0 Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr Kieran McCarthy launches City of Welcomes initiative.



GROW COOK EAT COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME

"I have had the pleasure of delivering Grow, Cook, Eat at Cork Foyer, Blackpool from July to December 2023. It took a couple of months to establish a regular group of learners, but by September we had a really engaged group from diverse backgrounds. It was a wonderful experience for me to share knowledge, skills, recipes, and meals with participants aged in their twenties to seventies from three continents and the local community. We engaged thirty learners for a total of 350 contact hours.

The aim of the Grow, Cook, Eat programme, as set out in my role description is to, 'Engage a collaborative attitude about sustainability and resilience exploring plant growing, food growing and food making.'

"Overall, I am incredibly pleased with the Grow, Cook, Eat programme outcomes. The level of engagement, inclusivity and diversity was unexpected and inspirational." The support and kindness shown by participants for each other is beautiful. We got some great work done in the garden and had the opportunity enjoy the fruits of our labour. We prepared and shared meals together using produce from the garden and recipes from China, Mexico, Korea, and Scotland. The group are staying connected through a WhatsApp group so they will continue to grow together."
- Grow Cook Eat Programme Tutor

Fig 4.0 Grow Cook Eat Programme



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AWARD WINNERS

Some of Corks most interesting small businesses and social enterprises were recognised at an awards ceremony held at Imperial Hotel on 19th October 2023. The awards were organised by Cork City Partnership (CCP) a local development company established over thirty years ago. The Partnership supports a variety of community Groups and individuals through social inclusion, education, and employment initiatives. The evening was a celebration of the achievements of twelve individuals who have started their own businesses along with showcasing the work of three social enterprises. The CCP awards were centred around four different business categories.

There were four award categories of which Churchfield Community Trust lead by Paul O Donnell and his team won the social enterprise Award. These awards help to demonstrate the important work of Cork City Partnership and important work of SICAP – the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme has on the daily lives of individuals and communities in Cork City.

Churchfield Community Trust successfully manages key social enterprise initiatives in the Churchfield, Gurranabraher, Blackpool areas all situated in the Cork Northwest Quarter of Cork City. For example, The Garden Café is open to the public daily providing training and mentoring in the context of HACCP, barista & customer service in a live environment. Carpentry workshops located in Knockfree Avenue and Ballyvolanne Business Park respectively provide training and mentoring in production of bespoke carpentry pieces and circular economy initiatives. These social enterprises are supplemented by the recent addition of an Enterprise/ Education hub at Knockfree Avenue providing valuable I.T infrastructure for those requiring access for the purposes of education, training, and business start-up. Development of a field to fork horticulture initiative at St Marys Health Campus has provided an industry standard horticulture space with achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in mind. Churchfield Community Trust also manages CARA a community based social inclusion service on behalf of Health Service Executive. This is a meal distribution initiative in collaboration with three key meals on wheels providers servicing Gurranabraher, Knocknaheeny, Farranree daily. As an organisation Churchfield Community trust is mindful of its responsibility to the community which it serves in the context of social inclusion & provision of sustainable employment.

Churchfield
Community Trust CLG

“The Garden Café is very unique in terms of what it does. There is, I suppose, very few models that I would be aware of in Cork, and I think that is the beauty of it. Really, unique. [...] So, there is that opportunity piece in terms of work, but also in terms of a supportive space, and kind of a safe space for people.”

- Garden Café Evaluation Interviewee



Fig 5.0 Churchfield Community Trust Enterprise Award Winners 2023

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT



Northside Community Enterprises have been working collaboratively with Churchfield Community Trust for many years as a sub sponsor. Churchfield Community Trust refer potential employees to Northside Community Enterprises Outreach Community Employment Scheme. Employees are based in several areas of Churchfield Community Trust for example The Garden Café, Workshop and Horticulture being the principal areas where persons gain valuable experience of the various working environments while having the staff and facilities at Churchfield Community Trust. Churchfield Community Trust values its role as sub sponsor as it affords a connection with the community to help vulnerable persons to return to the workplace by offering the opportunity to gain skills be it personal or work-based skills to support and enable persons to return to the workplace or return to education when the time is right for them . The C/E scheme allows employees to upskill with the assistance of a training budget which is available while on the C/E scheme. This further enhances the possibility of achieving sustainable employment. Employees have availed of the opportunity to engage in continuing education programmes via Cork Education Training Board, University College Cork Youth & Community Diploma NQF 7 and Addiction studies Diploma NQF 7. Employees have also availed of valuable practical training supports.

