



Annual Report 2014

Working for Women and Children
Experiencing Domestic Violence



my name is Joanne Sonas is
helping me and my mummy.



CEO Introduction

Domestic abuse is complex but Sonas's starting point is simple - the safety of women and children is our priority; their needs shape our response. We provide refuge, outreach and advice, court accompaniment, visiting support, supported housing and Safe Homes in the community.

2014 was a year of new beginnings for Sonas and for many of the women and children we supported. For a significant number, however, domestic abuse remained a continuing threat in their lives and our priority was to support them to manage risks and stay safe.

- Sonas supported a record number of women and children experiencing domestic abuse – over 1,000.
- Sonas services operate all across the Greater Dublin Region and Wicklow.

In response to the needs of the women and children experiencing domestic abuse, Sonas launched two new services:

- Advice, Outreach and Court Accompaniment Service, already established in west Dublin, expanded to cover North Dublin, as well.
- Sonas Safe Home model was developed and the service launched in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Local Authority Area for women and children fleeing domestic abuse.

We changed our name from Sonas Housing Association to Sonas Domestic Violence Charity. Why? Sonas has been expanding and developing support services since 2010 with the opening of our refuge in West Dublin. Our range of services still includes supported housing but the majority of Sonas clients now seek support from our mobile community based services: outreach and advice, court accompaniment and visiting support.

Sonas also launched a new website *domesticabuse.ie* in order to make our services even more accessible to victims of domestic abuse.

As a support organisation, we are very aware that we do not provide these vital services in isolation. We consider our working partnerships, both statutory and Community and Voluntary, as vital to delivering the best outcomes for women and children.

In 2014, we gained a new funder, Tusla – the Child and Family Agency. Together with our other key funder, the Dublin Region Homeless Executive, they made it possible to provide services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse across the Greater Dublin Region.

In 2015, we look forward to providing better services and supporting more women and children to move on from domestic abuse.



Fiona Ryan,
CEO Sonas Domestic Violence Charity





Sonas: A Big Thank You...

Sonas supports women and children experiencing domestic abuse. We are grateful to all those who work with us and for us. Your commitment to our work makes the difference.

Our work in 2014 was made possible thanks to funding from:

- Tusla, the Child and Family Agency
- Dublin Region Homeless Executive/Department of Environment
- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (Safe Home)
- Wicklow County Council

Our responsibility, in return, is to provide effective, quality services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

Every day we work with other domestic abuse support organisations, schools, creches, local authorities, Tusla social work teams, An Garda Síochána, the Courts, health professionals, legal professionals, family support programmes, government departments, mental health and homeless support organisations etc.

The list could, and should, go on reflecting as it does the needs of the women and children we meet every day face to face. We know our ability to provide the best outcomes for clients is reliant on these partnerships. We hope to build and improve on them even more in 2015 and to all our partners, thank you.

Quality services require dedicated professional teams to deliver them. In Sonas that work is done by our Women and Children's Support Teams. Our services teams are supported in their work by an organisational back-up team consisting of - HR, finance, IT and accommodation management.

Sonas is guided by a voluntary board which monitors and oversees the governance, management and strategic direction of the organisation under the leadership of Chairperson Anne McKeon. She is joined in her work on the board by: Theresa Sweeney, Deirdre Murphy, Síle McGuckian Fitzpatrick, Jacqueline Cremin, Mary Connolly and Olive Killoury. On behalf of all of us – thank you.

As ever, our ultimate thanks are to the women and children whom we work with. Their experiences remind us every day of the toll domestic abuse takes. Their courage and resilience also remind us that domestic abuse can be overcome.







