



# Annual Report 2019

## Donegal Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Centre



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Funded by:   
An Gleannbheinnchúil um  
Leasú agus Tráchtáil  
Cúil agus Teaghlach

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## Background

The Centre was first established in 1997 and has since grown to a full time service. We provide free professional, quality counselling, support, advocacy and awareness raising across the County of Donegal for survivors of sexual violence aged 14+ and their loved ones of all genders and gender identities.

We are a member service of the Rape Crisis Network of Ireland (RCNI).

Our core funding is from TUSLA and is supplemented by fundraising and donations.

## Mission Statement

Donegal Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre offer counselling, support and advice to survivors of rape and sexual abuse in a confidential, safe and friendly environment

## VISION

Donegal Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre endeavours to eliminate sexual violence in our society by working in partnership with other agencies, raising awareness through education programmes and empowering people and communities

## Welcome

### Strategic Highlights

2019 was a busy year for the service with increased accompaniment to SATU, Garda and Court. We had an increase in counselling sessions and also an increase in counselling for U18's. We were fortunate to be able to make the premises more secure with the installation of an alarm system and a door intercom system ensuring privacy for clients. We had a change in staff during the year, I would like to thank Marie and Katrina for their service and welcome Emma, Connie and Marian. I would like to thank our staff, volunteers and Voluntary Board of Directors and everyone who has supported the service in 2019!

### Financial Highlights

2019 saw increased funding from TUSLA, which enabled us to appoint a sessional counsellor to meet the increased demand for counselling.

### Looking Ahead

Our plans for the future include expanding our services to further outreaches and increasing counselling hours. We hope to recruit and train new SATU volunteers to meet with the ever increasing demand for accompaniment. We would also like to engage an Education worker in order to deliver much demanded workshops and training to schools, youth organisations and 3<sup>rd</sup> level. We also intend to increase Board membership and establish finance and fundraising subgroups.

*Marina Porter, Manager*

*Aug 31<sup>st</sup> 2020*

## Chairperson's Letter

I would like to thank everyone connected to the Donegal Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre for their efforts in keeping this service available to the public of Donegal, and indeed expanding the service.

This has been a busy and eventful year, the fact that this AGM is delayed because of the pandemic our country faces is testament to the difficult times we are in. I wish to pay tribute to the staff in the center for continuing to provide a service throughout the lockdown and since. TUSLA have acknowledged the efforts of the staff here and have favorably compared it to that of other centers. I also want to thank the fellow members of the board who have continued to meet during the pandemic showing their continued dedication and commitment.

Since our last AGM we have continued to expand the service to our outreaches and also have added some new members of staff who I welcome on board. We have also welcomed new board members and I hope we will add more in the year ahead. We have also lost some members of staff and board members since the last AGM and I would like to thank them for their service and wish them well in the future.

I would like to thank everyone who fundraised for the center and those who donated money and gifts for raffles etc. With the increase in numbers this will become an important factor in funding counselling going forward. I would like to thank TUSLA for their continued support and funding which enables the center to continue its work.

David Moore, Chairperson

August 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

## Board of Directors 2019

Donegal Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Centre is a registered charity - Charity No 20041960 and Company Limited by Guarantee CHY 13548.

We are governed by a Voluntary Board of Directors.

Chairperson - David Moore

Treasurer - Michael Keane

Secretary - Mary Vernon

### Directors:

Connie Mc Gilloway

Karen Conlon

Sharon Mac Laughlin

Bill Vaughan

Hugh Doyle

Seamus Murphy

Thank you all for your commitment and dedication to the service!



**FreePhone: 1800 44 88 44**

## Accompaniment

### Garda Accompaniment



We provide accompaniment for anyone wishing to report, wishing to enquire about the legal process, give a formal statement or write a victim impact statement. This can be in our centre or Garda station, whatever is most convenient for the client, In 2019 we carried out 20 Garda Accompaniments.

### COURT ACCOMPANIMENT

Part of the support services we provide is Accompaniment to Court for clients and other survivors of sexual violence. In 2019 we had 11 Court Accompaniments





## SATU - Sexual Assault Treatment Unit – Accompaniment

A key part of our work is SATU psychological support to SATU patients and their loved ones.

