



**Annual Impact
Review 2017**

Sonas exists to support women and children experiencing domestic abuse: their safety is our priority, their needs shape our response.



The Mission

Sonas works to keep women and children experiencing domestic abuse safe by providing effective frontline support services. The safety of women and children is our priority; their needs shape our response.

The Vision

No woman or child should experience, or be at risk of experiencing domestic abuse. If abuse happens, victims should receive all necessary interventions and supports as early as possible to guarantee their safety and wellbeing.

There will always be those who seek to abuse but domestic abuse is not inevitable. As a country, we can make a difference by:

- Recognising and upholding the rights of women and children
- Putting in place the primary prevention strategies needed to ensure domestic violence does not occur
- Providing necessary and timely support services to victims of domestic abuse
- Recognising that domestic violence is a crime. While anyone can be a victim, it is a crime that overwhelmingly and disproportionately affects women and children
- Supporting women and children to access a justice system that recognises and understands the dynamics of domestic abuse
- Ensuring our justice system holds perpetrators accountable

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Directors' Report and Financial Statements



This report is dedicated to all those who lost their lives in Clondalkin, those who continue to bear the burden of such a terrible loss and those who carried on with commitment and fortitude in their work to provide comfort, solace and reassurance.

We will remember Anne Marie, Paris, Jordan and Holly and hope that, in some small way our work supporting women and children honours their memory.



CEO Foreword

On 8 March 2017, a fatal tragic accident occurred in Sonas Supported Housing in Clondalkin which claimed the lives of four people: Anne Marie O'Brien, her daughter Paris, cousins Jordan McGinn and Holly O'Brien. Jordan and Holly and their mother Bidy were visiting Anne Marie and Paris on the night of the fire.

A subsequent inquest in December 2018 found that the fire had been caused by a tealight candle near a television.

The depth and devastation of this tragedy is unimaginable for the families and loved ones of those who died. The impact on all of us in Sonas has been profound. We struggled in the aftermath, as individuals and as an organisation, to come to terms with the tragedy that had occurred. We have had to rebuild on many levels.

As CEO, I want to pay tribute to the courage and commitment of Sonas staff who carried on supporting clients in Clondalkin in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy and beyond, who carried on providing supports across the other Sonas services, including refuge, outreach, visiting support, safe homes, supported housing in Killester, Ringsend and Wicklow providing a lifeline for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

A special thanks is owed to staff who initiated, even in the midst of grief, a comprehensive review of all Sonas accommodation used to support women and children. We extended the review to all aspects of our services and how we do what we do. As an organisation, we are committed to working to the highest standards in our services.

By the end of 2017, we had begun rebuilding in Clondalkin, both physically and emotionally.

Sonas services in 2017 were able to support over 1,300 women and children experiencing domestic abuse. We worked in partnership with agencies and organisations, statutory and community, across Dublin to provide women and children experiencing domestic abuse with much needed supports. We worked primarily with Tusla - the Child and Family Agency, and An Garda Síochána to keep women and children safe.

Tusla is Sonas's principal funder and we are grateful for the funding we receive to carry out our work including supporting some of the most vulnerable and hard to reach victims of abuse.

Fiona Ryan

CEO Sonas Domestic Violence
Charity

Sonas: Thank You

Domestic abuse impacts on victims at almost every level of their being, their sense of self and their sense of their place in the world.

Providing supports to victims can be complex and challenging, and the solutions needed to keep victims safe rely on organisations working together to provide solutions with client needs at the centre of any supports.

Sonas would like to thank all of those whom we work with on a daily basis, including domestic abuse support organisations, schools, creches, local authorities, Tusla social work teams, An Garda Síochána, family resource centres, the courts, health professionals, legal professionals, 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 support.

Sonas's work in 2017 was made possible through funding from Tusla – the Child and Family Agency. Sonas also received some services-related funding from Wicklow County Council and the Victims of Crime Office for providing supports around the legal process.

Within Sonas, our work is guided by a voluntary board which oversees the governance, management and strategic direction of the organisation. In 2017, that work took place under the leadership of Chairperson Jacqueline Cremin.

Quality services can only be delivered by dedicated and skilled staff. Sonas's women and children's frontline teams show their commitment and professionalism every day. They are supported, in turn, by an organisational back-up team consisting of: HR, Finance, IT; all of whom together facilitate vital services work to be undertaken.

Sonas, in addition, received maintenance and management fees from the relevant local authorities to contribute to the future upkeep of properties used in accommodation-based services. We are grateful for all funding to support victims of domestic abuse. As ever, we are ultimately thankful to the women and children whom we are privileged to support.



SONAS
— SUPPORTED —

1,355

Women and Children

2017 SERVICE STATISTICS

1,355

IN 2017, SONAS SUPPORTED
WOMEN AND CHILDREN

SONAS REFUGE
SUPPORTED

400

Women and Children

146 Women / 254 Children



VISITING
SUPPORT
AND
OUTREACH

237

Women

459

Children

Through supporting
their mothers with
parenting support
in the context of
domestic abuse

SUPPORTED HOUSING
SUPPORTED

178

Women and Children

63 Women
115 Children



SONAS CARRIED OUT

165

Court Accompaniments

130 Accompaniments to victims obtaining
domestic violence orders

35 To support victims around custody
and access arrangements



SAFE HOMES
SUPPORTED

51

Women and Children

Sonas Services

Sonas supports women and children experiencing domestic abuse by providing effective, quality services.

We advocate on women and children's behalf around the issues impacting on the safety, welfare and wellbeing of victims of domestic abuse. This can mean everything from court accompaniment for domestic violence orders, to housing, to family support.

Our services are designed to be responsive to the diverse needs of the clients we support – needs which can change quickly depending on circumstances. We provide a range of services in response to these changing needs.

We work primarily in the Greater Dublin Area.



Refuge: 24/7 crisis accommodation service for women and children fleeing domestic abuse, including 24 - hour crisis helpline.



Safe Homes: Women and children out of home due to domestic abuse but who may not want to avail of refuge are provided with intensive support and housed in short-term accommodation in the community.



Advice and Outreach: A support service for women experiencing domestic abuse offering general advice and signposting to other services.



Support Around the Legal Process: 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 specifically want support around the court process.



Visiting Support: An intensive form of outreach support provided on a structured case management basis over a longer period. This service is provided to women and children in homeless services.

Sonas also provides an in-reach service to women in Dochas women's prison.



Children's Services: Half of the people Sonas supports are under the age of 18 and two out of three 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.



