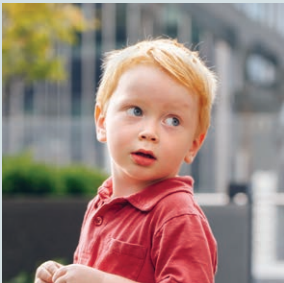
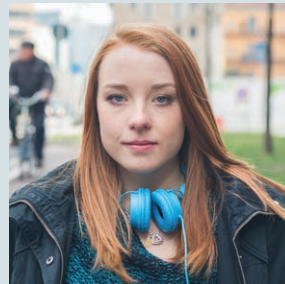
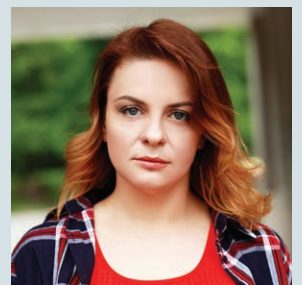
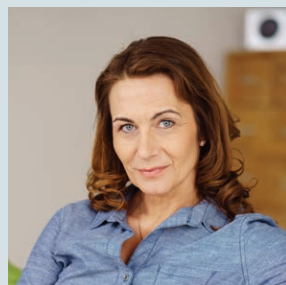
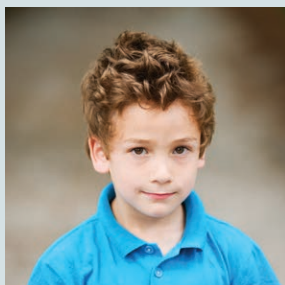




SUPPORTING OVER
1,231 WOMAN &
CHILDREN IN 2016



Annual Impact Review 2016



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

Contents

|
5

CEO Foreword

|
6

Sonas: A Big Thank You

|
8

Sonas in 2016

|
10

Sonas Services

|
12

2016: Rising to the Challenges

|
14

2020 Vision: Strategic Plan 2016 to 2020

|
18

Directors' Report and Financial Statements





CEO Foreword

We work to make a difference

In 2016, Sonas supported 1,231 women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

We supported them through our services: refuge, community mobile services advice and outreach and Visiting Support, Safe Homes and Supported Housing. Almost 9,000 individuals used our website domesticabuse.ie

While Sonas is the largest provider of frontline support services to victims of domestic abuse in the country, we are one of 42 services. The numbers seeking support for domestic abuse are in the thousands. Yet we know that most victims live with their abuse in silence. The number who tell anyone about their abuse is shockingly low and the number that make contact with a service or a statutory agency is lower again.

We know that we have to constantly work at ensuring that our services are meeting the needs of the women and children we work with; that we are accountable to them, to the public and to our funder Tusla – the Child and Family Agency. We have a duty to ensure we plan and use resources wisely, never losing sight of our mission, which is to provide quality services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse; their needs shape our response.

To help us achieve this goal, we developed a new strategic plan, 2020 Vision, available on domesticabuse.ie, where we set out our priorities for the next five years. One core belief is at the heart of this plan: Sonas exists to support women and children experiencing domestic abuse – their safety is our priority and their needs shape our response; all our work flows from this. We can only meet this goal by working productively in partnership with our clients, our staff and other agencies.

In 2016, we focused even more on supporting hard to reach or vulnerable groups. Our mobile community Visiting Support Service's continued to work with families in homeless services experiencing domestic abuse. The same team

also started a new service in Dochas Women's Prison to support women there who were victims of domestic abuse or at risk of returning to an ongoing abusive situation on release from prison.

No-one providing services to victims of domestic abuse could fail to be aware of the impact the current housing/homeless crisis is having on victims. In 2016, we went before a Dáil committee to highlight the effects the crisis was having and our fears that it was becoming a risk factor in itself for victims fleeing abuse. We worked to inform politicians of this risk and wrote to the then Minister for Housing requesting he bring his attention to this unforeseen consequence of the crisis.

Unfortunately, the housing/homeless crisis remains one of the biggest obstacles to victims of domestic abuse. Sonas will continue to advocate for change on behalf of the women and children we work with and to support victims to be their own advocates. You will hear the voices of victims and Sonas support workers throughout this report, stories of sadness and desperation but also of hope and resilience. We work to make a difference.

I want to thank the women and children whom we were privileged to support in 2016; my colleagues whose dedication is an inspiration every day; our funder Tusla, without whom none of this work would be possible; other agencies, statutory and non, for their partnership and support. Finally, my thanks to the board of Sonas which provides leadership, oversight and guidance as we continue our work to provide support to victims of domestic abuse.

