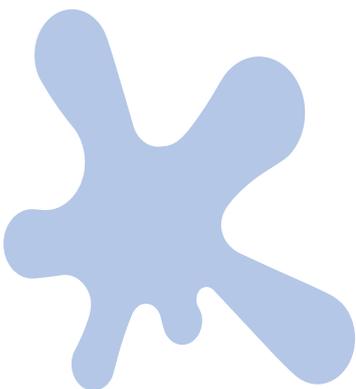


# 2024

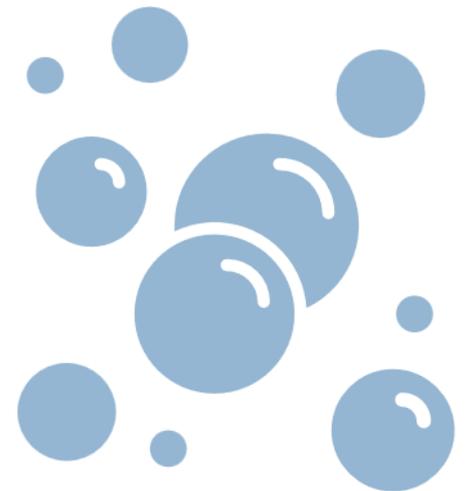
## Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign Annual Report: 2024



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# Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign - Annual Report 2024

*Supporting the involvement of communities in the National Drugs Strategy*

Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign is a national network of community organisations that are involved in addressing the drugs issue and we represent the community sector on the National Oversight Committee of the National Drugs Strategy (NDS). Set up in 1995 by the Inner-City Organisations Network (ICON) to bring together Dublin communities that were struggling with the heroin crisis, we now work nationally linking communities across the country dealing with a range of substance issues.



We work to promote and support a community development approach to the drugs problem - this means involving the people who are most affected by the problem in developing responses to it – people who use drugs, their families, and communities.

Citywide is a company limited by guarantee. Our board of directors come from the community, voluntary, statutory, and private sectors. We are funded through the National Drugs Strategy by the Dept of Rural and Community Development, and by the Rowan Trust

## Key pieces of work undertaken during 2024

### Citizens' Assembly on Drug Use & Oireachtas Committee on Drug Use

The Citizens' Assembly on Drugs concluded in October 2023, the final report was presented to government in Jan 2024.



During 2024 Citywide actively engaged in following up on the recommendations of the Assembly:

- Produced an initial response to the Citizens' Assembly recommendations and circulated to our networks in mid- January.  
[https://www.citywide.ie/assets/files/pdf/initialresponsetorecommendationsbyca\\_jan\\_2024.pdf?issuusl=ignore](https://www.citywide.ie/assets/files/pdf/initialresponsetorecommendationsbyca_jan_2024.pdf?issuusl=ignore)
- Attended the launch of the CA Final Report on 25<sup>th</sup> January and issued a press release: [Publications | CityWide - Drugs Crisis Campaign](#)
- Following the establishment of the Oireachtas Committee to look at implementation of the Citizens' Assembly recommendations, Citywide updated our document on the CA Recommendations and circulated widely

[https://www.citywide.ie/assets/files/pdf/implementing\\_recommendations\\_of\\_citizens\\_assembly\\_on\\_drugs.pdf?issuustl=ignore](https://www.citywide.ie/assets/files/pdf/implementing_recommendations_of_citizens_assembly_on_drugs.pdf?issuustl=ignore)

- We wrote to Taoiseach Simon Harris highlighting the importance of political support for the work of the Oireachtas Committee on Drug Use.
- We were invited to present at the Oireachtas Committee on Drugs and to attend the session on 26 September.
- We facilitated presentations to the Oireachtas Committee on Drugs by Porto's Police Commander Antonio Leitao da Silva, and Professor Marta Pinto, Psychology of Justice, University of Porto, with significant research experience in relation to Portugal's drug policy model.
- We compiled summary reports on Oireachtas Committee meetings and circulated to our networks
- We produced and circulated a document on key learning from Portugal for Irish National Drugs Strategy following a visit to Porto in Portugal.