Contents

Sonas in 2014	6
Sonas Services: Supporting the Safety of Women and Children	9
New Supports for Women and Children	10
Children's Services	12
Directors' Report and Financial Statements	17

SONAS IN 2014



Sonas supported **over 1,041** women and children through our services making us the largest frontline service provider in the State

Sonas responded to over **3,000** phone calls from women looking for support, services and advice



2 Out Of 3 Children We Supported Were Under The Age Of 10

We opened our new Outreach service in North Dublin providing direct face to face support to women in **Swords, Balbriggan, Rush, Lusk, Skerries and Malahide**




Sonas Directly Supported Women And Children From



30 Different Nationalities

3 OUT OF 5 WOMEN AND CHILDREN SONAS SUPPORTED WERE IRISH

 Sonas's Safe Home service went live in the **Dun-Laoghaire Rathdown** area of Dublin: the service providing secure crisis accommodation and supports for women and children fleeing domestic violence

Community Mobile Support Service

Sonas continued to directly support homeless women and children experiencing domestic abuse through our Community Mobile Support Service

We continued to support some of the most complex domestic violence cases with 40% of the families referring to Sonas already having social work involvement



Layla's Story

My life was a total and utter mess. It was based upon co-dependency, addictions (alcohol), mental, physical and emotional abuse. Torture and punishment towards me and my children was normal. The Gardai became a major part of my life having to be called nearly twice a week.

Sonas is a safe secure place to come with support workers there to listen. They helped me understand the violence and abuse was not my fault. I have had time to heal wounds and build up self-confidence and to learn how domestic violence works.





Sonas Services: Supporting the Safety of Women and Children

Sonas exists to support women and children experiencing domestic abuse; their needs shape our response.

Sonas provides services across the Greater Dublin Region and Wicklow.

We know from providing services over the past 23 years that needs can differ from individual to individual, based on personal circumstances. Needs can also change over time which is why Sonas developed our services to be flexible and responsive.

Sonas Services...

- **Refuge:** 24/7 crisis accommodation service for women and children fleeing domestic abuse, including 24 hour crisis helpline.
- **Advice and Outreach:** A support service for women experiencing domestic abuse offering general advice and signposting to other services. The service also offers specific advice on risk and safety assessment/ planning, court accompaniment and legal issues.
- **Court Accompaniment:** Sonas provides court accompaniment as an additional service to women who are already being supported by a Sonas service, as well as to women who may just want support going to court.
- **Visiting Support Service:** An intensive form of outreach support delivered to a woman in her own home on a longer term structured basis than outreach.
- **Crisis Intervention Service:** Provided by the Visiting Support team, this is a specific support for women and children in homeless services, who are experiencing domestic abuse.
- **Children's Services:** Half of the people Sonas supports are under the age of 18; and 2 out of 3 are under the age of 10. Children's Services in Sonas are provided by a dedicated support team who work in every site-based service. The wellbeing, welfare and protection of a child or a young person is our priority across all services.
- **Long-term support via housing:** Sonas provides housing in different Dublin locations to women and children experiencing domestic abuse who may also have additional and/or complex needs.

The aim of the housing-based service is to provide women and children with structured support in designated accommodation for a period of time before progressing on to general housing.
- **Safe Home:** Women and children out of home due to domestic abuse are provided with intensive support and housed in the community in suitably security-outfitted accommodation.



New Supports for Women and Children

Safe Home... Creating a Safe Space for Women and Children

Safe Home is a new service for women and children experiencing domestic abuse which Sonas launched on a pilot basis in 2014. The service is provided in co-operation with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Tusla – the Child and Family Agency and An Garda Síochána.

Women and children are offered intensive support and housed in the community in suitably security outfitted accommodation. Support is provided by the Women and Children's Support Teams.

The service was developed in the absence of any other crisis accommodation in the area for women and children fleeing their homes because of domestic abuse.

Sonas had previously commissioned a report demonstrating the need for a refuge type service in this area. Safe Home is intended as an alternative to refuge for women and children at low to medium risk. Safe Home is not, however, a substitute for refuge. If someone is at high risk then they need refuge. Everyone eligible for this service who seeks support has their level of risk assessed.

So far the response to this type of support has been overwhelmingly positive.

Our goal for this service is that it goes beyond the pilot phase to provide ongoing real support for women and children out of home because of domestic abuse.

Reaching Out... Expanding Sonas Outreach and Advice to North Dublin

Sonas Advice and Outreach North Dublin opened in 2014 in response to domestic abuse-related support needs in one of the fastest growing areas of the country.

We had already been providing an Advice and Outreach Service in West Dublin and so we used the experience of providing support in a demographically diverse area to launch our North Dublin service.