Fiona Ryan
CEO Sonas Domestic Violence Charity

Sonas: A Big Thank You

Our work in 2016 was made possible thanks to funding from Tusla - the Child and Family Agency.

Domestic violence is complex and the solutions needed to keep victims safe rely on partner organisations working together. Sonas would like to thank all of the professionals 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.

Within Sonas, our work is guided by a voluntary board which oversees the governance, management and strategic direction of the organisation. In 2016, that work took place under the leadership of Chairperson Sile McGuckian-Fitzpatrick and her successor 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 and Accommodation Management; all of whom together facilitate vital services work to be undertaken.

Sonas's work in 2016 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 Offices. 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 support. Their courage and resilience show us what it is to live with abuse and overcome.



876

Group Sessions
with Children

1,115

1-on-1 Sessions
with Children

SONAS IN 2016

7,223 SUPPORT SESSIONS

Total Support Sessions with Children

1,991

Over 875 Group Sessions 1,115 1-to-1 Sessions

The work encompassed general support, child welfare and protection, advocacy as well as risk and safety planning with children

136

Child Protection Notifications

Involving Upwards of 162 Children

1,152

Legally-related Hours

112 Court Accompaniments

5,232

Support Sessions with Women

→ Over 5,000 Individual Sessions
→ 150 Group Sessions

Group Sessions

1,026 Group Sessions

150 Group Sessions with Women

876 Group Sessions with Children

1-to-1 Sessions

6,197 Individual

5,082 Sessions with Women

1,115 Sessions with Children

SONAS'S DOMESTICABUSE.IE WEBSITE STATISTICS

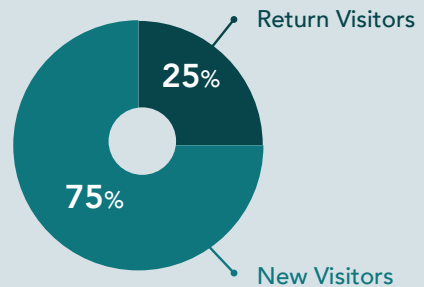
(All stats are via Google Analytics)

8,700 Individual Users



11,735 Individual Sessions were Undertaken

Individual Sessions were Undertaken



Lucy's Story/Refuge

Since I came to refuge I'm not jumping at every noise I hear. I'm not waiting to see what's going to happen when the front door opens. I'm not wincing when I hear footsteps coming near, waiting for the fist to be raised.

I can't tell you how it feels not to hear someone telling me I'm useless and can't do anything right, that I'm mad and how everyone would be better off without me. I can make eye contact when I'm talking to people again. I used to feel everything was my fault and felt ashamed.

This morning, I was able to choose what I wanted to wear. I bought myself a top the other day for the first time in years. I prepared a meal for myself and sat down to eat without anyone saying it wasn't good enough. I couldn't do any of this when I lived with my partner. He told me what I could wear, where I could go, who I could talk to.

I'm beginning to feel like the old me again.



Sonas Services

Sonas is the largest provider of frontline support services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse in the country. We work primarily in the Greater Dublin Area.

We support 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 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. Services include:



Emergency Refuge



Outreach Information and Advice



Support around legal matters including court accompaniment



Visiting Support – Structured support where the service is provided primarily where someone is living



