



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Churchfield Community Trust CLG

"In the Heart of the Community"



CHURCHFIELD COMMUNITY TRUST BOARD OF MEMBERS 2024

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



CHURCHFIELD COMMUNITY TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

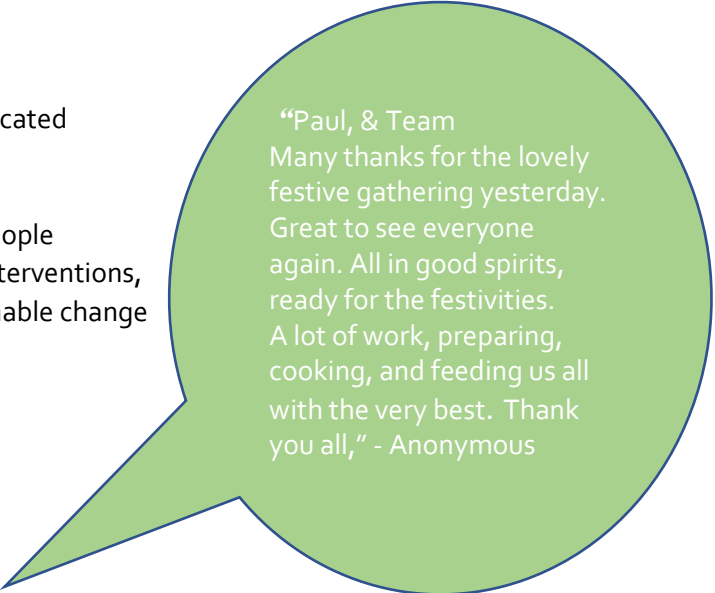
- Brendan Ryan, Chairperson
- Paddy Barry, Vice-Chairperson
- Ciaran McCraith (incoming)
- JJ O Connell
- Sr Jo McCarthy
- John Calnan (incoming)
- Nora O’Callaghan
- Damien Kelleher
- Leanne Moore
- Olivia O Shea Probation Rep (Outgoing)
- Linda Power Probation Rep (Incoming)



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.



“Paul, & Team
Many thanks for the lovely festive gathering yesterday. Great to see everyone again. All in good spirits, ready for the festivities. A lot of work, preparing, cooking, and feeding us all with the very best. Thank you all,” - Anonymous

Our Mission

Churchfield Community Trust as an organisation believes that all people should have the opportunity and supportive environment to overcome challenges regarding 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 programs 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 2024 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 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.*

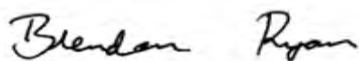
Churchfield Community Trust is funded primarily by The Dept of justice (Probation Service) in co-operation with statutory funders such as Health Service Executive & Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth to support people in their struggle to overcome significant challenges. Therapeutic and other funded services often work to reduce recidivism. 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.

During 2024 Churchfield Community Trust further invested in the organisational Infrastructure of premises at 103, 107, and 109 Knockfree Avenue. Funding was provided by the Cork City Council (SEEP) Social Economic Environmental Fund. The continuing development of our field-to-fork initiative at the St. Marys Campus was aided by funding, which was provided by the Dept of Environment, Climate & Communications (CAF) Climate Action Fund. This represents a significant further investment in facilities at Knockfree Avenue in the context of redevelopment of space for use by service users and community groups such as Narcotics Anonymous & Health Service Executive facilitated groups. Refurbishment works at the Carpentry Workshop at Knockfree Avenue were completed to include an elevated level fit out to industry standard for those interested in returning to education and/or employment.

The Social Impact of Churchfield Community Trust within communities on the Northside of Cork City is of significant societal importance. CARA meal distribution service provides a valuable daily service to Farranree, Gurranabraher, and Knocknaheeny communities. Dept. of Social Protection (SMD) Support for the most deprived initiative in conjunction with Food Cloud provides valuable assistance to those who require it as part of an organisational strategy to alleviate poverty.