Longer-term Support via Accommodation: Sonas provides accommodation-based supports in different Dublin and Wicklow locations to women and children experiencing domestic abuse who may also have additional and/or complex needs.

Orla* - Safe Home Client

Orla* remembers the first few months with her partner as being romantic and said her partner was very attentive, affectionate and generous. The relationship started to become abusive with Orla's partner trying to undermine her and damaging her self-esteem. As this was Orla's first "real" relationship, she thought maybe they were going through a rough patch and her partner would return to being loving and kind. Unfortunately, Orla learned very quickly that things would only get worse. **The verbal abuse became physical abuse, and Orla's partner broke her fingers in one incident. She woke one morning to find her partner had cut every cable in the apartment to punish her for talking to someone when they were out. The incident that pushed Orla into leaving the relationship was when her partner strangled her until she passed out.** Orla told herself if she did not leave this relationship, her partner would eventually kill her as the level of physical violence was increasing.

Orla was initially engaged with the Sonas Visiting Support Service briefly before coming into Safe Home. Orla did not feel safe in the apartment she once shared with her partner and was terrified he would return at any time. When Orla first came into Safe Home she was very nervous, but the security of Safe Home did provide some reassurance. Orla said she needed to feel physically safe before she could deal with the trauma she had been through. Orla's self-esteem had reached rock bottom as she tried to come to terms with the level of abuse she suffered at the hands of the man who claimed he loved her.

While Orla was in Safe Home, she was granted a Safety Order for five years. Orla's partner had already breached the Protection Order and she had reported these breaches to Gardaí. Orla attended domestic abuse counselling, and along with her Women's Support Worker, explored the dynamics of domestic abuse. Orla said educating herself around these dynamics helped to realise none of the domestic abuse was her fault, as she blamed herself for a lot of the abuse. The breaches of the Protection Order were heard before the criminal courts and her ex-partner was jailed for 14 months for threatening to kill her while the Protection Order was in place. More importantly for Orla, she felt she was listened to and her story was heard by the court.

She woke one morning to find her partner had cut every cable in the apartment to punish her for talking to someone when they were out.

* Name changed to protect their identity.

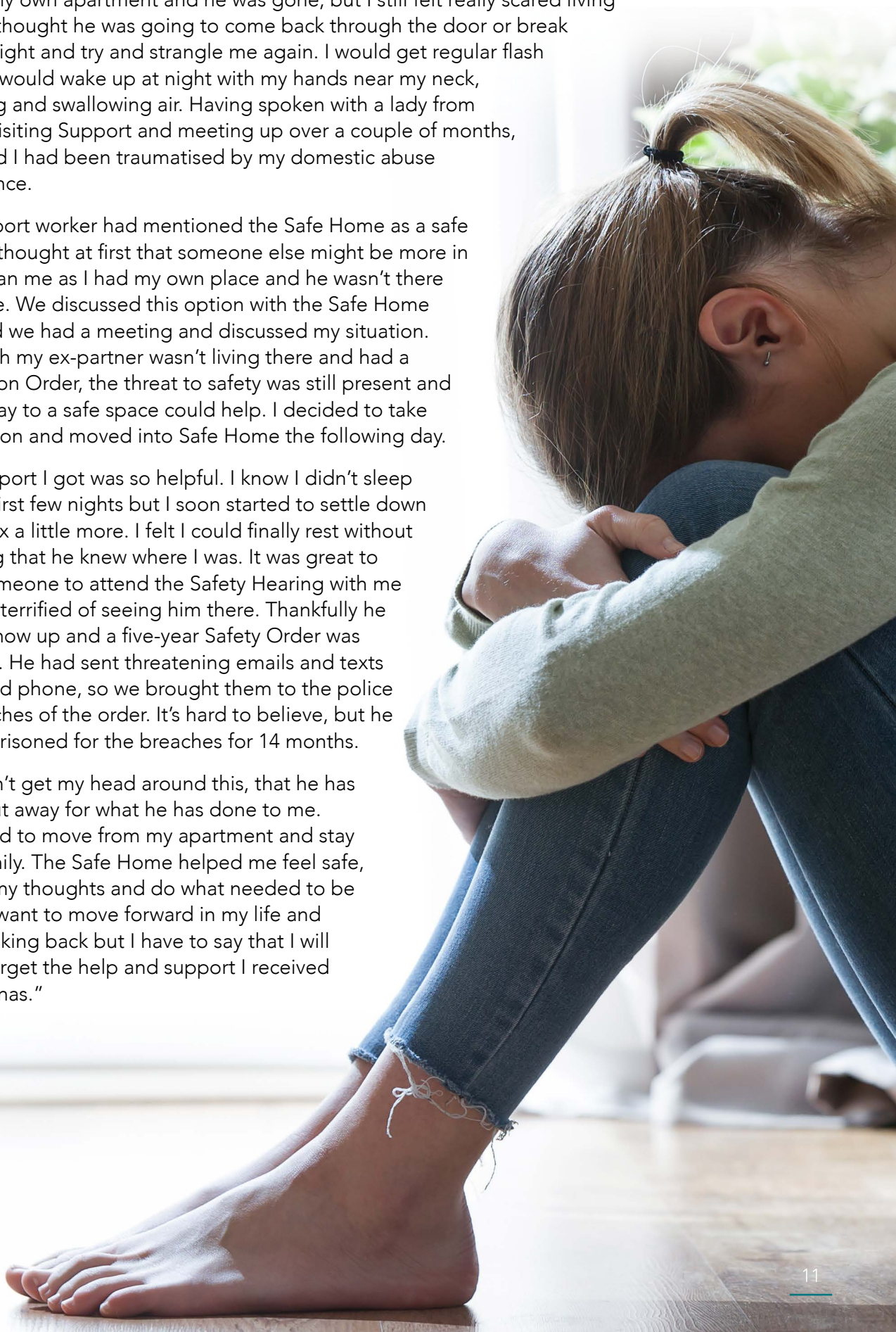
Orla* Client's Perspective

"I had my own apartment and he was gone, but I still felt really scared living there. I thought he was going to come back through the door or break in one night and try and strangle me again. I would get regular flash backs. I would wake up at night with my hands near my neck, sweating and swallowing air. Having spoken with a lady from Sonas Visiting Support and meeting up over a couple of months, I realised I had been traumatised by my domestic abuse experience.