One of our challenges in establishing the service was to link-in with diverse communities from Malahide to Swords to Balbriggan and across the North County. We did this in the course of the year through:

- partnership with other community-based service providers
- support from the statutory agencies including Fingal County Council
- word of mouth recommendations by women who had used the service to other women seeking help

We look forward to the service providing greater support to women and children in North Dublin.





Marion's Story

My life was a mess: I was homeless, pregnant and a domestic violence sufferer. My self-worth was on the floor.

I am now learning how to have the freedom to cope with my life. Having my own home is like winning the lotto. My key worker is great. She is working with me and my children on site. Life is improving. Safety is my number one priority.

Children's Services

Supporting the present, creating futures: working with children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

Sonas supports hundreds of children and young people experiencing domestic abuse every year. Many struggle to make sense of their experiences. Many have complex support needs. For many children, secrecy is a way of life and keeping quiet, a key to survival.

Sonas's Children's Support Team works on a 1 to 1 basis, in groups and through parenting support in the context of domestic abuse. Our work can vary from risk and safety planning with children to creating a safe space where they can share and understand their experiences and emotions. We use art, play, writing, games and puppets to provide children with the opportunity to navigate their experiences.

Age, ethnicity, individual capacity, disability, language and gender are just a few of the factors that inform how we support each child. Our responses vary too depending on how much time we have to work with the child: in refuge it might be a few days; in Safe Home or Supported Housing it could be months. The longer we have to work with a child beyond the initial crisis stage, the more opportunity there is for them to disclose and process their experiences.

The link between child abuse and domestic abuse is well documented. Perpetrators of domestic abuse can, and do, abuse children. Even if the child is not the direct target of the abuse, children still suffer emotionally by being exposed to domestic abuse. They can experience a range of emotions: anxiety, fear, anger, confusion, as well as, behaviours - acting out, withdrawal, assuming adult responsibilities etc.

Domestic abuse can produce conflicting feelings in children. They may blame their mother for staying with the abuser or for leaving the abuser. For many children the perpetrator of abuse is also their father and may be someone they still love.

Part of our work in the Children's Support Team can be to help children make sense of conflicting feelings and also figure out how they are going to respond to future situations. We safety plan with children in the event that they are returning to a situation where there is a potential re-occurrence of domestic abuse.





Catherine from our Children's Support Team tells *Ella's Story*

One woman asked me to speak to her 6-year-old daughter, Ella. She was concerned that Ella was remembering the abuse, not speaking about it, but it was obviously distressing her.

Ella and I met the next day and she seemed really nervous, so we started by drawing pictures. I asked her if she could draw a picture of her family. She drew herself, her brothers and sisters. When I asked who else was in her family, she drew her Mum. I asked her about her Dad, and she drew him next to her Mum. Both of them had sad faces with rain clouds over their heads. All the time she was drawing she never mentioned anything about her Dad's behaviour until the very end when she said: "I didn't like when Dad left a bruise on Mum..."

We agreed it must have been scary and upsetting for her. At the end of the session she asked me when could she come back to talk again. That was the start. Her Mum later told me that Ella was happy to be finally able to speak about her experiences. I realised that even though I had heard Ella's Mum reassure her on numerous occasions that they were safe and didn't have to keep secrets, it had taken nearly a year for Ella to talk about what had happened.





Margaret from our Children's Support Team tells *Michaela's Story*

Michaela was just 10 when she witnessed her father's brutal attack on her mother during which she thought her mother was going to be killed.

It became clear during a 1 to 1 support session with Michaela that she was really struggling with conflicting emotions around her Dad. She was traumatised by what he did but she had happy memories of him before the attack too. Over time, she explained how guilty she felt about testifying in court. Her father was jailed for the attack. At the same time she said she still loved her Dad.

We used a variety of tools, such as, art, therapeutic storytelling and reflective writing to support Michaela to understand and accept her emotions. She took part in groups with other children who had similar experiences. Michaela began to understand that it was OK to have mixed feelings towards her father. She could still love him but be scared and angry about what he had done. She came to realise his imprisonment wasn't her fault but his alone. He was responsible for what he did.