In 2024 our organisation engaged with three hundred and eighty-nine 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 2024 Churchfield Community Trust provided a diverse range of services in areas such as Outreach, Therapeutic Support, Education, and Employment. Participants were trained and mentored daily in key vocational skills such as information technology, catering, horticulture, and woodcraft by skilled staff with Industry experience in social enterprise development and social inclusion.

I would like to thank all who contributed to Churchfield Community Trust in 2024, staff, facilitators, tutors, and our service users who engaged so constructively with us, during what was an extremely challenging time in the context of increased homelessness, poverty and cost of living. Welcome to John Calnan & Ciaran McCraith and who were recently appointed to Churchfield Community Trust Board of Directors. I also wish to acknowledge the significant contribution and distinguished service of Olivia O Shea former Probation Service Representative. In closing, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Directors and members of the Board sub-committees for their ongoing commitment to organisational objectives compliance with Governance code, while also mitigating constructively against ongoing financial pressures such as salary increases, auto enrolment of pensions and a 2024 organisational deficit of €6,117.00.



Brendan Ryan, Chairperson 14/04/25



CORE OBJECTIVES 2024

- 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
- ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY



THERAPEUTIC SUPPORTS



Acupuncture as a key therapeutic support was provided to service users attending Churchfield Community Trust twice weekly during 2024. This strategic therapeutic support was provided under the theme of health & well-being. Key objectives of this service are to create a safe, holistic space for service users. We provide Acupuncture treatments to help and alleviate the negative symptoms associated with addiction while also collaborating with staff to ensure the best outcome for each patient.

Acupuncture has emerged as a valuable complementary therapy in addiction treatment, offering a range of benefits to individuals in recovery. Research and clinical practice suggest that acupuncture can help reduce withdrawal symptoms, alleviate cravings, and enhance overall well-being during the recovery process. Key benefits include **Holistic Healing**: The holistic nature of acupuncture supports the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of recovery, fostering a sense of balance and well-being.

During 2024 the average number of visits per service user was eight. While the average number of patients attending each session was nine. There was a 30% increase in the use of acupuncture services at Churchfield Community Trust. There was an increase in the number of female service users from two to five per session. Many patients present with chronic anxiety, sleep disturbance, low energy, and fatigue.

In conclusion, acupuncture serves as an effective, non-invasive adjunctive therapy in addiction services such as Churchfield Community Trust providing comprehensive support for individuals in the recovery process. By addressing both the physical and emotional challenges of addiction, acupuncture offers a promising path toward sustained recovery and improved quality of life.

Glen Lyons - Acupuncturist

Peer Support in Preventing Relapse



In September 2024 The Irish Red Cross facilitated a peer support in preventing relapse workshop for service users of Churchfield Community Trust. This was a two-day programme delivered by peer facilitators that are ex-inmate volunteers in the community. Peer facilitators who delivered this programme are people who may have had similar backgrounds and experiences in life as service users. They are on the same level as people and know what it is like to go through some of the struggles that people face in everyday life. Topics included

1. Stages of Change
2. Triggers & Warning Signs
3. Managing Triggers
4. Challenging Thoughts
5. Dealing with Cravings
6. Creating a Plan

***"We want to talk about the battles that we face and learn from each other to prevent relapse."* - Anthony Breen Lead Facilitator**

Fig 1 .0 Graham Cambridge Churchfield Community Trust & Anthony Breen Irish Red Cross



Social Economic Environmental Plan

Churchfield Community Trust received €60,000 through the Social Economic Environment Plan grant system in 2024. These funds have been crucial in the upgrading and refurbishment of services and facilities in our premises at Knockfree Avenue in the Cork Northwest Quarter of Cork City. Associated works included the soundproofing of our therapeutic rooms, the installation of steel security shutters to the rear of the property, creation of a small gym. The installation of electrical infrastructure lighting, and fire systems were key aspects of these works as were the installation of refrigeration, refurbishment of the woodworking workshop, and the installation of new flooring and painting of the premises. The Social Economic Environment Fund has allowed Churchfield Community Trust to expand its range of services and activities to the growing number of participants who request our support. Both for clients and staff the upgrades provide a fresh environment where the stakeholders can meet in a relaxed setting to concentrate on the core reasons, often life-changing, that they engaged initially for. Much of the essential grant-stipulated works have been completed during 2024 while the remaining works will be completed during early 2025. Churchfield Community Trust would like to thank Cork City Council for the significant award of Social Economic Environmental Plan funds with a view to providing essential community supports.