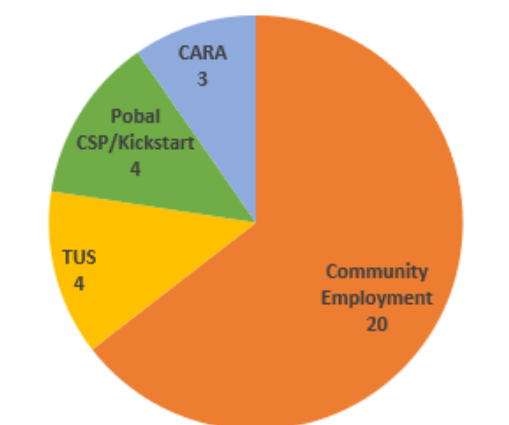


Fig 6.0 Denotes employment activation placements hosted in 2023.

Our Place Our Space – UBU Thematic



"My name is Leanne Moore. I am a 21-year-old student studying Social Care Work at Munster Technological University. I am from the Churchfield /Gurranabraher area of Cork City. I fulfilled my third-year college placement with Churchfield Community Trust from November 2022 until February 2023. It was an incredibly insightful experience to witness the valuable work provided by Churchfield Community Trust. During my placement, I observed a strong focus on person-centred care, with interventions and programs tailored to meet the specific needs of each participant. I formed meaningful connections with both the staff and the participants during my time there. After completing my placement, I was fortunate enough to be nominated to the Churchfield Community Trust Board of Directors at their Annual Meeting in May 2023. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to engage in decision-making at such an organisational level. This would not have been possible without the encouragement and support I received from Churchfield Community Trust, which has boosted my confidence in open communication and teamwork. These skills will undoubtedly benefit me in my future work as a Social Care Worker." - **Leanne Moore**

Fig.7.0 Leanne Moore Representative UBU Thematic



A STUDENT EXPERIENCE

"As a student Social Care practitioner, I was part of a team which represented Churchfield Community Trust at the Annual Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) event on **October 10th** in the Printworks building of Dublin Castle.

This was an Interprofessional event addressing the benefits of prioritising appropriate community supports as an alternative to prison. I prepared for and hosted a stand that involved communicating with funders and other organisations and exchange of information including current trends.

I have gained extensive knowledge on evidence-based practices and recognising the importance of a holistic and well-informed approach to care.

This event held significant relevance for me within the context of my placement and the field of social care work. The central theme of the event revolved around integrating the Justice System with community engagement, proposing that imprisonment should be considered only after exhausting all community-based initiatives. Noteworthy speakers at the event, including Judge Paul Kelly (President of the District Court) and Minister James Browne, utilized their influential positions to advocate for a shift towards community projects and exploration of alternative options before resorting to prison as a final measure. Conversations with representatives from various community organizations during the event highlighted their readiness and eagerness to play a more active role in the penalizing system."

S B - Student

Fig 8.0 Minister for Justice Simon Harris speaking at the Probation Service Community Organisation Conference *Changing Lives in our Communities*.



AN EVALUATION OF THE GARDEN CAFÉ 2023



Executive Summary

"Churchfield Community Trust, via the Garden Café, seeks to promote social inclusion, which is vital for improving relational health and is, moreover, often an important and necessary precursor to being employment ready. The café specifically provides a pathway to future employment within the catering/hospitality industry. Garden Café beneficiaries obtain various valuable non-cognitive soft skills such as belonging, self-esteem and self-worth. As discussed above, healthy coping strategies promoted by the Garden Café include drawing on the healing power of interpersonal connection and promoting open, honest communication. Interviewees extolled the benefits of talking things out with other people, whether with peers, or with CCT staff including trained counsellors who have a genuine interest in their development and wellbeing.