My support worker had mentioned the Safe Home as a safe place. I thought at first that someone else might be more in need than me as I had my own place and he wasn't there anymore. We discussed this option with the Safe Home lady and we had a meeting and discussed my situation. Although my ex-partner wasn't living there and had a Protection Order, the threat to safety was still present and time away to a safe space could help. I decided to take this option and moved into Safe Home the following day.

The support I got was so helpful. I know I didn't sleep for the first few nights but I soon started to settle down and relax a little more. I felt I could finally rest without worrying that he knew where I was. It was great to have someone to attend the Safety Hearing with me as I was terrified of seeing him there. Thankfully he didn't show up and a five-year Safety Order was granted. He had sent threatening emails and texts to my old phone, so we brought them to the police as breaches of the order. It's hard to believe, but he was imprisoned for the breaches for 14 months.

I still can't get my head around this, that he has been put away for what he has done to me. I decided to move from my apartment and stay with family. The Safe Home helped me feel safe, gather my thoughts and do what needed to be done. I want to move forward in my life and stop looking back but I have to say that I will never forget the help and support I received from Sonas."





SONAS REFUGE
– SUPPORTED –

400

Women and Children



Sonas: What We Believe and How We Work

Our work is guided by one fundamental goal – to keep women and children experiencing domestic abuse safe. Our work is informed by the following core principles.

Respect for Rights

We recognise that every woman and child engaging with our services is an individual with diverse needs and experiences. Each is entitled to be treated with respect and dignity in order to support them in coping with their experiences and move on from crisis to increased safety. Our model of work is an empowerment one whereby we support women to find solutions for themselves and their children. We advocate for the rights of women and children at all levels from the individual, through to agency, to policy level.

Woman-centred

Sonas's Women's Support Team provides one-to-one support to women across all services including: Refuge, Supported Housing, Safe Home, Visiting Support/Crisis Intervention and Advice and Outreach. The approach is a key working/case management one. Our model of working with women is an empowerment one, whereby we support a woman to find the best solutions for her particular situation.

Child-centred

Sonas's Children's Support Team works across the organisation with both women who are mothers and children in Sonas services. Sonas implements Children First guidelines in policy, practice and frontline service delivery. Each Support Services team member has received current Children First training and each of our on-site services has both purpose built children's facilities staffed by a Children's Support Team member who works with both mothers and children. We believe our work actively contributes to the key national policy outcomes for children and families experiencing domestic violence by promoting: safety and protection from harm; physical and mental wellbeing; and achieving full potential (social and emotional wellbeing).

Effective Services

Sonas's approach to service provision is based on policy and practice, and evidence of what works for women and children experiencing domestic abuse. This includes our own experience of delivering front line services since 1993. Sonas services are needs-led, dynamic and adaptable with interagency work, as a core feature of service delivery. We work with both statutory and non-statutory agencies across the social care spectrum covering areas such as: education, courts and legal, child wellbeing, welfare and protection, housing, homelessness, mental health, addiction services, etc., in order to deliver the best possible outcomes for women and children engaging with Sonas services. Fundamentally, we believe the needs of women and children experiencing domestic abuse have to be the starting point of any integrated solution.

Governance within Sonas

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG is governed by a voluntary board of management headed by chairperson Jacqueline Cremin.

The board provides oversight and strategic direction for the organisation.

Board members do not receive any remuneration in respect of their services to the charity.

Upholding the highest standards of governance is a priority for the board. Sonas is signed up to The Governance Code: A Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable organisations in Ireland.

Subcommittees of the Board

The Board of Sonas had two subcommittees of the Board in 2017:

Finance and Property Subcommittee

The subcommittee reviews internal financial controls, monitors and reviews the financial accounts of the charity and liaises directly with the external auditor, CEO and Finance Manager. In addition, the subcommittee provides to the Board a non-executive strategic oversight of Sonas's property resources.

The subcommittee meets quarterly, is chaired by the Treasurer and the CEO attends all meetings, with Finance Manager and Property and Data Systems Manager attending on request.

The subcommittee reports directly to the Board on the adequacy of the budget and the financial performance of the charity. All recommendations are made to the Board as per the subcommittee's terms of reference.

Governance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee

The subcommittee reviews governance and risk within the organisation; risk within Sonas is a whole organisation responsibility with the board having ultimate responsibility for identifying and managing risk to the organisation.

At the board meeting on the 9 November 2017, it was agreed that the Services and Quality Subcommittee should be disbanded and that this element of the organisation's work should be merged into the Governance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee.

The Governance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee will meet quarterly and is chaired by the Company Secretary. The CEO attends all meetings, with senior managers attending on request.

All recommendations are made to the board as per the subcommittee's terms of reference.



SUPPORTED HOUSING
— SUPPORTED —

178

Women and Children



Laura* - Visiting Support Service Client

Laura* is a health professional with two children and has been living with her husband for the past 10 years. Looking back to when they started dating she remembers a few early warning signs – he would often undermine her friends and family. He would also get jealous if she went out socialising with colleagues.