Safe Homes in the Community



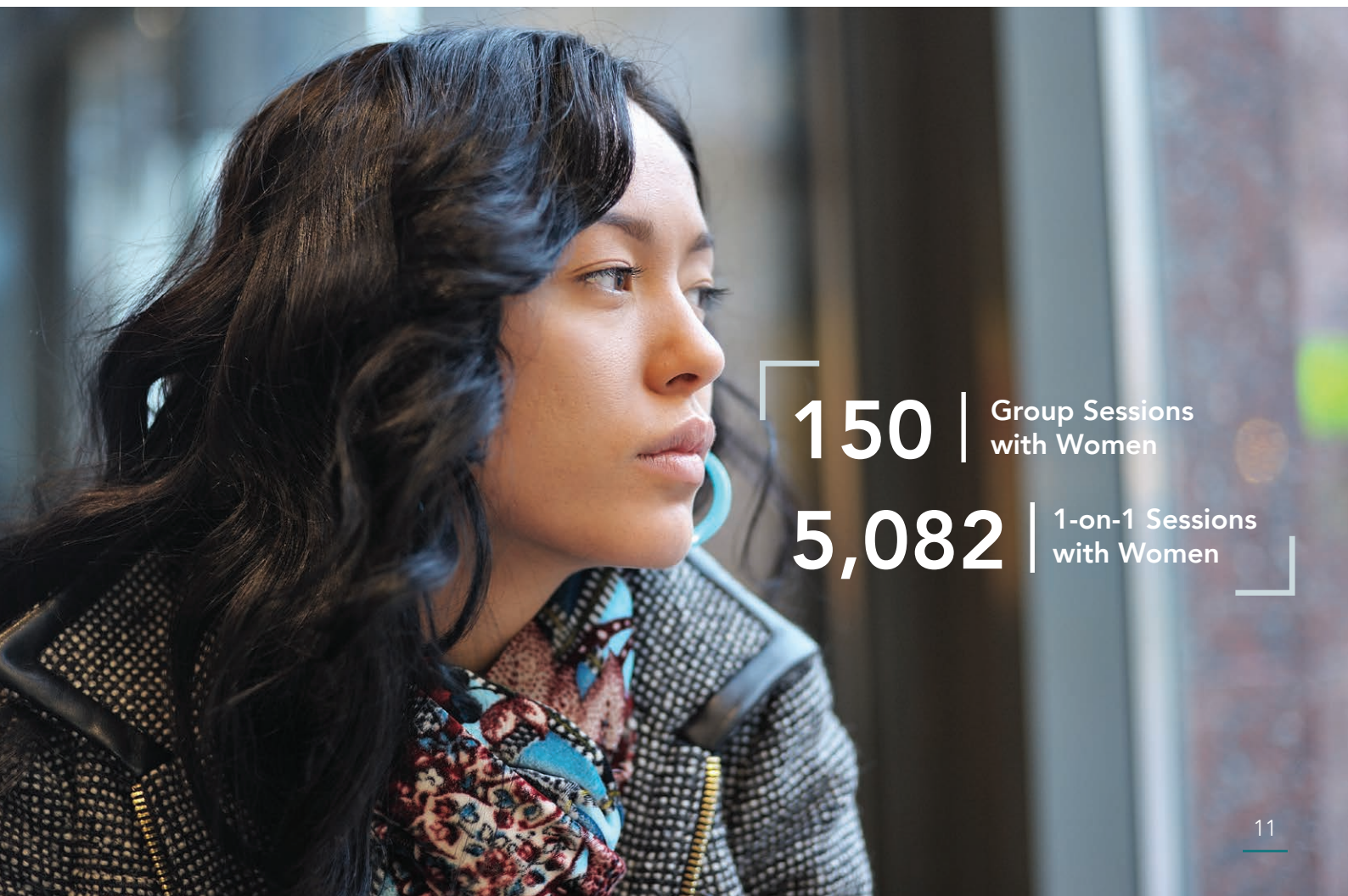
Supported Housing

Sonas's Julie on Supporting Teenager Josephine

When Josephine came to Sonas she had just turned 19. She had been living in an emergency homeless accommodation a year. She left the family home where she had experienced years of physical, emotional and sexual abuse from close relatives and family friends. She has been hospitalised and has now lost mobility in her left foot.

She was always very open with me about her experience and stated that she had told so many agencies at this stage, it didn't matter anymore. The main focus of the work was managing ongoing risks as some of the alleged perpetrators were still looking for her and she knew they had a huge network and a lot of resources to find her. Josephine had also pressed charges against one of them.

She was adamant she wanted to do this and she wasn't going to change her mind. A lot of inter-agency work was put in place to complement the work of Sonas, such as specialist counselling and work with An Garda Síochána. Josephine showed so much strength throughout it all. She amazed me every day.



150

Group Sessions
with Women

5,082

1-on-1 Sessions
with Women

2016: Rising to the Challenges

Sonas supported over 1,200 women and children in 2016. The housing crisis presented one of the biggest challenges to supporting women and children experiencing domestic abuse, as it also has in previous years.

The impact of the crisis and the risk it poses to women and children experiencing abuse cannot be underestimated.

What we know:

- Women are staying in abusive threatening situations rather than risk making themselves and their children homeless by leaving their current accommodation; we know this from talking to victims we support, the majority of victims never disclose their experiences to any service or statutory agency
- Women who have left abusive situations are returning to home; some with a domestic violence order granted by the court which we support them to obtain. Others return home without any legal protection
- Women and children do go to homeless services from a domestic violence service. Others enter "unofficial" homelessness i.e. staying with a friend or family. Some choose never to disclose their experiences whether out of shame, attempting to normalise the situation or perceived perception of protecting children

Yet the six months after a woman leaves an abusive situation is when she is most at risk of fatal assault