Fig 2.0 Renovated Conferencing Facilities



INDUSTRY BASED TRAINING



The Garden Café during 2024 collaborated with The Food Safety Company which is a leading provider of food safety consultancy and training services in Ireland. The company offers a range of services, including Food **Safety Consultancy**: Assisting our social enterprises to develop and implement effective food safety management systems. **Training Courses**: Several certified food safety trainings tailored to Churchfield Community Trust service users were delivered. Courses were both online and in-person, covering topics like HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) and food hygiene, Basic Culinary Skills, Cleaning & Decontamination, Deli Skills, Management of HACCP Level 3. Our key objective was to provide certified catering training programmes for people wishing to achieve employment in the catering and/or service sector. Specialised training was provided by an industry-recognized company. A further goal was to create awareness of eliminating risk and managing safety protocols efficiently concerning food safety, health and safety, cleaning, and infection. Allergen Training was also a key consideration and was provided to service users and staff to provide awareness, training, and certification around the control of allergens ensuring that food served to the public is safe to eat. A total of forty-four people achieved certified training having accessed the programme of courses provided by Churchfield Community Trus and funded by Cork Education Training Board.

Fig 3.0 Lifelong Learning Award Nomination 2024 Grow Cook Eat Programme

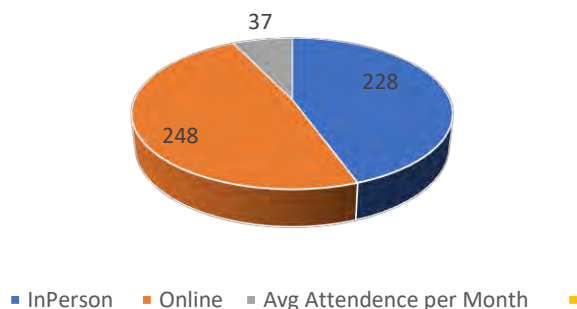


Women's Hybrid Group



2024 saw a new group format proposed for a Women's group facilitated in the Cork Probation Service Office. It was decided to run a trial for four months of a weekly women in-person group, with the view, if the numbers were present of running it into the summer months. In line with supporting interagency work, there would be an ability to invite IASIO female clients from other parts of Ireland through Zoom. This invite was extended to those Cork County-based probation female clients who were restricted in their ability to travel for several reasons. Not all participants were on Community Service some were on Probation Orders also attended. There was an increase in the number of women on Probation Supervision in 2024 as their Probation Officers saw a benefit to attending. The subsequently high numbers saw an extension of this format and the Women's Hybrid Group ran throughout 2024. The central facilitators were Siobhan Murphy, Churchfield Community Trust, and Maria Walsh, IASIO. There was also significant input from Probation Service Assistants for the presentations. We sought participation from outside agencies to bring awareness to local services such as the Sexual Health Centre, Coalmine Therapeutic Community, MABS, Mna Feasa, and the Solace Cafe. This women's group is an entry-level group where again, all the standalone topics are aligned with desistance. The information presented is like the mixed online groups presentations but with an emphasis on the women's individual experiences. - **Siobhan Murphy**