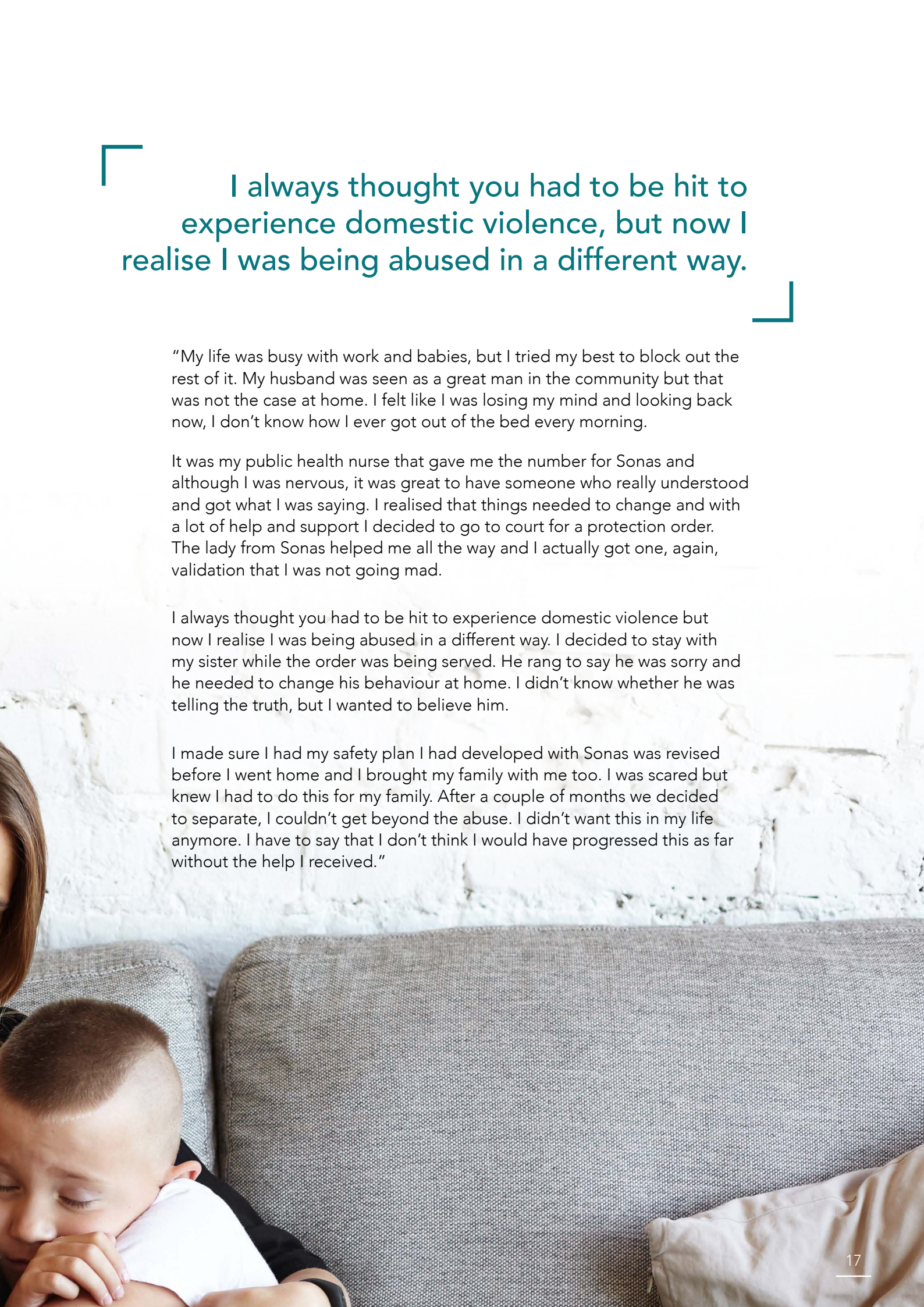
The situation deteriorated when she got pregnant with their first child. He started to monitor where she went, check emails and control how she spent money. They were both earning but he would allocate a strict budget to do the weekly shop, and she was allowed to spend whatever was left over on what she needed. Things with her family and friends got worse, anytime they were in the home he often picked at them, one time it became so heated he verbally abused her father. Family rarely visited her anymore.

After her second child was born. He became more hostile towards her and as a way to upset her, he would take the baby away from her. He wouldn't let her continue breastfeeding, despite her wishes.

However, he got more involved with community and helping out locally as their children grew older. Friends would say how "great he was to everyone". He rarely treated her the same way when the front door closed. At one meeting, Laura said: "He never got physical with me – but reflecting back he did invade my space a lot, he would push by me when he left the room, and when he lost it with me, he would shout right up into my face. I honestly thought I was losing my mind. Everyone was saying what a great husband he was, but it just didn't feel that way."

* Name changed to protect their identity.





I always thought you had to be hit to experience domestic violence, but now I realise I was being abused in a different way.

"My life was busy with work and babies, but I tried my best to block out the rest of it. My husband was seen as a great man in the community but that was not the case at home. I felt like I was losing my mind and looking back now, I don't know how I ever got out of the bed every morning.

It was my public health nurse that gave me the number for Sonas and although I was nervous, it was great to have someone who really understood and got what I was saying. I realised that things needed to change and with a lot of help and support I decided to go to court for a protection order. The lady from Sonas helped me all the way and I actually got one, again, validation that I was not going mad.

I always thought you had to be hit to experience domestic violence but now I realise I was being abused in a different way. I decided to stay with my sister while the order was being served. He rang to say he was sorry and he needed to change his behaviour at home. I didn't know whether he was telling the truth, but I wanted to believe him.

I made sure I had my safety plan I had developed with Sonas was revised before I went home and I brought my family with me too. I was scared but knew I had to do this for my family. After a couple of months we decided to separate, I couldn't get beyond the abuse. I didn't want this in my life anymore. I have to say that I don't think I would have progressed this as far without the help I received."

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Detailed Income & Expenditure Account



SONAS
CARRIED OUT

165

Court Accompaniments



Directors and Other Information

Board of Directors

Jacqueline Cremin

Mary Connolly

Eugene Davy

Ciairín De Buis
(Appointed 15 February 2017)

Margaret Dent
(Resigned 12 September 2017)

Olive Killoury

Fiona Walsh

Secretary and Registered Office

Fiona Walsh
(Appointed 15 February 2017)

Mary Connolly
(Resigned 15 February 2017)

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG
5 Aston Quay
Dublin 2
D02 K504

Chief Executive Officer

Fiona Ryan

Company Registration Number

195618

Charity Registration Number

CHY 10872

Auditors

Duignan Carthy O'Neill
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
84, Northumberland Road
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 2017

The directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 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 2017

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2017 and Balance Sheet as at that date are set out on pages 30 and 31. The deficit amounted to €105,016 with figures rounded up if 0.5 and over, compared to a deficit of €988 in the previous year. A nil charge to taxation arose and accordingly an amount of €105,016 was credited to accumulated funds.

The company incurred a deficit in 2017. It is currently anticipated that a further deficit will be incurred in 2018. These deficits will be funded from reserves carried forward. The company aims to operate on a break even situation in 2019 going forward.

Legal Status

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital incorporated under the Companies Act 2014. Membership of the company is not restricted. The liability of each member of the company is limited to €1. Although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (FRS 102) as issued in July 2014 the company has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these accounts. All activities of the company are charitable.

Properties Operated by Sonas

Sonas operated 102 properties in 2017 primarily in the Greater Dublin Region with the addition of Wicklow Town. Sonas also operates a crisis refuge in Blanchardstown.

Sonas also provides Safe Homes - an alternative accommodation based service to refuge for women and children at lower risk/need in some of the locations listed below. Other accommodation based services are provided in the following locations and these are offered on an 18 month licence:

- Killester
- Ringsend
- Clondalkin
- Wicklow

Sonas has additional properties in Ranelagh, Tallaght, Belmayne, Stepside and Ballymun which are used to provide longer term accommodation to women and children who have experienced domestic abuse.