<https://www.citywide.ie/assets/files/pdf/17380618661827839441.pdf?issuustl=ignore>

## Untold Stories Podcast

**Series 1**, produced in 2023 heard the stories of five people who live with the impact of our current policy approach to drug use. The series included people who use drugs, their family members and community activists, talking about how their experience has led them to work to bring about change.

**In Series 2**, we hear again from our five community activists as they reflect on a visit to Portugal in March 2024 and their impressions of how Portugal's drug policy model is working in real life for ordinary people like themselves. Series 2 begins with an introductory episode where Anna Quigley talks about 30 years of community engagement in drugs policy - what works, what does not and what needs to happen now.

Podcasts are available FROM:

- [GoLoud](#) [Apple](#) [Spotify](#)

More info about the Untold Stories Project here: <https://www.citywide.ie/what-we-do/untoldstories.html>



## Drug & Alcohol Task Force Community Reps

### QQ1 Level 5 Community Representatives Skills Training Programme

The Community Reps training course concluded on Jan 22nd with a small ceremony of presentation of completion certs. Participants received their QQI award at the end of June. The course started with eleven participants who came from local Taskforces areas across Dublin and from the Mid-West RDATE.



Modules covered:

- The National Drugs Strategy, Local and regional DATFs– development and functions,
- Community representation – roles and responsibilities,
- Negotiation theory and practice,
- Communication skills, problem solving and conflict resolution,
- Decision making and strategizing,
- Community drug issues – emerging trends and current responses,
- Community development – principles and practice.

Overall, feedback was very positive about the programme, the course content and structure.

Following the successful conclusion of the course we have had discussions about how to extend the availability of the training to as many individuals & communities as possible and have established an advisory group of DATF Development workers to look at how Citywide can support Community Reps.

- **DATF Community Reps Network Meetings**

CityWide facilitates the DATF Community Representatives Network. The network meets several times each year to exchange information, to identify key policy issues and develop responses and to discuss issues specific to the role of community rep

Two joint meetings of the Community Reps network took place during 2024 to discuss issues linked to the development of the new National Drugs Strategy.



## Community Drug Projects

Community Drug Projects provide a range of services and supports to people who use drugs, their families and to the wider community. Citywide provides a network for Community Drugs Projects and for Drugs Rehab Projects (CE) and represents the Community Sector at NDS policy committees. In addition to meeting with individual projects, two general meetings of the Network took place.



**April:** Three items on the agenda: Neurodiversity project, Drug Services Audit and the DRPs conference. The Trinity team presented an outline of the Neurodiversity Project to the meeting and took on board the feedback from the participants. Several key issues of concern around the mapping/audit process were identified in discussions, and were followed up with the Dept of Health Drugs Policy Unit.

**October:** Meeting discussed the review of the current NDS, Development of the New NDS and the Audit of Addiction Services. Follow up with National Oversight Committee in relation to the audit.

### Drug Rehabilitation Projects (CE)

Drug Rehab Projects aim to develop and deliver appropriate and relevant rehabilitation services for people who use drugs in their communities by:

- Providing supports and services to people who are in treatment to enhance the effectiveness of treatment
- Working with people in identifying their progression needs in relation to personal supports, family support, education, and training etc.
- Facilitating access for people to the supports required in integrating them back into normal community life
- Providing ongoing support for people as they move from treatment to other supports.

Citywide met with the DRP network three times during 2024. The Dept of Social Protection (DSP) Community Employment stakeholder group also met several times during 2024. A national conference took place in 2024, hosted by DSP, to focus on raising awareness specifically amongst local Community Development Officers employed by DSP as to the unique nature of DRPs and how they differ from mainstream CE's. The conference was the first of its kind and brought together all stakeholders: DRPs, Task Forces, HSE, DSP CDOs, Dept of Health. A key aim of the Citywide network reps was to have the difference between DRPs and general CE recognised in terms of their purpose and project worker skills level. Presentations were given by two projects and participants from two other projects outlined their experiences. Feedback from the roundtable groups will be fed into the Drugs Advisory Group to form a two-year workplan.