Womens Hybrid Group Analysis



FIELD TO FORK @ ST. MARYS CAMPUS

The field-to-fork initiative at St. Marys Campus, Gurranaברה on the Northside of the City celebrated its first year on this site following considerable progress in 2023 to achieve a conclusion to planned phase one infrastructure development. This significant infrastructure development has been funded by the Health Service Executive, National Lottery, Dormant Accounts Fund & ESB- Energy for Generations Fund. Further funding has been secured from the Dept of the Environment via Climate Action Fund to develop phase two which is a composting initiative while also developing operationally to employ a Community Garden Development Worker in conjunction with the Health Service Executive. Capital Developments were overseen by Vivian Garde Engineer and Board of Directors Capital Sub-Committee. Our skilled team of Community Employment and TUS workers are supervised by Mairead Kelly, Horticulture Team Lead. During our first season, the team grew wonderful vegetables and herbs for use on menus in leading restaurants in Cork City such as Elbow Lane, Goldie, and Orso which are part of the Market Lane Group. The team also supplied the Garden Café (a Churchfield Community Trust Social Enterprise) with quality seasonal produce such as tomatoes, onions, lettuce and garlic. The team has adopted a whole harvest approach where growers can deliver in a box whatever is fresh and bountiful from our Gardens and are paid a fair price for products for use on Menus. In 2024 this generated moderate income from sales while yielding a wide selection of produce from January to December 2024.

Fig 4.0 Selection of Produce Grown in St Marys Campus



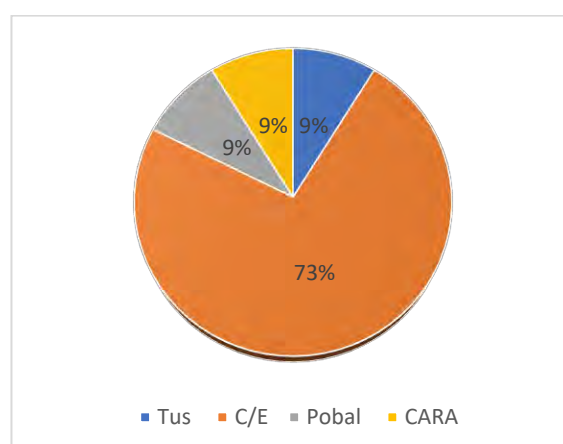
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLACEMENT



“My name is Gráinne Foran. I am a 21-year-old student in my third year of studying International Development in University College Cork. I am originally from Kilkenny and now living in Cork full-time. I started my placement at Churchfield Community Trust in March 2024 until August 2024. When I first started my placement, I was apprehensive because I had no idea what to anticipate or if I would be good enough to have my placement at Churchfield. Everyone that I encountered at Churchfield Community Trust was incredibly kind and patient with me from the moment I started placement. I began working on reviewing policies and governance procedures in collaboration with a PhD student that was volunteering at the organisation. I found it very interesting to research new laws and legislation that has come into effect and to revise policies for Churchfield to make sure that these were still applicable and up to date for management and affiliates of the organisation. While I was researching new laws and legislation, I was also trying to make the policies more accessible and inclusive for everyone at Churchfield. I was assigned to work on the Cork City Council Social, Economic, and Environmental Plan (SEEP) Fund Procurement Process and the Procurement process for a probation fund that came in to help upgrade the Garden Café. Learning what is needed once an organisation receives finance was really an educational experience and making sure that there is a record of everything for the procurement process for future purposes. During my placement at Churchfield Community Trust, I obtained experience and was given trust and responsibility that will help me in my future profession and boost my confidence. I gained insights and experience that I would never have imagined, and I know that these will be useful to me in my last year of college and in my future work. Everyone at Churchfield Community Trust made me feel comfortable and like a home away from home throughout my placement and I felt like I was treated more like a colleague than a student on placement. I am grateful that I was able to do my placement here and witness Churchfield Community Trust’s important work was an immensely insightful experience.”

Grainne Foran- International Development Student

Fig 5.0 Denotes employment activation



“Thank you so much for your hospitality. We really appreciate the amount of time you and your colleagues gave up over the afternoon. It was such a pleasure to get to meet you all – I had a great chance to hear about the impact of your work through my short chat with Graham”.