In 2017, Sonas transferred four properties in Mayo to an approved housing body as nominated by Mayo County Council and initiated the process of returning four properties to Dublin City Council.

Board of Management

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG is governed by a voluntary board of management established which provides oversight and strategic direction for the organisation. There are no other volunteers participating in Sonas other than the Board members.

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.

Board members do not receive any remuneration in respect of their services to the charity. There have been no contracts or arrangements entered into during the financial year in which a Board member was materially interested or which were significant in relation to the charity's activities.

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

All six Sonas board members are independent, one board member is a partner in an entity from whom Sonas commissions professional services. The situation is actively managed via Sonas's Conflict of Interest Policy.

Subcommittees of the Board

The Board of Sonas had two subcommittees of the board in 2017:

Finance and Property Subcommittee

The subcommittee reviews internal financial controls, monitors and reviews the financial accounts of the charity and liaises directly with the external auditor, CEO and Finance Manager. In addition, the subcommittee provides to the board a non-executive strategic oversight of Sonas's property resources.

The subcommittee meets quarterly, is chaired by the Treasurer and the CEO attends all meetings, with Finance Manager and Property and Data Systems Manager attending on request.

The subcommittee reports directly to the Board on the adequacy of the budget and the financial performance of the charity.

All recommendations are made to the board as per the subcommittee's terms of reference.

Governance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee

The subcommittee reviews governance and risk within the organisation; risk within Sonas is a whole organisation responsibility with the board having ultimate responsibility for identifying and managing risk to the organisation.

At the Board meeting on the 9 of November, it was agreed that the Services and Quality Subcommittee should be disbanded and that this element of the organisation's work should be merged into the Governance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee. The Governance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee will meet quarterly and is chaired by the Company Secretary. The CEO attends all meetings, with senior managers attending on request.

All recommendations are made to the board as per the subcommittee's terms of reference.

Board Member	Board Meetings	Finance & Property Subcommittee	Governance Audit & Risk Subcommittee	Joined Board
Jacqueline Cremin - Chairperson	5/5			20/11/2013
Mary Connolly - Treasurer	5/5			21/04/2015
Fiona Walsh - Company Secretary	4/5			14/12/2016
Olive Killoury	3/5			21/04/2015
Eugene Davy	3/5			13/12/2016
Ciairín De Buis	4/5 (see join date)			24/05/2017
Subcommittee Volunteer Members				
Jacqueline Cremin		4/4		
Mary Connolly		4/4		
Fiona Walsh			2/2	
Olive Killoury			2/2	

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

Staffing

In 2017, Sonas employed an average of 40 full time staff, and a relief panel which varied between three and five part time staff.

Of the 40 full time staff, 32 work directly with women and children across Sonas services:

- Accommodation-based services: Sonas Crisis Refuge, supported housing, Safe Home and additional accommodation-based supports).
- Mobile/non-accommodation based services: Outreach and Visiting Support, Support around legal processes and Court Accompaniment.

Two other staff members work directly with women around accommodation-related needs.

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

Funding and Income

Sonas in 2017 received €2,087,286 from Tusla - the Child and Family Agency, of which €35,000 was deferred to be used in 2018. Some additional funding was received from Wicklow County Council for services in Wicklow town. There were in addition annual Housing Maintenance and Management fees received from relevant local authorities.

There were in addition smaller specific grants from the HSE, Irish Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), the Victim of Crime Office and MOVE.

Rents receivable make up 11% of total income, and amounted to €285,408 for the year.

Donations represent less than 1% of total income, and amounted to €10,788 for the year.

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

The balance of grant and revenue funding is for revenue expenditure. These revenue funds are to cover the running of all support services, accommodation and non-accommodation based services.

Out of the €285,408 of rental income, the board agreed to transfer €88,500, into a building maintenance reserve with the balance going towards the annual running costs associated with the provision of high-quality accommodation for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

The building maintenance fund is a statutory requirement by the Housing Regulator for all Approved Housing Bodies, of which Sonas is one.

General Information

Sonas is a leading provider of support services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

On the 8 March 2017, we, Sonas the organisation and its directors, experienced the most tragic event ever to occur in the organisation's 25 year history when four people, a woman and three children, lost their lives in a fatal fire, in an apartment in Sonas's Clondalkin supported housing complex. The woman who died was the mother of one of the children who tragically died in the fire. Another woman was also in the apartment, the mother of the two other children who tragically died in the fire, this lady was severely injured in the fire.

Our heartfelt sympathies and condolences were extended to the families and friends of those who lost their loved ones in that awful tragedy. In the midst of the tragedy, staff worked to support women and children in the Clondalkin complex who had been impacted. Staff engaged with all statutory agencies in the aftermath of the fire to ensure clients received additional supports they needed. Sonas staff continued to provide emotional and practical support to women and children in Clondalkin throughout the crisis.

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

As an organisation, we struggled emotionally throughout 2017 to come to terms with the devastating tragedy that occurred. At the same time we were conscious of our duties and responsibilities to the women and children who rely on us for support across all Sonas services, to our partners who work with us, our funders and to Sonas staff. We proceeded with the appropriate critical incident processes to ensure the people who deliver supports were supported and Sonas staff engaged with all of the statutory agencies to assist them in the aftermath of the fire.

Another key practical element was initiating the re-instatement works of the part of the Clondalkin complex which had been affected by the fire. Having secured the building and gone through a tendering process, in accordance with good practice standards, a design team was selected in the last quarter of 2017 with the view of rebuilding in 2018.

The last quarter of 2017, also saw Sonas mark its 25th anniversary as a provider of services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse. We selected a day in November, to honour the women and children we had supported and those whom we were continuing to support and the staff through the years who had made this possible.

For over two and a half decades, Sonas had provided support to women and children traumatised by domestic abuse; many of whom were facing intersecting challenges of poverty, disability, poor mental health, history of childhood abuse and substance misuse issues. In more recent years, these challenges had expanded as Irish society changed to include language barriers and immigration status.

In 2017, we supported the highest number of women and children in our history - over 1,300. We had the opportunity to share our best practice learning as Sonas was selected to update HSE training on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. In terms of innovation, Sonas received a grant from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to provide a multi-lingual legal pack around the domestic violence order application process so that one

barrier to seeking protection would at least be reduced.

Looking forward, we believe the best way we can endeavour to honour those who tragically lost their lives in Clondalkin is to continue to provide support to women and children. The tragedy of those who lost their lives in Clondalkin was with us throughout 2017 and will remain with us going forward.