When her father applied to the court for access to her, Michaela had the courage to speak out and state she did not feel it was safe for her to see her Dad even though she still loved him.







Contents

Directors' Report and Financial
Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

Directors and Other Information	18
Directors' Report	19
Statement of Directors' Responsibilities	22
Independent Auditors' Report	23
Statement of Financial Activities	26
Balance Sheet	27
Cash Flow Statement	28
Notes to the Financial Statements	29
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	36

Directors and Other Information

Board of Directors

Theresa Sweeney

Anne McKeon

Deirdre Murphy

Sile McGuckian Fitzpatrick

Jacqueline Cremin

Mary Connolly
(Appointed 21 April 2015)

Olive Killoury
(Appointed 21 April 2015)

Secretary and Registered Office

Sile McGuckian Fitzpatrick

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited
14 Bachelors Walk
Dublin 1

Chief Executive Officer

Fiona Ryan

Company Registration Number

195618

Auditors

Duignan Carthy O'Neill

Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
84, Northumberland Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

Principal Bankers

Bank of Ireland
371 North Circular Road
Dublin 7

Solicitors

Hayes Solicitors
Lavery House
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 1

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2014

The directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 for consideration at the annual general meeting.

Principal Activity

Sonas was established to provide refuge, support and accommodation to women and children experiencing domestic abuse. The organisation has charitable status. It was established as a voluntary housing association and granted approved status under section 6 of the 1992 Housing Act by the Minister of the Environment.

Results for the Year and State of Affairs at 31 December 2014

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2014 and Balance Sheet as at that date are set out on pages 26 to 27. The deficit amounted to €63,816 compared to a surplus of €127,070 in the previous year. A nil charge to taxation arose and accordingly an amount of €63,816 was credited from reserves.

Legal Status

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital incorporated under the Companies Acts 1963 to 1990. Membership of the company is unlimited. The liability of each member of the company is limited to €1. The company, as a charity, is exempt from the reporting and disclosure requirements of the Companies Act 2014. Although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), as issued by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales in October 2005, the company has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these accounts. The main activities of the company are charitable.

Properties Operated by Sonas

Sonas operated 110 properties in 2014, primarily in the Greater Dublin Area with the addition of Wicklow town. Properties in Killester, Ringsend, Clondalkin, Wicklow and Steapside are used to provide

accommodation-based support services to women and children. Sonas also operates a crisis refuge in Blanchardstown. Sonas has additional properties in Ranelagh, Tallaght, Belmayne and Ballymun.

Sonas Housing Partnership

The Sonas Housing Partnership (SHP) is the name given to a management arrangement between Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited and two other services, Meath Women's Aid Housing Association Limited, and the Mayo Women's Support Service. Established in 1998, its aim was to replicate the Sonas model of accommodation based support.

Funding in 2014 was accessed by Sonas from the two relevant local authorities and distributed according to the terms contained in a management agreement with each partner.

Board of Management

Within Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited there is a voluntary board of management established for good governance.

Staffing

In 2014, Sonas employed an average of 38 full time staff, and a relief panel which varied between 8 and 10 part time staff. Of the 38 full time staff, 32 work directly with women and children across Sonas services including: Sonas's Crisis Refuge, Long-Term Supported Housing, Visiting Support, Advice and Outreach, Safe Home.

The Sonas executive management team consists of the CEO, the Head of Services, Finance Manager, Housing and Property Manager and HR Manager.

Funding and Income

Sonas in 2014 was funded by Tusla - the Child and Family Agency and the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE), who combined gave €1,785,723 in statutory grant aid to the charity in the year. Some additional funding was received from local authorities, most notably Wicklow County Council and

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2014 (continued)

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, for specific services. This was in addition to annual housing Maintenance and Management fees from relevant local authorities.

Rents receivable make up 12% of total income, and amounted to €319,518 for the year.

Fundraising and donations represents less than 1% of total income, and amounted to €9,591 for the year.

All of the above funding received, with the exception of monies fundraised, is restricted funding.

The balance of grant and revenue funding is for revenue expenditure. These revenue funds are to cover the running of services.