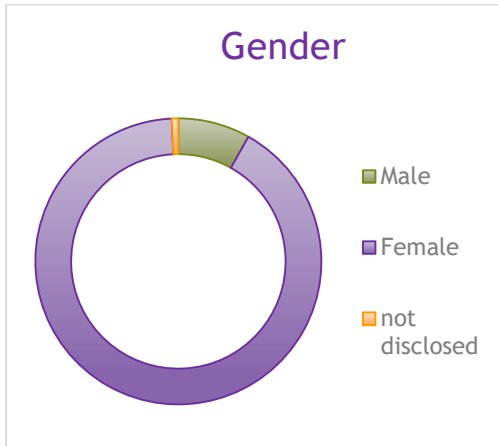
Our team of trained volunteers accompany survivors and their loved ones in the immediate aftermath of sexual violence.

SATU patients are offered a follow up 'check-in' call if they wish and are also invited to visit the centre for a cuppa and a chat to allow them to make an informed decision about counselling.

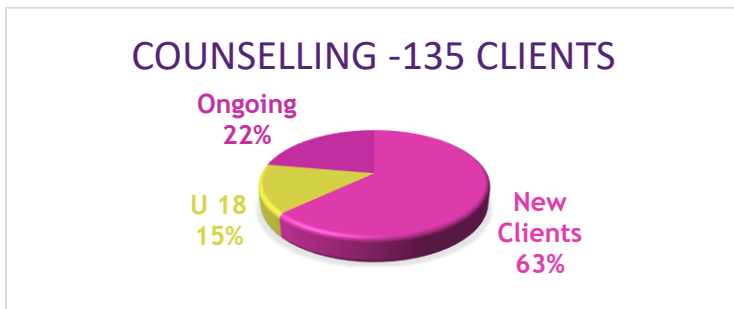
In 2019 we accompanied 69 Survivors to SATU.



## Client Numbers: One-to-one Counselling



In 2019, 135 clients received free one-to-one counselling. Breakdown information is depicted in the charts

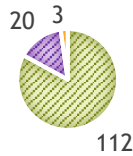


Length of engagement in counselling is determined by ongoing assessment between client and counsellor.

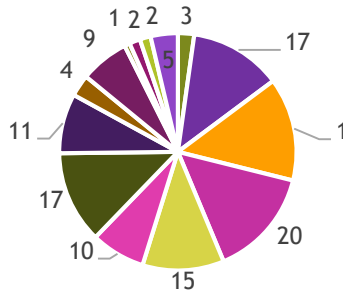
Although our services are free, duration is determined by individual need. Many clients return as needed in line with our 'revolving door approach'.

## CLIENT BREAKDOWN

- Survivors of Adult Sexual Violence
- Survivors of Childhood Sexual Violence
- Not Disclosed

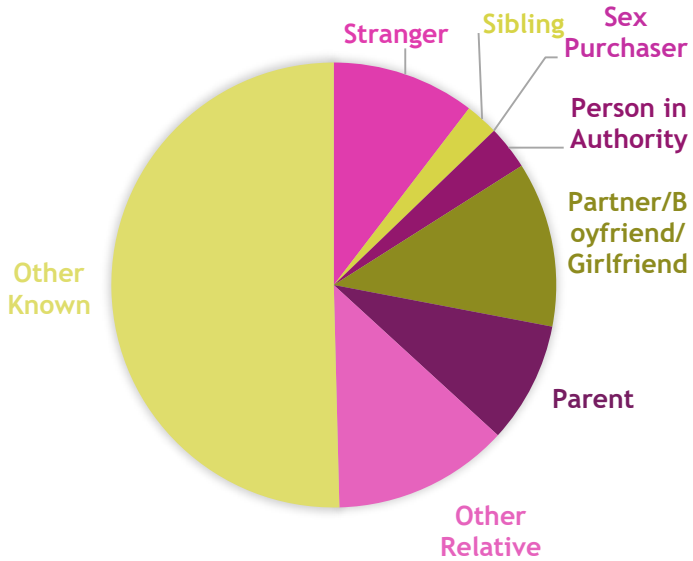


## Client Age

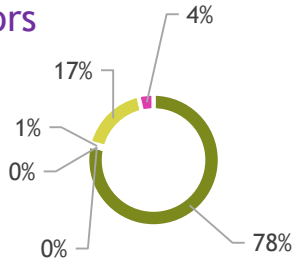


- 14 & under
- 15-17
- 18-19
- 20-24
- 25-29
- 30-34
- 35-39
- 40-44
- 45-49
- 50-54
- 55-59
- 60-64
- 65+
- unknown

## RELATIONSHIP TO PERPETRATOR



## Perpetrators



- Male
- Female
- Transgender/Transsexual
- Mixed - Single Event
- Mixed - Multiple Event
- Unknown Gender

## Reporting

While we support survivors on every step of their journey, it is important to state that we do not require clients to report if they are not ready or do not wish to do so. The only exception to this is regarding Child Protection where we are mandated to file a report