Pensions

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the majority of the employees; all staff are offered a pension once they have successfully passed probation.

The pension scheme is separate to the charity and is managed by Zurich with an oversight role held by TAB and an annual review undertaken by an independent actuary Platinum Pioneer Trustees.

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 Finance and Property Subcommittee and by the Board.

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 a dedicated Finance Manager.

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

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

Risk

Sonas directors are aware of the statutory obligations in relation to providing a fair review of the organisation's development and performance. The directors understand that the identification, management, monitoring and oversight of risk is a key responsibility of the board and that this risk awareness and responsibility is cascaded through the organisation in accordance with the Sonas risk management framework. The framework in place which provides for systemic identification, management and review of risk in the organisation.

In 2017, on 8 March, a fatal fire resulted in the loss of life of four people in Sonas's Clondalkin supported housing complex. Sonas in the aftermath of the tragedy, in accordance with good practice, reviewed all its processes inherent in its health and safety framework: client, staff, security and property with particular reference to fire safety and prevention.

Sonas provides support services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse in both accommodation and non-accommodation based settings.

The directors are satisfied that a principal risk facing the company is sustainability based on the availability of continued funding from the Government. Tusla provides €2,087,286 of funding to Sonas.

The directors have addressed this risk by overseeing competent spending of the funds received to provide quality services to women and children, ensuring tenancies are sustained and properties adequately maintained.

2017 went according to budget, with all planned services delivered at cost and Tusla agreed the 2017 SLA and allowed Sonas to draw down their grant as committed.

Tusla have indicated that funding for the 2018 year will be at a similar level to 2017.

Corporate Governance

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity is fully committed to implementing the highest

governance standards. The directors understand their responsibility as a board is to set the strategic direction of the organisation and oversee the implementation of this strategy.

As a recipient of public funding, a provider of support care to women and children experiencing trauma and a partner in service provision with both statutory and non-statutory agencies, our responsibilities to our stakeholders are core to all decision-making. While monies we receive in the form of private donations are relatively small, we are equally acutely aware of our responsibilities for the prudent management and spending of these funds.

As an organisation Sonas strives to conduct our business, including our stakeholder engagement, according to the principles of fairness, integrity, transparency and accountability.

Sonas is required to meet the governance requirements of a number of regulators including the governance framework as set out by its principal funder, Tusla - the Child and Family Agency which in itself reflects a number of other governance frameworks including the Governance Code - a code of practice for good governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable organisations in Ireland.

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.

Sonas's strategic plan is available on the Sonas website domesticabuse.ie.

Future Developments

Services

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

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

We are conscious that we are moving into a new phase with our funders as Tusla initiates a commissioning model for services provision. We are determined to be good partners in providing and delivering services and will work with the agency in the commissioning process.

To that end, Sonas has been involved in 2017 in two Tusla area-based needs' assessments of services in the Wicklow area and in the Fingal/ Dublin North area.

Governance and Compliance

Sonas is committed to the principles of integrity, fairness, transparency and accountability as well as the continuing systemic implementation, including processes and procedures, of direction and control to effect a well governed organisation.

In common with other organisations, we have noted and welcomed the increased emphasis on good governance via the General Data Protection Registration (GDPR) and the increasing compliance requirements accompanying it. Increased emphasis requires increased capacity and with that are the resulting resource implications. The GDPR comes into force in May 2018. Sonas was audited by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner in 2017. We received a generally positive report and will be implementing recommendations pursuing in 2018.

Sonas will also be commissioning as part of its health and safety framework, a health and safety audit in 2018. A similar exercise was carried out in 2017.

Property

The Sonas building maintenance reserve is a fund designated by the board to be used to meet the future costs of maintaining the Sonas housing units in good order and to maximise their useful life.

Sonas will continue in 2018 with reinstatement works in our Clondalkin supported housing complex.

Sonas provides services in the Greater Dublin Region and Wicklow, arrangements under the Sonas Housing Partnership resulting in Sonas owning four properties in Meath.

In the interests of ensuring our operations are as lean as possible, Sonas transferred four properties under the Sonas Housing Partnership to social housing providers with significant housing representation in the local area. Our intention in 2018 is to continue this process.

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 5 Aston Quay, Dublin 2.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

Each of the persons who are directors at the time when this Directors' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- the director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

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.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 21 March 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Mary Connolly

Director

Jacqueline Cremin

Director

Date: 21 March 2018

Directors' Responsibilities Statement

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 Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (Irish GAAP) giving a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the surplus or deficit of the company for each financial year. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of assets, liabilities and financial position of the company at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgments and accounting 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
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the charitable company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the charitable company; enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the charitable company to be determined with reasonable accuracy; enable them 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board:

Mary Connolly

Director

Jacqueline Cremin

Director

Date: 21 March 2018

Independent Auditors' Report

to the members of Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG

We have audited the financial statements on pages 30 to 42 of Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cashflows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of 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 that we are required to state to them in the audit 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 or the company's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its result for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland,

including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial

Independent Auditors' Report

to the members of Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG (continued)

statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report this fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with the applicable legal requirements.

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, and financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibility Statement on page 27, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied

that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: [https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-\(Ireland\)](https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-(Ireland)). The description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

Timothy Carthy
for and on behalf of
Duignan Carthy O Neill

Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
84 Northumberland Road
Dublin 4

Date: 21 March 2018

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2017

Income and Expenditure - Continuing Operations

		Restricted Funds 2017	Designated Funds 2017	Unrestricted Funds 2017	Total Funds 2017	Total Funds 2016
	Notes	€	€	€	€	€
Incoming Resources						
Corporation & Grant Funding	2.8	2,195,125	-	-	2,195,125	2,196,883
Other Income		30,039	-	-	30,039	16,302
Rental Income		196,908	88,500	-	285,408	299,308
Donations & Fundraising		-	10,788	-	10,788	7,579
Amortisation of grant income	11	-	-	369,073	369,073	369,073
Total Incoming Resources		2,422,072	99,288	369,073	2,890,433	2,889,145
Resources Expended						
Crisis Intervention & Provision of Support Services		(2,360,143)	-	-	(2,360,143)	(2,335,892)
Depreciation	7	-	-	(438,786)	(438,786)	(424,837)
Legal, Professional & Administration		(110,469)	-	-	(110,469)	(112,029)
Total Resources Expended		(2,470,612)	-	(438,786)	(2,909,398)	(2,872,758)
Net Movement in Funds		(48,540)	99,288	(69,713)	(18,965)	16,387
Provision for building maintenance reserve		-	(88,500)	-	(88,500)	(27,854)
(Deficit)/Surplus on ordinary activities before interest	3	(48,540)	10,788	(69,713)	(107,465)	(11,467)
Interest receivable	4	-	-	2,449	2,449	10,479
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		(48,540)	10,788	(67,264)	(105,016)	(988)
(Deficit)/Surplus retained for the year		(48,540)	10,788	(67,264)	(105,016)	(988)