Out of the €319,518 of rental income, the board agreed to ring-fence a minimum of 20% of rental income from non-refuge accommodation and 100% of its refuge rental income, into a building maintenance reserve with the balance going towards the annual running costs associated with the provision of support accommodation.

Pensions

Sonas operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the majority of the employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the company in independently administered funds. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the company during the year.

Internal Controls

Sonas follows the financial reporting protocols of its statutory funders including quarterly reports; management accounts and audited accounts.

The company prepares quarterly management accounts which are reviewed by the Board and an independent audit is undertaken annually.

There is a formal organisational structure in place with clearly defined lines of responsibility, division of duties and delegation of authority and responsibilities.

Sonas has strict policies and procedures in place for the receipt, recording and control of donations.

Sonas has signed up to the DOECLG Voluntary Regulation Code for approved housing bodies, published in July 2013 and is compliant with the Tier 2 requirements.

Risk

Sonas Directors are aware of the statutory obligations in relation to providing a fair review of the company's development and performance. The directors are satisfied that a principal risk facing the company is the availability of continued funding from the Government. The directors have addressed this risk by competent management and spending of the funds received.

Directors

In accordance with the Articles of Association, half the members of the Board of Management shall retire from office at the Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election.

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2014 (continued)

Future Developments

Sonas's starting point is always the needs of women and children experiencing domestic abuse; their specific safety and welfare needs shape our response. We will continue to provide effective services. We will innovate and adapt services to produce the best outcomes for the women and children we support; our partners whom we work with; and our funders.

Accounting Records

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities under Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 to keep adequate accounting records for the company. To this end, the directors allocate appropriate resources to secure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

The books and records are kept at 14 Bachelors Walk, Dublin 1.

Auditors

The auditors, Duignan Carthy O'Neill, have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 383(2) of the Companies Act, 2014.

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with 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 Companies Act 2014 and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland ("relevant financial reporting framework"). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless directors are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. In preparing these, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and 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
- 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 profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy; enable directors to ensure that the financial statements and directors' report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be 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.

Independent Auditors' Report

We have audited the financial statements of Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited for the year ended 31 December 2014 on pages 26 to 36, which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 19 and 22. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

This 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 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.

Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). These standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practice Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the Audit of the Financial Statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the director's report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on Financial Statements

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 2014 and of its deficit for the year then ended
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, the requirements of the Companies Act 2014

Independent Auditors' Report (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider 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.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion, the information given in the directors' report on pages 19 - 21 is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 306 to 312 of the Act are not made.

Liam McQuaid

for and on behalf of

Duignan Carthy O'Neill

Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
84, Northumberland Road
Dublin 4
Ireland



Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2014

Income and Expenditure

		Restricted Funds 2014	Designated Funds 2014	Unrestricted Funds 2014	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013
	Notes	€	€	€	€	€
Incoming Resources						
Corporation & Grant Funding	1.6	1,990,862	-	-	1,990,862	2,074,179
Other Income		24,021			24,021	37,578
Rental Income		246,636	72,882	-	319,518	312,837
Donations & Fundraising		-	9,591	-	9,591	32,358
Amortisation of grant income		-	-	328,382	328,382	332,969
Total Incoming Resources		2,261,519	82,473	328,382	2,672,374	2,789,921
Resources Expended						
Crisis Intervention & Provision of Support Services		(2,213,980)	(671)	(2,214,651)	(2,097,582)	
Depreciation		-	-	(398,089)	(398,089)	(391,098)
Legal, Professional & Administration		-	-	(60,288)	(60,288)	(121,809)
Total Resources Expended		(2,213,980)	(671)	(458,377)	(2,673,028)	(2,610,489)
Net Movement in Funds		47,539	81,802	(129,995)	(654)	179,432
Provision for building maintenance reserve		-	(72,882)	-	(72,882)	(72,122)
(Deficit)/Surplus on ordinary activities before interest		47,539	8,920	(129,995)	(73,536)	107,310
Interest receivable and similar income	3	-	-	9,720	9,720	19,760
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		47,539	8,920	(120,275)	(63,816)	127,070
(Deficit)/Surplus retained for the year	12	47,539	8,920	(120,275)	(63,816)	127,070