- Traumatized children face being re-traumatized by their risk and experience of homelessness, at a time when they most need security, reassurance, physical and emotional stability
- Domestic violence support staff can find the majority of their time being spent on trying to find follow-on accommodation for women and children

Sonas's response to the crisis has been:

Support Services

- To provide different types of support to victims in recognition of their diverse needs: emergency refuge, safe homes in the community, outreach and information, visiting support – which means generally supporting clients where they are living, longer term supports though supported housing
- To provide flexible support to victims wherever they are in recognition that victims may not always be able to come to us
- To support clients find follow-on accommodation if needed
- To support clients around the legal process, including court accompaniment so that a victim can obtain a domestic violence protective order as well as other family-related legal matters
- To provide risk management and safety planning to clients



Advocacy

In 2016, Sonas appeared before the Dáil Committee on Housing and Homelessness to discuss the impact of the current housing crisis on women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

This provided a rare and welcome opportunity to highlight the intersection between domestic abuse and homelessness, the added risk this combination generated in an already potentially risk-filled situation, and to highlight that homeless policy did not address the risk and safety needs of victims of domestic abuse.

The final report of the committee made welcome recommendations for a flexible response to housing for victims of domestic abuse. With the current housing crisis showing no sign of reducing and the already low disclosure rate by victims of their experiences, we fear continuing ongoing unmanaged risk to victims of domestic abuse.



2020 Vision: Sonas Strategic Plan 2016-2020

In 2016, Sonas developed a new strategic plan for the organisation.

Both Sonas's board and staff wanted the plan to be a road map to how best we could continue to provide support services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse now and in the future.

We started out with a simple goal – to re-affirm the organisation's priorities, and, if in the process discovered these priorities were no longer relevant, then develop new ones. These priorities would then be used to create a framework to provide vital services to women and children.

To ensure, our road map was accurate, relevant and taking us in the right direction we:

- Incorporated client, staff, board, partner agencies, funder views and experiences into the thinking and development of the priorities
- Analysed the needs of the women and children we support using evidence from Sonas's case and data management system so that what we ever we eventually emerged with was evidence informed
- Reviewed and benchmarked Sonas's priorities with national policy frameworks and strategies for relevance
- Had key stakeholders review the plan and then incorporate their feedback to shape the plan further



7,223
SUPPORT SESSIONS

1,991
Support Sessions
with Children

Priority 1

Ongoing provision of client-centred, needs-led, outcome-focused, quality services to women and children at risk of, or experiencing, domestic abuse: client welfare, safety and protection the paramount considerations

Priority 2

Identify and respond to unmet support needs of women and children experiencing domestic abuse

Priority 3

Ensure sustainability and accountability of organisation to highest standards

Priority 4

Advocacy – Empowering women and children experiencing domestic abuse to seek change and seeking change on behalf of women and children

2020 Vision is intended to be a living road map guiding Sonas's work and development over the next five years. The board of Sonas is committed to ensuring these priorities are met, overseeing and monitoring their implementation. Sonas staff work to ensure these priorities are experienced in a real way in services and make a positive difference to the women and children we support.

You can read more www.domesticabuse.ie/who-we-are/sonas-strategic-plan/

Contents

|
18

Directors and Other Information

|
19

Directors' Report

|
23

Directors' Responsibilities Statement

|
24

Independent Auditors' Report

|
26

Statement of Financial Activities

|
27

Balance Sheet

|
28

Statement of Cash Flows

|
29

Statement of Changes in Funds

|
30

Notes to the Financial Statements



Directors and Other Information

Board of Directors

Jacqueline Cremin

Olive Killoury

Mary Connolly

Margaret Dent

Eugene Davy
(Appointed 13 December 2016)

Fiona Walsh
(Appointed 14 December 2016)

Anne McKeon
(Resigned 22 June 2016)

Sile McGuckian-Fitzpatrick
(Resigned 12 December 2016)

Secretary and Registered Office

Mary Connolly

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited
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
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 2016

The directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 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 2016

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2016 and Balance Sheet as at that date are set out on pages 26 and 27. The deficit amounted to €988 compared to a deficit of €9,760 in the previous year. A nil charge to taxation arose and accordingly an amount of €988 was credited from reserves.

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 unlimited. The liability of each member of the company is limited to €1. Although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice Charities SORP (FRS 102), issued in July 2014 by the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and recognised by the Financial Reporting Council, the company has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these accounts. All activities of the company are charitable.