All the beneficiaries reported finding the relational dimension of the Garden Café safe, nourishing and uplifting. It was through improved relational health that they find a newfound confidence and healthy pride in themselves. Interpersonal connectedness helps individual beneficiaries to feel a greater sense of connection to themselves as individuals. The unwavering respect, acceptance and compassion of others allow them to approach themselves with self-compassion and curiosity, as they drink in the message that no-one is perfect, and all human beings are works in progress. While the Garden Café provides individuals with complex needs with education, training and work opportunities that keep them busy and motivated, as one of the beneficiaries stated the café is "so much more than a glasshouse." It is also so much more than a place of work. It is an invaluable "oasis" of relational repair, existential healing, and hope. In progressing the Department of Justice's vision of safer communities with less crime, community-based heart-centred, supportive projects such as the Garden Café should be prioritised and supported with sustainable funding. In terms of future funding decisions by Statutory funders, the author hopes and trusts that there will be continued high regard for the Garden Café in contributing to health, wellbeing, (re)integration, connection, purposeful activity, and desistance from crime."

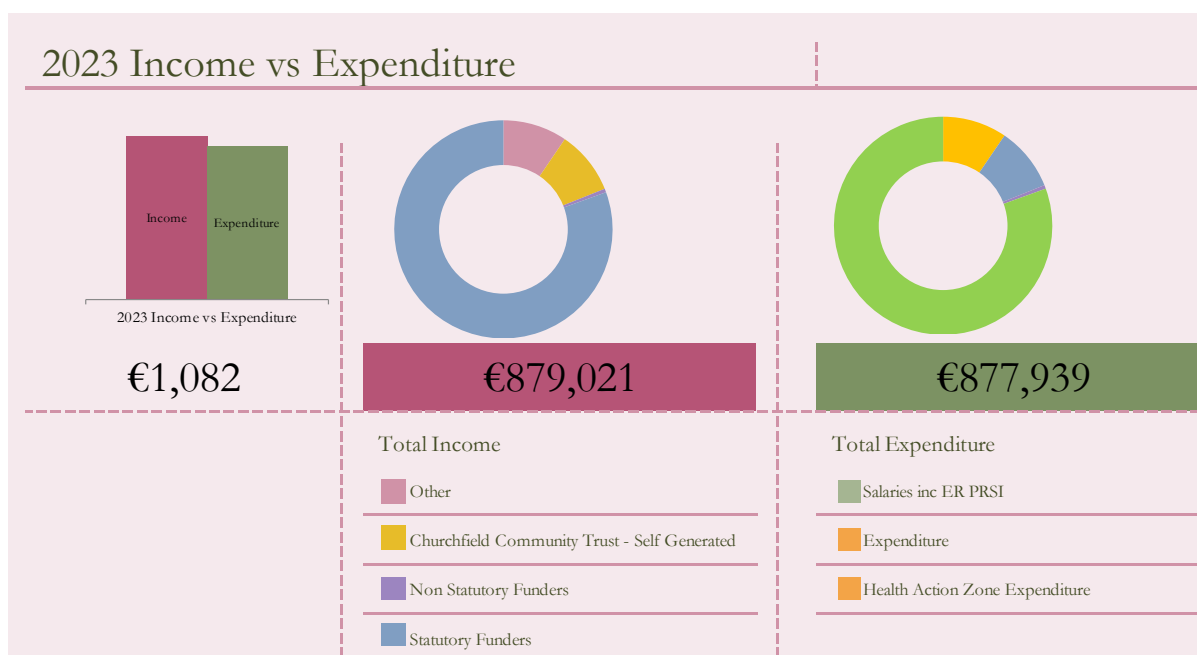
Jane Mulcahy, Ph.D. The Heart Centre.