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	14,444,461	15,073,211
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	28,850	27,153
Cash at bank & in hand	9	1,240,745	1,357,188
		1,269,595	1,384,341
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(143,448)	(130,252)
Net Current Assets		1,126,147	1,254,089
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		15,570,608	16,327,300
Restricted Government Grants	11	(14,494,225)	(15,138,041)
Net Assets		1,076,383	1,189,259
Capital and Reserves			
Building Maintenance Reserve	12	565,315	573,175
Accumulated Funds		511,068	616,084
Funds	13	1,076,383	1,189,259

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 21 March 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Mary Connolly
Director

Jacqueline Cremin
Director

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	€	€
Reconciliation of operating surplus/(deficit) to net cash & cash equivalents		
Cash flow from operating activities		
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(107,465)	(11,467)
Depreciation	438,786	424,837
Loss on sale of fixed assets	9,157	-
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(1,697)	5,174
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	23,853	20,836
Government grant released	(369,073)	(369,073)
Provision for building maintenance reserve	88,500	27,854
Net cash flow from operating activities	82,061	98,161
Statement of Cash Flows		
Net cash flow from operating activities	82,061	98,161
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest receivable	2,449	10,479
Capital expenditure	(93,936)	(66,341)
Capital Grants Received	-	-
Building Maintenance Reserve Expended	(107,017)	(31,871)
Net cash flow from investing activities	(116,443)	10,428
Cash flows from financing activities		
Deferred reserves/Income	-	-
Capital Grant received	-	-
Net cash flow from financing activities	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	(116,443)	10,428
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		
Net decrease in cash & cash equivalents	(116,443)	10,428
Cash & cash equivalents at 1 January 2017	1,357,188	1,346,760
Cash & cash equivalents at 31 December 2017	1,240,745	1,357,188

Statement of Changes in Funds

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Accumulated Funds	Building Maintenance Reserve	Total Funds
	€	€	€
		(Note 12)	
At 1 January 2017	616,084	573,175	1,189,259
Retained deficit for the year	(105,016)	-	(105,016)
Utilisation of Building Maintenance Reserve	-	(96,360)	(96,360)
Transfer to Building Maintenance Reserve	-	88,500	88,500
Transfer between reserves	-	-	-
At 31 December 2017	511,068	565,315	1,076,383
In respect of prior year:			
At 1 January 2016	628,327	497,937	1,126,264
Retained deficit for the year	(988)	-	(988)
Utilisation of Building Maintenance Reserve	-	(31,871)	(31,871)
Transfer to Building Maintenance Reserve	-	95,854	95,854
Other movements	(11,255)	11,255	-
At 31 December 2016	616,084	573,175	1,189,259

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2017

1. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements of Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG incorporated in the Republic of Ireland have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2014.

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Act 2014, and the Charities SORP (FRS 102). 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.

Sonas is a public benefit entity with the main objectives of working towards the elimination of violence towards women and children and assisting them with their housing needs arising from the abuse they have suffered. The Charity does not carry out any income generating activities.

2.2. Judgments and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Long-lived assets comprising of property represent significant portion of total assets. The annual depreciation and amortisation charge depends primarily on the estimated lives of each type of asset and, in certain circumstances, estimates of residual values. The directors regularly review these useful lives and change them if necessary to reflect current conditions. In determining these useful lives management consider physical condition and expected economic utilisation of the property assets. Changes in the useful lives can have a significant impact on the depreciation and amortisation charge for the financial year. The net book value of Tangible Fixed Assets subject to depreciation at the financial year end date was €14,444,461.

2.3. 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 the tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

2.4. 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 Statement of Financial Activities over the employees' service lives on the basis of a constant percentage of earnings. The assets

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

of the scheme are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

2.5. Taxation

The company is exempt from taxation due to its charitable status.

2.6. Government Grants and Loans

Grants and loans are accounted under the performance model as permitted by FRS 102. Grants relating to expenditure on tangible fixed assets are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities at the same rate as the depreciation on the assets to which the grant relates. The deferred element of grants is included in creditors as deferred income.

Grants of a revenue nature are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the same period as the related expenditure.

2.7. Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The company only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable.

Debt instruments like accounts receivable and payable are initially measured at present value of the future payments and subsequently at amortised cost using effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade payables and receivables, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received.

2.8. 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 become receivable. 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 2017 (continued)

2.7. Income (continued)

Revenue-based Grant Income	2017	2016
	€	€
Tusla	2,052,286	2,048,139
Dublin City Council	17,919	22,424
Fingal County Council	4,344	4,344
HSE Training Delivery Grant	4,500	6,000
South Dublin County Council	10,860	10,860
Department of Justice (Victims of Crime)	10,500	14,000
IHREC	3,600	2,400
Mayo County Council	1,744	1,744
Meath County Council	2,172	2,172
MOVE	7,200	4,800
Wicklow County Council	80,000	80,000
	2,195,125	2,196,883

Expenditure

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

3. Deficit for the Year

	2017	2016
	€	€
Operating deficit is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	438,786	424,837
Auditors' remuneration	8,303	8,303
and after crediting:		
Government grants amortised	(369,073)	(369,073)

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

4. Interest Receivable

	2017	2016
	€	€
Bank interest	2,449	10,479

5. Pension Costs

The company operates one defined contribution scheme for eligible employees. Pension costs amounted to €49,042 (2016 - €52,496). The assets of the fund are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

6. Employees

Number of Employees

The average monthly numbers of employees during the year were:

	2017	2016
	Number	Number
All employees	40	40

	2017	2016
	€	€
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries - support staff for women and children	1,341,957	1,359,840
Wages and salaries - administration support staff	297,619	290,761
Social welfare costs - support staff for women and children	143,222	142,833
Social welfare costs - administration support staff	30,762	30,464
Pension costs - support staff for women and children	37,962	40,366
Pension costs - administration support staff	11,081	12,130
	1,862,603	1,876,394

The total remuneration for key management personnel for the financial year amounted to €244,871 (2016: €259,731).