Properties Operated by Sonas

Sonas operated 110 properties in 2016 primarily in the Greater Dublin Area with the addition of Wicklow town. Properties in Killester, Ringsend, Clondalkin, Wicklow and Stepaside 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 which are used to: provide longer term accommodation to women and children who have experienced domestic abuse; Safe Homes, i.e. an alternative to refuge for women and children at lower risk/need; as well as, shorter term post-refuge "step-down" accommodation.

Sonas Housing Partnership

The Sonas Housing Partnership (SHP) is the name given to a management arrangement between Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG 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.

Board of Management

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

Staffing

In 2016, Sonas employed an average of 40 staff, and a relief panel which varied between 8 and 10 part-time staff. Of the 40 staff, 32 work directly with women and children across Sonas services including Sonas's Crisis Refuge, community-based services (Visiting Support, Advice and Outreach and Court Accompaniment), high support/long-term supported housing as well as Safe Home and additional accommodation-based supports.

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

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2016 (continued)

Funding and Income

Sonas in 2016 was primarily funded by Tusla - the Child and Family Agency, which gave €2,048,139 in statutory grant aid to the charity in the year. Some additional funding was received from local authorities, most notably Wicklow County Council for services in Wicklow town. There were in addition annual housing maintenance and management fees from relevant local authorities.

Rents receivable make up 13% of total income, and amounted to €299,308 for the year.

Fundraising and donations represents less than 1% of total income, and amounted to €7,579 for the year.

All of the above funding received, with the exception of monies fundraised and a percentage of rental income, 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 including housing.

The company holds a designated reserve for the long-term maintenance of the company's properties. Funds transferred into this reserve each year are based on an assessment of the long-term amounts required, as reflected in the annual stock condition survey.

Funds historically transferred out of reserves each year are based on actual spend on an agreed planned maintenance programme, which reflects the needs of our tenants and the adequate maintenance of our housing stock.

General Information

In 2016, Sonas supported over 1,200 women and children experiencing domestic abuse. Sonas continues to be the largest provider in the state of frontline support services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

As an organisation, we are committed to providing quality services to meet the needs of women and children experiencing domestic abuse. In 2016, vulnerable women and children were able to secure the help they needed via Sonas Outreach and Visiting Support Services, Sonas Refuge, Sonas Safe Homes and Step Down Accommodation and Supported Housing.

Domestic abuse is complex and can require a unified response from a number of different service providers particularly if a family has additional and/or complex needs. In 2016, Sonas worked in partnership with a range of statutory and non-statutory agencies to best respond to the needs of women and children experiencing domestic abuse. Our services worked, in particular, with Tusla and its funded organisations, An Garda Síochána, the four Dublin local authorities and other domestic abuse support services.

Sonas's core work is only made possible through the funding of Tusla - the Child and Family Agency. We are also grateful for the funding we receive from Wicklow County Council for the specialist support we provide in the area; and the additional funds we receive in maintenance and management grants from the relevant local authorities.

We recognise that the needs of the women and children we support can and do change and are increasingly diverse. In 2016:

- We continued to support women and children in homeless services who were also experiencing domestic abuse. Domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence is one of the key reasons women, children and young people become homeless
- We worked with Dochas Women's Prison to deliver a service to women prisoners who had experienced or were experiencing domestic abuse. We carried out risk and safety assessments and planning with the focus on women due to return to their families either short term or on a longer term basis

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2016 (continued)

- We partnered with Men Overcoming Violence (MOVE) to support the partners of a number of men supported by MOVE around their needs primarily in relation to risk and safety planning
- We succeeded in securing funding for Sonas Safe Homes and expanded the number of these sanctuary homes to six. We established an additional number of short-term post-refuge homes as well
- We succeeded in winning the tender to provide training to HSE staff around domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and we look forward to developing this project further in 2017

Our challenges in 2016 were similar to those in 2015, the current housing crisis continued to have a disproportional and detrimental impact on women and children experiencing domestic abuse; domestic abuse is a cause of women, children and young people becoming homeless. We know that some victims are reluctant to seek help because they are afraid they will become homeless. We also know that some victims are returning to abusive situations with the prospect of homelessness a factor in that decision-making.

Women and children who are homeless are particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse. We know that the six months after a victim leaves is when she is at most risk of fatal assault. While child victims of domestic abuse also risk being further traumatised by their homeless experiences. Sonas made all of these points to the Dáil Committee on Housing and Homelessness in 2016.

Our intention for 2017 is to continue providing much needed services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse. And through our work respond to crisis but where possible prevent the crisis from deteriorating. We can only do this by ensuring the needs of clients are always our starting point and recognising that effective services depend on good partnerships.