Churchfield Community Trust CLG

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TRADING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

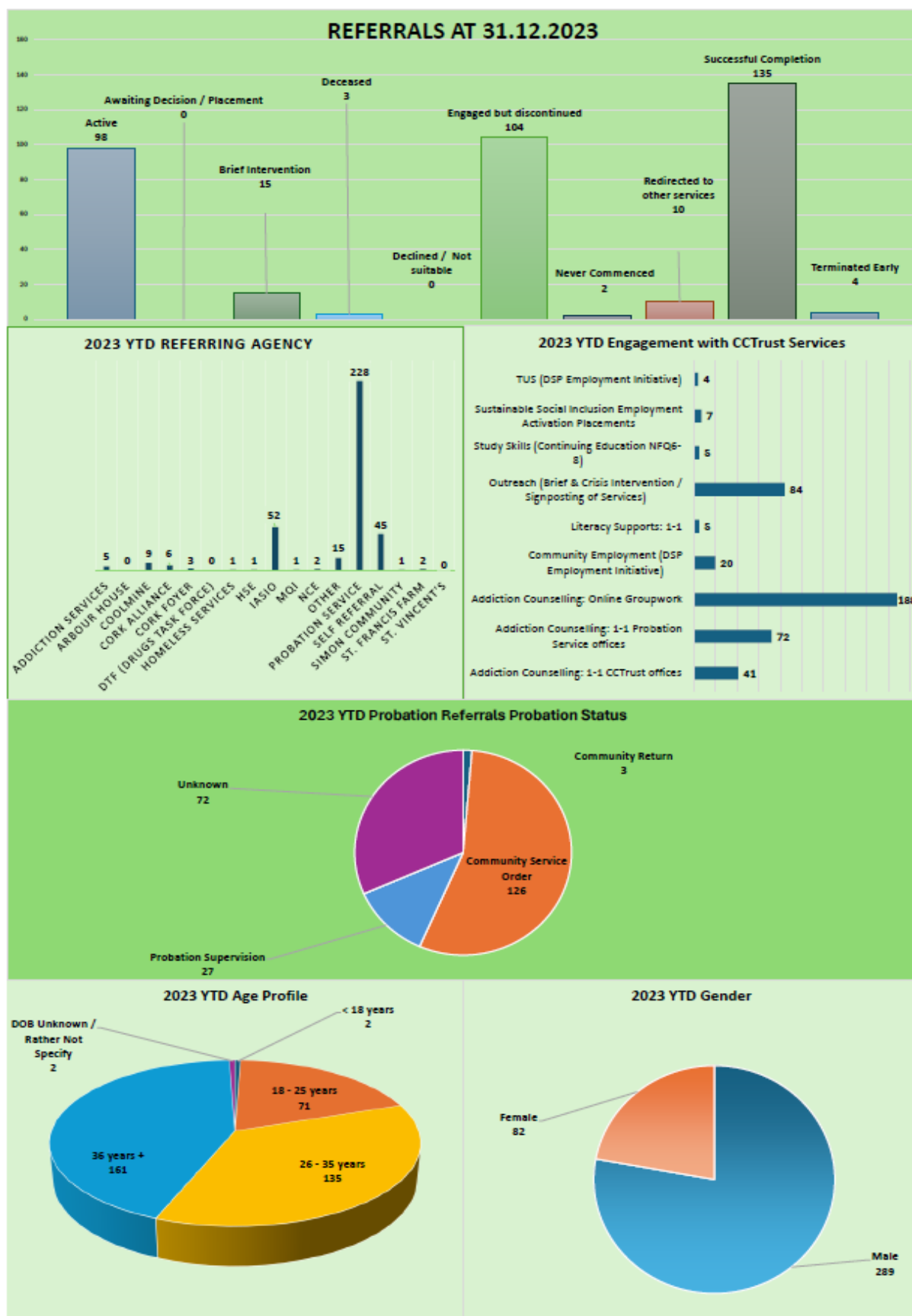
	Schedule	2023 €	2022 €
Income		805,014	737,023
Gross surplus Percentage		100.0%	100.0%
Overhead expenses	1	(877,939)	(783,351)
		(72,925)	(46,328)
Miscellaneous income	2	74,007	45,669
Net surplus/(deficit)		1,082	(659)



GOVERNANCE

Churchfield Community Trust has signed up to the Government's Code for Community Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland and is compliant with same.

Key Performance Indicators 2023



Churchfield Community Trust CLG

kindly supported by



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



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Community Integration