Pamela Dromlogue, IPRT



Fig 6.0 Irish Penal Reform Trust Site Visit

PROGRESSION TO EMPLOYMENT

"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 all right 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 courses, I eventually moved onto an addiction studies course in the College of Commerce. I then went into doing Youth and Community work Level 5 in the 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 and community with UCC and am currently able to take part in addiction studies at UCC, with financial help from CCT, as they have agreed to pay my fees. They also supported me and paid my fees for 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 the Churchfield Community Trust has given me have been so important to where I am today." **Keith Purcell**

PROGRESSION TO EMPLOYMENT

■ Catering ■ Addiction Services
■ Homeless Services ■ Pharma

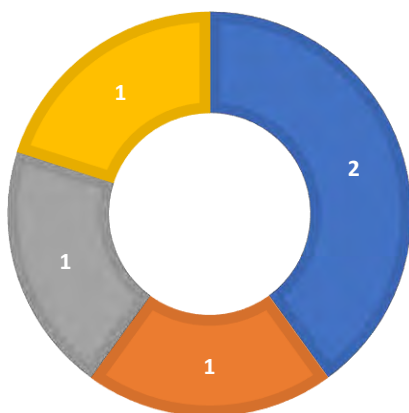


Fig 7.0 Indicates advancement toward sustainable employment across various sectors in 2024.

Continuing Education

"My name is Tony, and I have been linked in with Churchfield Trust for many years now. When I was younger, I used to call in here with other young people in order to have somewhere to go in Churchfield as a teenager and watch films. Since then, the service has changed a lot. I was in addiction until 2016 and have been in strong recovery since then thanks to support from Churchfield Trust. I began to get a good schedule to help keep me motivated in staying clean and having somewhere to go every day. As time went on, I was offered a course in the College of Commerce in Addiction Studies Level 5 and with the academic support provided by Churchfield Trust I was able to complete it and understand how studying in college works. This has led me to completing a Diploma in Youth and Community with UCC and I now have hopes of working in the Addiction services as well as going back to UCC. I was conferred and got my Diploma from UCC in March and was proud to have Churchfield Trust behind me to aid me in being where I am today."- **Tony Kenny**

Fig.8.0 Tony Kenny University College Cork Youth & Community Diploma NFQ 7 Graduate 2024



OPTIMISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DESISTANCE



In 2024 Churchfield Community Trust began a collaboration with the Irish Research Council, Probation Service, and University College Cork on the employment of a Research Ph.D. student for two years. The thematic 'How to Optimise Opportunities for Desistance and Social Reintegration on Release from Prison: Lessons for Legislation, Policy and Practice from Ethnographic Case Studies conducted in Ireland and Lübeck, Northern Germany'.

Reintegration support for criminal justice-involved persons in Ireland is often provided by voluntary sector organisations, which are partially funded by the Irish Probation Service. Yet there is a lack of criminological research on how this sector is experienced by its users; how it works in practice and how voluntary sector organisations do the work of social reintegration in the two jurisdictions, Ireland and Germany. This research aims to study in-depth across two voluntary sector organisations in two different jurisdictions, Churchfield Community Trust in Cork, Ireland, and the Resohilfe Lübeck in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, how the criminal justice voluntary sector contributes to social re-integration, how it is embedded in the respective criminal justice and welfare state environments and most importantly how social re-integration is being experienced and achieved by persons post-prison release or on various probation schemes.

1. How is re-integration organised and practiced in the two research sites, and what does it tell us about the wider politics of post-prison reintegration?
2. How can critical ethnography that uses sensory research methods and participatory tools help us access and understand lived experiences of reintegration, which reveal, highlight, and make visible how societal structural injustices, the individual, and laws are connected?
3. How do criminal justice-experienced persons construct themselves as 'reintegrative subjects' in two different jurisdictions, and what are the qualitative similarities and differences in their experiences of social re/reintegration; what do these tell us about the social, political, and cultural dimensions of re/reintegration in each jurisdiction

Ute Krenzer Ph.D. Research Student

The Dynamics of Desistance: Translating Theory to Practice

In September 2024 Dr. Graham Cambridge Churchfield Community Trust contributed as a plenary speaker at a significant conference which focused on The Dynamics of Desistance: Translating Theory to Practice. One of the key aims of this event was to bring together leading stakeholders to share academic, professional, and personal understandings of the desistance process, reflect on the current state of knowledge about desistance and build on previous efforts to develop a policy and practice guide for translating desistance theory to practice. Drawing on the findings of his PhD research Graham shared his insights into the journey of desistance from crime and recovery from addiction. His talk focused on the hardships the interviewees endured as children through their recollection of their reckless teenage years into active addiction and their often-numerous attempts at recovery and eventually, for most, full recovery.