We expect external challenges will continue to impact on our capacity to provide the best outcomes we can for the women and children we work with: the current housing crisis; the demand for much needed public social services and the accompanying long waiting times for these services; the under capacity in the wider state infrastructure to support victims of domestic abuse. Nonetheless, we will continue to provide services, innovate and advocate to ensure we work with our clients to keep them safe and achieve the best outcomes possible.

Post financial year end, a devastating tragedy occurred in Sonas's supported housing complex in Clondalkin which resulted in the loss of life of four people. Sonas is working with all relevant authorities as staff continue to support clients impacted by the event.

Pensions

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG 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. The pension scheme is separate to the charity and is managed by Zurich with an oversight role held by TAB and an annual review is undertaken by an independent actuary engaged by Sonas.

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 sub-committee and by the Board and an independent audit is undertaken annually.

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2016 (continued)

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. 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. Sonas has in place appropriate governance structures, processes and procedures for addressing risk. The directors are satisfied that the principal risk facing the company's sustainability is the availability of continued funding from Government. The directors have addressed that risk by competent spending of the funds received. 2016 went according to budget with all planned services delivered at cost. There were no significant events and Tusla agreed the 2016 SLA and allowed Sonas to draw down on their grant as committed.

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.

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, 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. The Sonas building maintenance reserve is a fund designated by the Board

which is to be used to meet the future costs of maintaining the Sonas housing units in good order and to maximise their useful life.

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.

Relevant Audit Information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory 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.

On behalf of the Board

Mary Connolly

Director

Date: 11 May 2017

Jacqueline Cremin

Director

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

Date: 11 May 2017

Jacqueline Cremin

Director

Independent Auditors' Report

We have audited the financial statements of Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG for the year ended 31 December 2016 on pages 26 to 38, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on pages 19 and 23. 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), including 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 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 Directors' 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 2016 and of its deficit for the year then ended; and
- 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 - 22 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
Date: 11 May 2017

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2016

Income and Expenditure - Continuing Operations

		Restricted Funds 2016	Designated Funds 2016	Unrestricted Funds 2016	Total Funds 2016	Total Funds 2015
	Notes	€	€	€	€	€
Incoming Resources						
Corporation & Grant Funding	2.8	2,196,883	-	-	2,196,883	2,372,170
Other Income		16,302			16,302	5,663
Rental Income		271,454	27,854	-	299,308	340,317
Donations & Fundraising		-	7,579	-	7,579	11,172
Amortisation of grant income		-	-	369,073	369,073	369,073
Total Incoming Resources		2,484,639	35,433	369,073	2,889,145	3,098,395
Resources Expended						
Crisis Intervention and Provision of Support Services		(2,335,892)	-	-	(2,335,892)	(2,380,285)
Depreciation		-	-	(424,837)	(424,837)	(412,946)
Legal, Professional and Administration		(112,029)	-	-	(112,029)	(73,697)
Total Resources Expended		(2,447,921)	-	(424,837)	(2,872,758)	(2,866,928)
Net Movement in Funds		36,718	35,433	(55,764)	16,387	231,467
Provision for building maintenance reserve		-	(262,090)	-	(262,090)	(72,882)
(Deficit)/Surplus on ordinary activities before interest	3	36,718	7,579	(55,764)	(11,467)	(30,623)
Interest receivable and similar income	4	-	-	10,479	10,479	20,863
Deficit for the year		36,718	7,579	(45,285)	(988)	(9,760)
Deficit retained for the year		36,718	7,579	(45,285)	(988)	(9,760)

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2016

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	15,073,211	15,431,708
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	27,153	32,327
Cash at bank and in hand	9	1,357,188	1,346,760
		<u>1,384,341</u>	<u>1,379,087</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(130,252)</u>	<u>(177,417)</u>
Net Current Assets		1,254,089	1,201,670
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>16,327,300</u>	<u>16,633,37</u>
Restricted Government Grants	11	<u>(15,138,041)</u>	<u>(15,507,114)</u>
Net Assets		<u>1,189,259</u>	<u>1,126,264</u>
Capital and Reserves			
Building Maintenance Reserve	12	573,175	497,937
Accumulated Funds		<u>616,084</u>	<u>628,327</u>
Funds	13	<u>1,189,259</u>	<u>1,126,264</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 11 May 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