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the above two financial years.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2014

	Notes	2014 €	2013 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	6	15,783,980	16,154,453
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	121,072	12,443
Cash at bank and in hand	8	1,346,819	1,466,577
		<u>1,467,891</u>	<u>1,479,020</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(206,660)</u>	<u>(161,906)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>1,261,231</u>	<u>1,317,114</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>17,045,211</u>	<u>17,471,567</u>
Restricted Government Grants	10	<u>(16,096,321)</u>	<u>(16,417,974)</u>
Net Assets		<u>948,890</u>	<u>1,053,593</u>
Capital and Reserves			
Building Maintenance Reserve	11	530,938	571,825
Accumulated Funds		<u>417,952</u>	<u>481,768</u>
Funds	12	<u>948,890</u>	<u>1,053,593</u>

Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Notes	2014 €	2013 €
Reconciliation of operating Surplus/(Deficit) to net cash inflow from charitable activities			
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus		(73,536)	107,310
Depreciation		398,089	391,098
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors		(108,629)	40,871
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors		44,754	(66,989)
Government grant released		(328,382)	(332,969)
Provision for building maintenance reserve		72,882	72,122
Net cash inflow from charitable activities		5,178	211,443
Cash Flow Statement			
Net cash inflow from charitable activities		5,178	211,443
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	16	9,720	19,760
Capital expenditure	16	(27,616)	(695,476)
Capital Grants Received	16	6,730	645,886
Building Maintenance Reserve Expended	16	(113,769)	(23,198)
(Decrease)/Increase in cash in the year		(119,758)	158,415
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt (Note 15)			
(Decrease)/Increase in cash in the year		(119,758)	158,415
Net funds at 1 January 2014		1,466,577	1,308,162
Net funds at 31 December 2014		1,346,819	1,466,577

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2014

1. Accounting Policies

1.1. Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts, 2014, and the Charities SORP (Amended 2008). Accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view are those published by Chartered Accountants Ireland and issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

1.2. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

All tangible fixed assets are recorded at historic cost.

Depreciation is on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset systematically over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land & Buildings	2% Straight Line
Office Equipment	20% Straight Line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20% Straight Line
Motor vehicles	20% Straight Line

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.

1.3. Pensions

Pension benefits for employees are met by payments to a defined contribution pension fund.

The regular cost of providing retirement pensions and related benefits is charged to the Income and Expenditure account over the employees' service lives on the basis of a constant percentage of earnings. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

1.4. Taxation

The company is exempt from taxation due to its charitable status. The company's charity number is 10872.

1.5. Government Grants

Grants are credited to deferred revenue. Grants towards capital expenditure are released to the profit and loss account over the expected useful life of the assets. Grants towards revenue expenditure are released to the Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

1.6. Income

Income represents the total of grants, donations and rental income related to the year.

Income is received in cash by way of donations, gifts, grants and fund-raising events. Cash donations, gifts, and grants are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities as soon as they are received. Cash collected from fund-raising events is included in the Statement of Financial Activities as soon as it is credited in the bank.

Bank interest received is included in the Statement of Financial Activities as soon as it is credited to the bank account. Rental income is accrued for the year to which it relates.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2014 (continued)

1.6. Income (continued)

Revenue Based Grant Income	2014	2013
	€	€
Dublin City Council/Dublin Region Homeless Executive	639,018	814,718
Tusla - DML	222,923	220,502
Tusla - DNE	923,782	976,466
Fingal Co. Council	4,071	4,231
South Dublin Co. Council	10,860	10,860
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Council	102,811	-
Mayo Co. Council	45,228	45,228
Meath Co. Council	2,172	2,173
Wicklow Co. Council	39,997	-
Other Grants	-	-
	1,990,862	2,074,178

Income Received from Grant Funders	Received and released in 2014	Deferred from 2013	Deferred to 2015	Per Financial Statements 2014
	€	€	€	€
Dublin City Council/Dublin Region Homeless Executive	639,018	-	-	639,018
Fingal Co. Council	4,071	-	-	4,071
South Dublin Co. Council	10,860	-	-	10,860
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Council	102,811	-	-	102,811
Mayo Co. Council	45,228	-	-	45,228
Meath Co. Council	2,172	-	-	2,172
Wicklow Co. Council	55,830	22,667	(38,500)	39,997
	859,990	22,667	(38,500)	844,157

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2014 (continued)

Expenditure

All expenditure is charged in the period to which it relates.