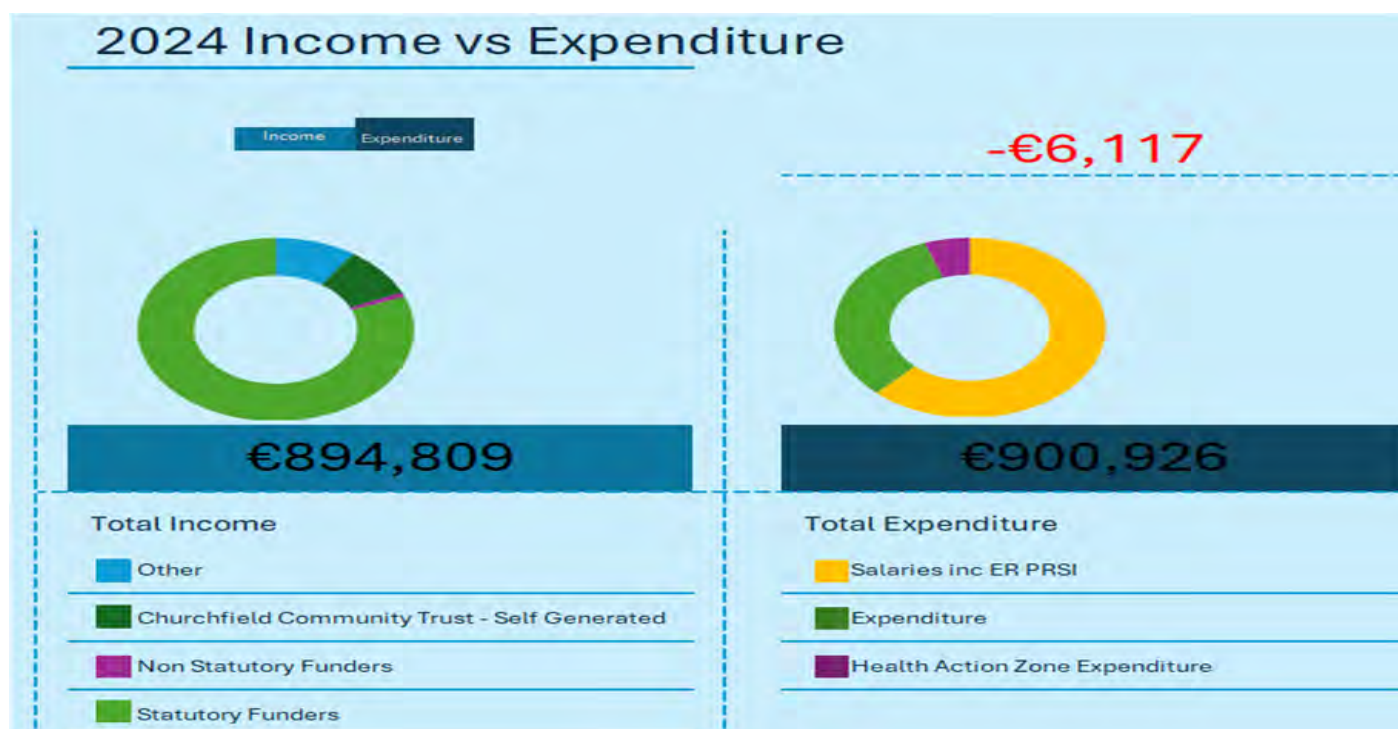
In November 2024 Paul O Donnell Project Manager Churchfield Community Trust contributed as a speaker to the Probation Service Community Service Conference in Portlaoise. This was an opportunity to discuss a gender-based approach to community service at The Garden Café while also highlighting therapeutic and social inclusion initiatives as part of the wider Churchfield Community Trust Organisation. Other key speakers included Dr. Nicola Carr and Niamh Maguire who explored the use of short custodial sentences and community service orders as part of the review of the criminal justice(amendment) act 2011.