Mary Connolly
Director

Jacqueline Cremin
Director

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
	€	€
Reconciliation of operating surplus/(deficit) to net cash and cash equivalents		
Cash flow from operating activities		
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(11,467)	(30,623)
Depreciation	424,837	412,946
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	5,174	88,745
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	20,836	(127,243)
Government grant released	(369,073)	(369,073)
Provision for building maintenance reserve	27,854	262,090
Net cash flow from operating activities	98,161	236,842
Statement of Cash Flows		
Net cash flow from operating activities	98,161	236,842
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest receivable	10,479	20,863
Capital expenditure	(66,341)	(60,673)
Capital Grants Received	-	-
Building Maintenance Reserve Expended	(31,871)	(197,091)
Net cash flow from investing activities	10,428	(59)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Deferred reserves/Income	-	-
Capital Grant received	-	-
Net cash flow from financing activities	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	10,428	(59)
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	10,428	(59)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2016	1,346,760	1,346,819
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2016	1,357,188	1,346,760

Statement of Changes in Funds

for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Accumulated Funds	Building Maintenance Reserve	Total Funds
	€	€	€
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
Transfer between reserves	(11,255)	11,255	-
At 31 December 2016	616,084	573,175	1,189,259
In respect of prior year:			
At 1 January 2015	638,087	530,938	1,169,025
Retained deficit for the year	(9,760)	-	(9,760)
Utilisation of Building Maintenance Reserve	-	(197,091)	(197,091)
Transfer to Building Maintenance Reserve	-	164,090	164,090
At 31 December 2015	628,327	497,937	1,126,264

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2016

1. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements of Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG (Formerly Sonas Housing Association Limited) 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 €15,073,211.

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 and 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2016 (continued)

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 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

Grants 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 2016 (continued)

2.8. Income (continued)

Revenue-based Grant Income	2016	2015
	€	€
Tusla	2,048,139	1,911,131
Dublin City Council/Dublin Region Homeless Executive	22,424	163,114
Fingal Co. Council	4,344	3,981
HSE Training Delivery Grant	6,000	-
South Dublin Co. Council	10,860	10,860
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council	-	160,668
Department of Justice (Victims of Crime)	14,000	-
IHREC	2,400	-
Mayo Co. Council	1,744	1,744
Meath Co. Council	2,172	2,172
MOVE	4,800	-
Wicklow Co. Council	80,000	118,500
Other Grants	-	-
	2,196,883	2,372,170

Expenditure

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

3. Deficit for the Year

	2016	2015
	€	€
Operating deficit is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	424,837	412,946
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 2016 (continued)

4. Interest Receivable and Similar Income

	2016	2015
	€	€
Bank interest	10,479	20,863

5. Pension Costs

The company operates one defined contribution scheme for eligible employees. Pension costs amounted to €52,496 (2015 - €48,663). 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 (including the directors) during the year were:

	2016	2015
	Number	Number
All employees	40	38

	2016	2015
	€	€
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries - support staff for women and children	1,359,840	1,450,467
Wages and salaries - administration support staff	290,761	254,992
Social welfare costs - support staff for women and children	142,833	153,056
Social welfare costs - administration support staff	30,464	27,635
Pension costs - support staff for women and children	40,366	40,627
Pension costs - administration support staff	12,130	8,036
	1,876,394	1,934,813

The total remuneration for key management personnel for the financial year amounted to €259,731. Remuneration includes basic pay and employers PRSI and Pension Contributions.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2016 (continued)

6. Employees (continued)

Employment Benefits Breakdown

	2016 Number	2015 Number
€60,000 - €69,999	2	-
€70,000 - €79,999	-	-
€80,000 - €89,999	-	-
€90,000 - €99,999	-	-
€100,000 - €109,999	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 2016 was €Nil (2015: €Nil).

7. Tangible Assets

	Land and Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings Equipment	Office Equipment	Motor Vehicle	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
Cost					
At 1 January 2016	19,000,995	186,477	181,606	16,700	19,385,778
Additions	-	63,304	3,037	-	66,341
At 31 December 2016	19,000,995	249,781	184,643	16,700	19,452,119
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2016	3,644,071	151,661	149,153	9,185	3,954,070
Charge for the year	384,899	23,433	13,166	3,340	424,837
At 31 December 2016	4,028,970	175,094	162,319	12,525	4,378,908
Net book values					
At 31 December 2016	14,972,025	74,687	22,324	4,175	15,073,211
At 31 December 2015	15,356,924	34,816	32,453	7,515	15,431,708

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2016 (continued)

7. Tangible Assets (continued)

	Land and Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings Equipment	Office Equipment	Motor Vehicle	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
Cost					
At 1 January 2015	18,984,697	150,502	173,206	16,700	19,325,105
Additions	16,298	35,975	8,400	-	60,673
At 31 December 2015	19,000,995	186,477	181,606	16,700	19,385,778
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2015	3,259,172	141,018	135,089	5,845	3,541,124
Charge for the year	384,899	10,643	14,064	3,340	412,946
At 31 December 2015	3,644,071	151,661	149,153	9,185	3,954,070
Net book values					
At 31 December 2015	15,356,924	34,816	32,453	7,515	15,431,708
At 31 December 2014	15,725,524	9,484	38,117	10,855	15,783,980

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity CLG have secured title to 96% of the Land and Buildings included above at 31 December 2016. The company continues to apply resources to secure full title to the remaining 4% of these properties.