## Neurodiversity and Drug Use

Community Drug Projects have identified a lack support for people using drugs who are neurodivergent. Citywide have been working with Prof Catherine Comiskey and her team from the School of Midwifery in Trinity College Dublin on a piece of research into neurodiversity and drug use. The aim of this study is to provide the first estimates of the prevalence of neurodiversity among people who are using or who have used drugs or alcohol in Ireland, and to identify challenges and support needs for both the individuals and the drugs services they engage with.



The results of this research will inform the development of a set of policy recommendations for actions in the new National Drugs Strategy. A Research Advisory Group made up of service providers and advocates for Neurodivergent people was established to support the work of the project. The research involved a Systematic Review of Literature relating to prevalence of substance use and ND in Ireland and internationally. A general population online survey was posted on X, Facebook, Instagram and shared to our networks, DATFs, Family Resource Centres, SICCAP etc. Surveys were printed for UISCE for peer worker engagement and for the Prison Links Workers in Clondalkin and Rialto. Closing date for the survey was mid-July, after which the Trinity Team conducted interviews with Service Providers to assess support and resource needs. The report and policy recommendations will be launched in February 2025

## Communities of Interest

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Citywide has continued to work in ongoing partnership with Pavee Point to support the full engagement of the Traveller community in the structures, planning and implementation of all aspects of the NDS

We supported families and the National Family Support Network Steering Group in organising an event outside the Dáil on June 25th 2024 in solidarity with, but independent of, the annual event that Anyone's Child holds outside Westminster. We hosted a meeting of the Family Support Network Steering Group to support the planning its National Conference which took place in September and made a presentation at the Conference on our support for the importance of families' engagement. We participated in an event in Cork organised with families and services to mark International Overdose Day in August

We worked closely with Uisce on the survey for the Neurodiversity research project and in relation to our representative roles on the NOC. We participated in an innovative peer-led event to highlight the crucial importance of the voice of people who use drugs which was organised and delivered by UISCE and its members in December

## Encourage and inform public and political debate on the drugs

### General Election 2024

- Prepared a ‘key asks’ leaflet and video and circulated to politicians and to our community networks as part of the 2024 General Election campaign:

Leaflet: [ge2024\\_citywide\\_key\\_asks.pdf](#)

Video: [2024- General Election Citywide video](#)



### Local Elections 2024

- Prepared and circulated a ‘key questions’ leaflet for candidates in 2024 Local Elections: [local\\_elections\\_2024.pdf](#)

### EU Parliament Elections 2024

- Prepared and circulated a ‘key questions’ leaflet for candidates in 2024 European Elections: [Publications | CityWide - Drugs Crisis Campaign](#)

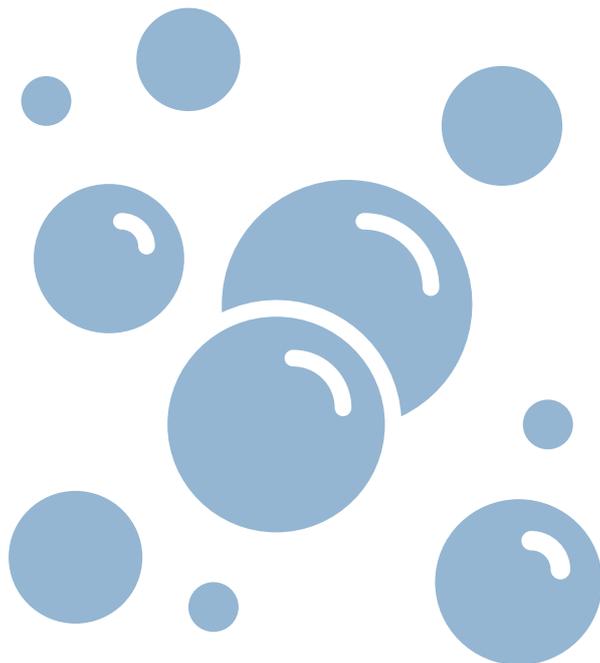
### Other activities during 2024 included:

- Presented and participated in a panel discussion organised by the ICCL at the Wheel Summit on the topic ‘Towards a Model Regulatory Environment for Civil Society’
- Participated in DCC Comhairle na n-Óg Steering Committee at general meetings and planning meetings
- Participated in a series of meetings organised by a number of Community Development workers and groups to organise a commemorative event for people who have died from HIV/AIDS related causes
- Facilitated meeting with UISCE and SAOL to look at existing anti-stigma training materials and adaptation for use in a range of settings
- Participated in a public awareness event organised by UCC FLAC
- Made submission to IHREC Strategic Plan highlighting drugs policy as a human rights issue
- Attended all meetings of the NDS National Oversight Committee as civil society representatives for the community sector

## Europe drug policy

Citywide participated in a series of consultation sessions organised by Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) to support Civil Society input into the 2024 UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs mid-term review of UN drug policy.

- Participated in a meeting with EU CSF colleagues to finalise and agree a publication strategy for a study on implementation of Standards in Civil Society Engagement which included Ireland as one of its four study countries.
- Provided an input on the Irish experience of advocacy on decriminalisation to an online Advocacy Mentorship Programme developed by EU Civil Society groups.
- Submitted a successful application for Citywide membership of the next mandate of the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs.
- Attended the first plenary meeting of the new mandate in Brussels in December



# Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign CLG - Profit and Loss

January - December 2024

	<u>Total</u>
<b>Income</b>	
1191 Dept Rural & Community Development	155,180.00
1199 The Rowan Trust Grant 2022	100,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>€ 255,180.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>€ 255,180.00</b>
<b>Other Income (Loss)</b>	
Management Fee	10,000.00
<b>Total Other Income (Loss)</b>	<b>€ 10,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
3940 Admin Wages Total 3940 Admin Wages x 3 Staff (one earning excess of €60K – band 60,000 to 70,000)	<b>€ 134,171.95</b>
3950 Overheads & Administration	
4001 Management Fee	10,000.00
4003 Rent	21,000.00
4004 Office Supplies + Moving Costs	1,183.85
4005 Postage & Delivery	54.00
<b>Total 4004 Office Supplies + Moving Costs</b>	<b>€ 1,237.85</b>
4007 Telephone & Communications	1,766.66
4008 Light & Heat	1,848.91
4009 Insurance	1,282.58
4010 Bank Service Charges	262.00
4011 Audit/Accountancy/Legal Fees	5,821.52
4013 IT Expenses	4,095.30
4018 Organisational Development	300.00
4055 Sundry	406.88
4014 Expenses	490.79
Membership Fees	170.00
<b>Total 4055 Sundry</b>	<b>€ 1,067.67</b>
<b>Total 3950 Overheads &amp; Administration</b>	<b>€ 48,682.49</b>
4090 Depreciation	
4091 Computers	467.64
<b>Total 4090 Depreciation</b>	<b>€ 467.64</b>
5000 Project Payments	
4002 Travel & Subsistence	281.41
4053 Networking	1,587.00
5003 Training/Research Community Rep	1,285.85
5010 Research	24,917.00
5013 Anti Stigma/Training	953.20
Community Crime Impact Assessment	922.50
Untold Stories	16,512.49
<b>Total 5000 Project Payments</b>	<b>€ 46,459.45</b>
Other Miscellaneous Service Cost	2,690.88
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>€ 232,472.41</b>
<b>Net Earnings</b>	<b>€ 32,707.59</b>