2. Surplus for the Year

	2014	2013
	€	€
Operating surplus is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	398,089	391,098
Auditors' remuneration	8,303	8,303
and after crediting:		
Government grants amortised	(328,382)	(332,969)

3. Interest Receivable and Similar Income

	2014	2013
	€	€
Bank interest	9,720	19,760

4. Employees

Number of Employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the directors) during the year were:

	2014	2013
	Number	Number
All employees	38	40

Employment costs

	2014	2013
	€	€
Wages and salaries - support staff for women and children	1,277,753	1,268,444
Wages and salaries - administration support staff	267,460	250,507
Social welfare costs - support staff for women and children	135,194	133,138
Social welfare costs - administration support staff	28,281	25,808
Pension costs - support staff for women and children	10,375	16,418
Pension costs - administration support staff	26,664	2,823
	1,745,727	1,697,138

Director's salary for 2014 was €Nil (2013:€Nil).

There is one employee whose salary is in excess of €70,000, which is the Chief Executive Officer, who's annual salary is €89,000.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2014 (continued)

5. Pension Costs

The company operates one defined contribution scheme for eligible employees. Pension costs amounted to €37,039 (2013 - €19,241). The assets of the scheme are vested in independent trustees for the sole benefit of those employees.

6. Tangible Assets

	Land and Buildings	Fixtures, fittings, equipment	Office Equipment	Motor Vehicle	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
Cost					
At 1 January 2014	18,962,481	150,502	167,805	16,700	19,297,488
Additions	22,215	-	5,401	-	27,616
At 31 December 2014	18,984,696	150,502	173,206	16,700	19,325,104
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2014	2,879,597	137,558	123,375	2,505	3,143,035
Charge for the year	379,575	3,460	11,714	3,340	398,089
At 31 December 2014	3,259,172	141,018	135,089	5,845	3,541,124
Net book values					
At 31 December 2014	15,725,524	9,484	38,117	10,855	15,783,980
At 31 December 2013	16,082,884	12,944	44,430	14,195	16,154,453

	Land and Buildings	Fixtures, fittings, equipment	Office Equipment	Motor Vehicle	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
Cost					
At 1 January 2013	18,317,817	150,502	133,693	-	18,602,012
Additions	644,664	-	34,112	16,700	695,476
At 31 December 2013	18,962,481	150,502	167,805	16,700	19,297,488
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2013	2,501,633	134,098	116,206	-	2,751,937
Charge for the year	377,964	3,460	7,169	2,505	391,098
At 31 December 2013	2,879,597	137,558	123,375	2,505	3,143,035
Net book values					
At 31 December 2013	16,082,884	12,944	44,430	14,195	16,154,453
At 31 December 2012	15,816,184	16,404	17,487	-	15,850,075

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited has secured title to 92% of the Land and Buildings included above at 31 December 2014. The company continues to apply resources to secure full title to the remaining 8% of these properties.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2014 (continued)

7. Debtors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2014	2013
	€	€
Rent Receivable	119	119
Staff Tax Saver	4,148	-
Prepayments and accrued income	116,805	12,324
	<u>121,072</u>	<u>12,443</u>

8. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2014	2013
	€	€
Current Accounts	142,877	401,150
Deposit Account		
- Amount set aside to provide for a Building Maintenance Reserve	530,938	571,825
- Other deposits	669,980	491,356
Petty Cash	3,024	2,246
	<u>1,346,819</u>	<u>1,466,577</u>

The funds held in the current account are restricted to running services and the organisation. All monies held in the deposit accounts are restricted funds to cover charity running costs and the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund.

9. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2014	2013
	€	€
Trade creditors	60,315	53,413
Pension	(725)	-
Impact Union Fees	417	-
Other taxes and social security costs	57,605	53,505
Accruals & Deferred Income	88,885	54,385
Other Creditors	163	603
	<u>206,660</u>	<u>161,906</u>
<i>Other taxes and social security costs include:</i>		
PAYE & PRSI	57,605	53,505

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2014 (continued)

10. Housing Loans - CLSS & CAS

	2014	2013
	€	€
At 1 January 2014	16,417,973	16,105,057
Increase in year	6,730	645,886
	<u>16,424,703</u>	<u>16,750,943</u>
Released in year	(328,382)	(332,969)
At 31 December 2014	<u>16,096,321</u>	<u>16,417,974</u>

The company owns properties in Killester, Clondalkin, Ballina, Navan, Ringsend, Ballymun, Blanchardstown, Stepside, Belmayne, Tallaght and Wicklow. Housing loans are secured by specific charges on the charity's land and housing properties. No capital or interest repayments are required to be made on the above loans provided that the charity continues to comply with certain specific requirements of the local authorities with regard to the properties for which housing loans have been provided.

11. Building Maintenance Reserve

The company has a building maintenance reserve. This reserve is to meet contingency building maintenance expenditure that may arise on housing stock. This reserve has a balance of €530,938 at 31 December 2014 (2013: €571,825).

12. Reconciliation of Movements in Funds

	2014	2013
	€	€
Restricted Funds - Current Year	47,539	258,942
Designated Funds - Current Year	8,920	28,306
Unrestricted Funds - Current Year	(120,275)	(160,178)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(63,816)	127,070
Net Increase in Building Maintenance Reserve	(40,887)	48,924
	<u>(104,703)</u>	<u>175,994</u>
Opening Funds brought forward	1,053,593	877,599
	<u>948,890</u>	<u>1,053,593</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2014 (continued)

12. Reconciliation of Movements in Funds (continued)

Closing Reserves allocated as follows:

	Opening Surplus/(Deficit) 01/01/14	2014	Closing Surplus/(Deficit) 31/12/14
	€	€	€
Restricted Funds	783,180	47,539	830,719
Designated Funds	124,132	8,920	133,052
Unrestricted Funds	747,762	(120,275)	(868,037)
Un-allocated reserves prior to 1/1/07	322,218	-	322,218
Building Maintenance Reserve	571,825	(40,887)	530,938
	1,053,593	104,703	948,890

13. Capital Commitments

The company had the following capital commitments at 31 December 2014:

	2014	2013
	€	€
Retention monies due for property at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow	-	22,216

14. Ultimate Parent Undertaking

The company is controlled by its Members and the Board of Directors.

15. Analysis of Changes in Net Funds

	Opening balance	Cash flows	Closing balance
	€	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	1,466,577	(119,758)	1,346,819
Net funds	1,466,577	(119,758)	1,346,819

16. Gross Cash Flows

	2014	2013
	€	€
Returns on investments and servicing of finance		
Interest received	9,720	19,760
Capital expenditure		
Payments to acquire tangible assets	(27,616)	(695,476)
Receipt of grant	6,730	645,886
Building Maintenance Reserve expended	(113,769)	23,198

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014	2013
	€	€
Income		
County Councils & Grants	1,990,862	2,074,179
Rental Income	319,518	312,837
Donations & Fundraising	9,591	32,358
Amortisation of government grants	328,382	332,969
Other income	24,021	37,578
	2,672,374	2,789,921
Administrative expenses	(2,745,910)	(2,682,611)
Operating surplus	(73,536)	107,310
Other income and expenses		
Interest receivable	9,720	19,760
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year before Bequest Income	(63,816)	127,070



Sonas supported **1,041** women and children experiencing domestic abuse in 2014

Sonas responded to over **3,000** phone calls from women looking for support



Sonas supported women and children from over **30** nationalities

Sonas is there 24/7



365 days of the year



Emergency Help Number

01 866 2015

For Advice, Outreach, Court Accompaniment

087 952 5217



Sonas Main Office 5, Aston Quay, Dublin 2 Tel: **01 671 8092** Eircode: **D02 K504**

Sonas Viva, Crisis Refuge Tel: **01 866 2015**

Email: info@sonasdomesticabuse.ie www.domesticabuse.ie