8. Debtors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2016	2015
	€	€
Rent Receivable	11,890	11,252
Staff Tax Saver	3,139	3,183
Prepayments	12,124	17,892
	27,153	32,327

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2016 (continued)

9. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2016	2015
	€	€
Current Accounts	240,247	138,695
Deposit Account		
- Amount set aside to provide for a Building Maintenance Reserve	561,920	497,937
- Other Deposits	550,448	707,048
Petty Cash	4,573	3,080
	1,357,188	1,346,760

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.

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2016	2015
	€	€
Credit Card	2,209	2,365
Trade Creditors	51,170	24,644
Pension	(954)	(7,490)
Impact Union Fees	1,213	321
Other Taxes and Social Security Costs	39,379	45,119
Accruals & Deferred Income	35,163	111,982
Other Creditors	2,072	476
	130,252	177,417
Other taxes and social security costs include:		
PAYE & PRSI	39,379	45,119

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2016 (continued)

11. Housing Loans - CLSS & CAS

	2016	2015
	€	€
At 1 January 2016 - As restated (Note 13)	15,507,114	15,876,187
Released in year	(369,073)	(369,073)
At 31 December 2016	15,138,041	15,507,114

The company owns properties in Killester, Clondalkin, Ballina, Navan, Ringsend, Ballymun, Blanchardstown, Stepaside, Belmayne, Tallaght and Wicklow. Housing 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 loans have been provided.

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 €573,175 at 31 December 2016 (31 December 2015: €497,937).

13. Reconciliation of Movements in Funds

	2016	2015
	€	€
Restricted Funds - Current Year	36,718	76,456
Designated Funds - Current Year	7,579	10,491
Unrestricted Funds - Current Year	(45,285)	(77,187)
Deficit for the year	(988)	(9,760)
Increase/(Decrease) in Building Maintenance Reserve	75,238	(33,001)
Transfer between Revenue & Building Maintenance reserve	(11,255)	-
	62,995	(42,761)
Opening Funds brought forward	1,126,264	1,169,025
	1,189,259	1,126,264

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2016 (continued)

13. Reconciliation of Movements in Funds (continued)

Closing Reserves allocated as follows:

	Opening Surplus/(Deficit) 01/01/16	2016	Closing Surplus/(Deficit) 31/12/16
	€	€	€
Restricted Funds	907,175	36,718	943,893
Designated Funds	143,543	7,579	151,122
Unrestricted Funds	(744,609)	(45,285)	(789,894)
Un-allocated reserves prior to 1/1/07	322,218	-	322,218
Building Maintenance Reserve	497,937	63,983	561,920
	<u>1,126,264</u>	<u>62,995</u>	<u>1,189,259</u>

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.

Reconciliation of Opening Reserves

Opening Reserves at 1 January 2015 as previously stated	948,890
Opening Reserves at 1 January 2015 as restated	<u>1,169,025</u>
FRS 102 Adjustment	<u>220,135</u>

Grants in the Balance Sheet have been assessed under FRS 102 and adjustment of €220,135 has been posted to the opening reserves at 1 January 2015. The grant income amortised for the year ended 31 December 2015 was increased by €47,136 as a result of this adjustment.

14. Ultimate Parent Undertaking

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

15. 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.

16. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 11 May 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

Mary Connolly
Director

Jacqueline Cremin
Director

Notes

Notes

Sonas is there 24/7
365 Days of the Year

Emergency Help Number

01 866 2015

For Advice, Outreach, Court Accompaniment

087 952 5217

1,231

Woman and Children
Supported, who
are Experiencing
Domestic Abuse

1,152

Legally-related
Hours

112 Court
Accompaniments

5,232

Support Sessions
with Women

→ Over 5,000 Individual Sessions
→ 150 Group Sessions

Group Sessions

1,026 Group Sessions

150 Group Sessions with Women

876 Group Sessions with Children

1-to-1 Sessions

6,197 Individual

5,082 Sessions with Women

1,115 Sessions with Children

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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