Fig 9.0 Probation Service Director Mark Wilson with Speakers at the Probation Service Community Service Conference.

Churchfield Community Trust CLG
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

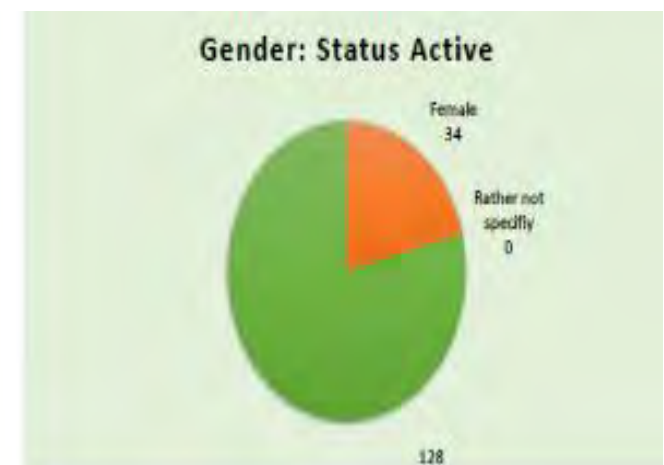
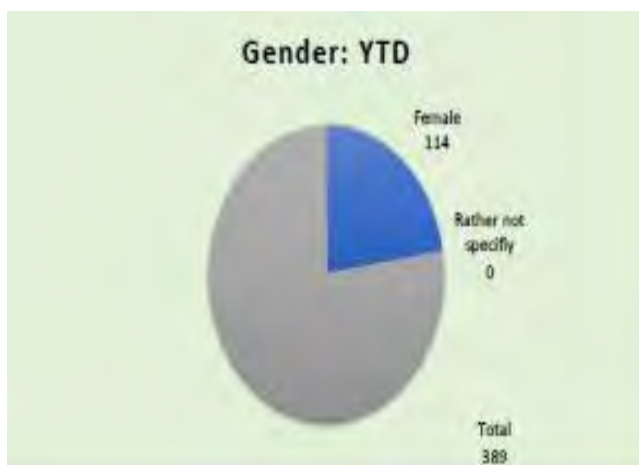
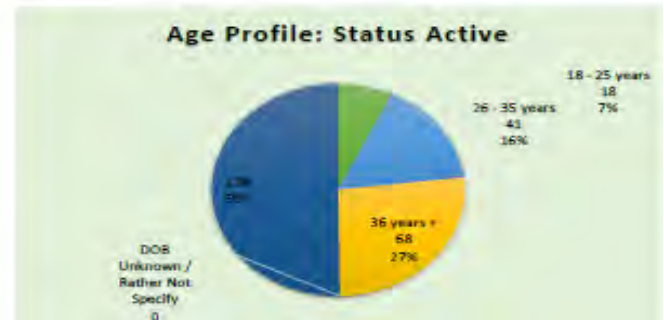
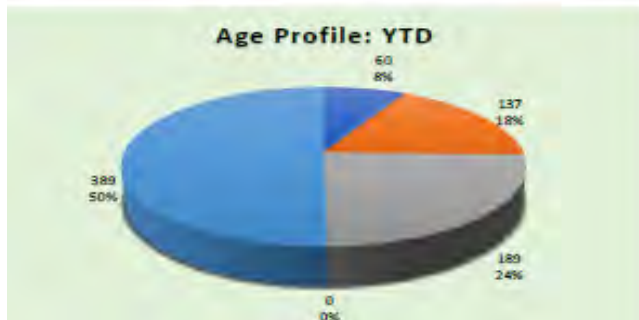
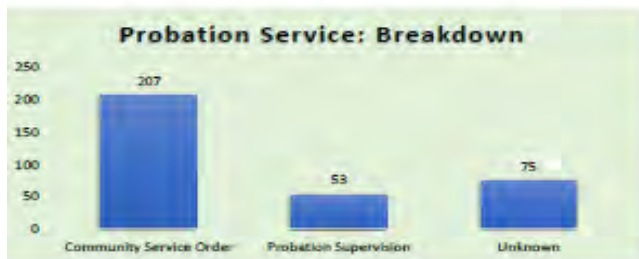
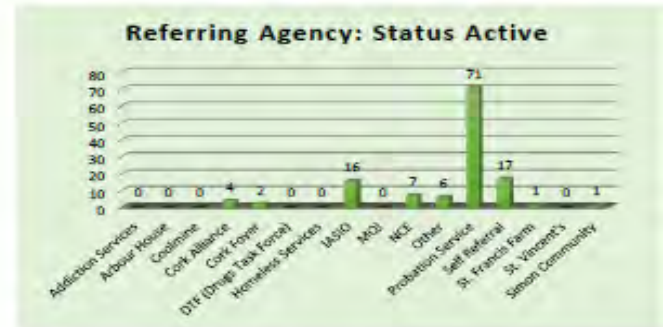
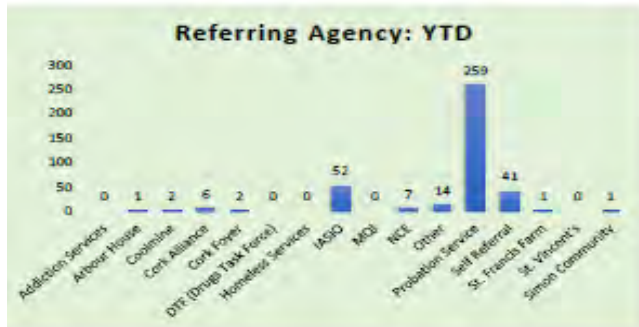
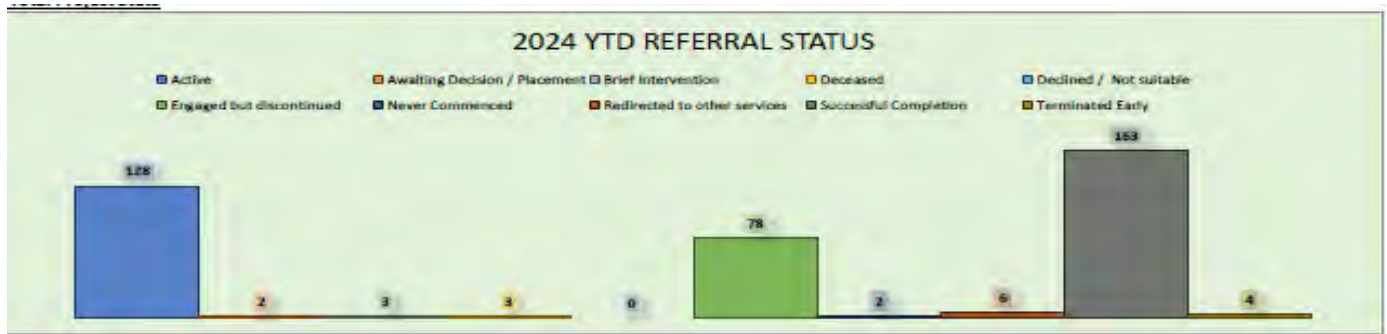
	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Income		894,809	879,021
Expenditure		(900,926)	(877,939)
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year		(6,117)	1,082
Total comprehensive income		(6,117)	1,082



GOVERNANCE

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

Key Performance Indicators 2024



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



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



An Roinn Coimíre Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection
Helping you build a better life



Community Integration



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future

European Social Fund



We are Cork.