Remuneration includes basic pay and employers PRSI and Pension Contributions.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

6. Employees (continued)

Employment Benefits Breakdown

	2017 Number	2016 Number
€60,000 - €69,999	1	2
€70,000 - €79,999	-	-
€80,000 - €89,999	-	-
€90,000 - €99,999	-	-
€100,000 - €109,999	1	1
€110,000 - €119,999	-	-
€120,000 - €129,999	-	-
€130,000 - €139,999	-	-
€140,000 - €149,999	-	-
€150,000 - €159,999	-	-
€160,000 - €169,999	-	-

Directors salary for 2017 was €Nil (2016 : €Nil).

7. Tangible Assets

	Land and Buildings €	Fixtures, Fittings Equipment €	Office Equipment €	Motor Vehicle €	Total €
Cost					
At 1 January 2017	19,000,995	249,781	184,643	16,700	19,452,119
Additions	-	86,820	7,116	-	93,936
Disposals (a)	(430,151)	-	-	-	(430,151)
At 31 December 2017	18,570,844	336,601	191,759	16,700	19,115,904
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2017	4,028,970	175,094	162,319	12,525	4,378,908
On disposals	(146,251)	-	-	-	(146,251)
Charge for the year	385,115	37,676	12,655	3,340	438,786
At 31 December 2017	4,267,834	212,770	174,974	15,865	4,671,443
Net book values					
At 31 December 2017	14,303,010	123,831	16,785	835	14,444,461
At 31 December 2016	14,972,025	74,687	22,324	4,175	15,073,211

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

7. Tangible Assets (continued)

Sonas have secured title to 96% of the Land and Buildings included above at 31 December 2017. The company continues to apply resources to secure full title to the remaining 4% of these properties.

(a) During the year Sonas transferred four properties in Mayo under the Sonas Housing Partnership to an approved housing body as nominated by Mayo County Council.

8. Debtors: Amounts Falling due within One Year

	2017	2016
	€	€
Rent Receivable	11,615	11,890
Staff Tax Saver	1,628	3,139
Prepayments	15,607	12,124
	28,850	27,153

9. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2017	2016
	€	€
Current Accounts	123,322	240,247
Deposit Account		
- Amount set aside to provide for a Building Maintenance Reserve	562,068	561,920
- Amount set aside to provide for a Belmayne Maintenance Reserve	3,247	11,255
- Other Deposits	549,108	539,193
Petty Cash	3,000	4,573
	1,240,745	1,357,188

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling due within One Year

	2017	2016
	€	€
Credit Card	3,983	2,209
Trade Creditors	57,467	51,170
Pension	314	(954)
Impact Union Fees	809	1,213
Other taxes & social security costs	32,556	39,379
Accruals & Deferred Income	43,612	35,163
Other Creditors	4,707	2,072
	143,448	130,252
Other taxes & social security costs include:		
PAYE & PRSI	32,556	39,379

11. Housing Grants and Loans - CLSS & CAS

	2017	2016
	€	€
At 1 January 2017	15,138,041	15,507,114
Released in year	(369,073)	(369,073)
Transferred (a)	(274,743)	-
At 31 December 2017	14,494,225	15,138,041

The company owns properties in Killester, Clondalkin, Navan, Ringsend, Ballymun, Blanchardstown, Stepaside, Belmayne, Tallaght and Wicklow. Housing grants & loans are secured by specific charges on the charity 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 grants & loans have been provided.

(a) Sonas transferred of four properties in Mayo in 2017 together with associated outstanding grants and loans to an approved housing body as nominated by Mayo County Council.

12. 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 €565,315 at 31 December 2017 (31 December 2016: €573,175). The total expenditure incurred in 2017 was €96,360 (€31,871).

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

13. Reconciliation of Movements in Funds

	2017	2016
	€	€
Restricted Funds - Current Year	(48,540)	36,718
Designated Funds - Current Year	10,788	7,579
Unrestricted Funds - Current Year	(67,264)	(45,285)
Deficit for the year	(105,016)	(988)
Increase/(Decrease) in Building Maintenance Reserve	148	75,238
Increase/(Decrease) in Belmayne Maintenance Reserve	(8,008)	-
Transfer between Revenue & Building Maintenance reserve	-	(11,255)
	(112,876)	62,995
Opening Funds brought forward	1,189,259	1,126,264
	1,076,383	1,189,259

Closing Reserves allocated as follows:

	Opening Surplus/(Deficit) 01/01/17	2017	Closing Surplus/(Deficit) 31/12/17
	€	€	€
Restricted Funds	932,638	(48,540)	884,098
Designated Funds	151,122	10,788	161,910
Unrestricted Funds	(789,894)	(67,264)	(857,158)
Un-allocated reserves prior to 1/1/07	322,218	-	322,218
Building Maintenance Reserve	561,920	148	562,068
Belmayne Maintenance Reserve	11,255	(8,008)	3,247
	1,189,259	(112,876)	1,076,383

Reserves consist of designated reserves specifically held to cover the cost of future capital works on the Sonas property portfolio. Accumulated reserves held to cover general costs of Sonas not contained in the Tusla annual grant.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

14. Ultimate Parent Undertaking

The company is controlled by its members and the board of directors.

15. Related Party Transactions

Hayes Solicitors is deemed to be a related party by virtue of having a director on the board. During the year Sonas paid €23,713 in legal fees to Hayes Solicitors.

16. Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since year end.

17. Contingent Liabilities

As outlined in Note 2, the company has received government grants for revenue and capital purposes. Should these grants not be used for the purpose specified, the grants will become repayable in whole or in part.

18. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 21 March 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Mary Connolly

Director

Jacqueline Cremin

Director

Sonas is there 24/7
365 Days of the Year

Emergency Help Number

01 866 2015

For Advice, Outreach, Court Accompaniment

087 952 5217

1,355

Woman and Children Supported,
who are Experiencing Domestic Abuse

Visiting Support
and Reach

237/459

Woman

Children*

Supported Housing
Supported

178

Woman and
Children

Sonas Refuge
Supported

400

Woman and
Children

Sonas
Carried Out

165

Court
Accompaniments

Safe Homes
Supported

51

Woman and
Children

* Through supporting their mothers with parenting support in the context of domestic abuse

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

Sonas Refuge Tel: 01 866 2015

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

Company No. 195618 Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity (Chy 10872)

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