

Laois Volunteer Centre ANNUAL REPORT 2023



LAOIS VOLUNTEER CENTRE

This Report covers the period of January 1st to December 31st 2023

Company name: Laois Volunteer Centre Company CLG

Principal address: Unit 7, Bloom HQ, Patrick Street, Mountrath. Co. Laois, R32DT9F

Registered office: Unit 7, Bloom HQ, Patrick Street, Mountrath, Co. Laois, R32DT9F

E-mail: info@volunteerlaois.ie

Tel: Manager: 087 2499659 Development Officer: 089 205 0593, Outreach Officer: 089 231 8904

Registered charity number (RCN): 20206150

Company Registration Office number: 676229

Revenue CHY Number: 22937

Auditors: Duncan Financial Services

Georgian House

12 Patrick Street

Kilkenny

R95 P573

Bankers: Bank of Ireland,

Lyster Square,

Portlaoise,

Co Laois

Solicitor: Laois Volunteer Centre does not have a solicitor but avails of legal expertise when required.

Photos on Front Cover

Top Left: Launch of the Community & Voluntary Awards 2023.

Middle Right: Laois Volunteer Centre stand, Laois Tent, National Ploughing Championships, LVC Manager, Caitriona Ryan being interviewed at the Live Well Expo in 2023 .

Bottom photo: Two corporate volunteers Abbeyleix Bog Project.

Photos on Back Cover

Left: Corporate Volunteers in Down Syndrome Centre Midlands

Right: Corporate Volunteers in Abbeyleix Bog Project



Our Aim

Laois Volunteer Centre aims to be a 'one stop shop' for all your volunteering needs in County Laois. Laois Volunteer Centre is an independent organisation which works with individuals and organisations to carry out a range of activities to improve our communities.

Our Vision

Laois Volunteer Centre, through its work with volunteers and organisations aims to help create a vibrant society; where every person feels connected to their community through active participation in voluntary activities.

Our Mission

Laois Volunteer Centre will promote the value of volunteering and increase the range and quality of volunteering in the Laois.

Our Values

As per our Constitution, the main objective is to promote the value of volunteering and civic responsibility and to increase the range and quality of volunteering; to increase access to volunteering by offering a support service to the public and Volunteering Involving Organisations (VIOs); and to carry on these charitable purposes for the benefit for people living in Laois.

TIMELINE

Volunteer Ireland came to Laois with the remit of setting up a successor to Laois Volunteering Information Service.



2020



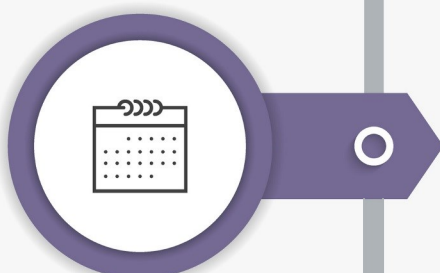
Laois Volunteer Centre established as a Company limited by Guarantee

Granted charitable status

Staff manager, Caitriona Ryan was recruited



2022



Outreach Officer recruited in July – to build and support volunteer involving organisations (VIOs).

Corporate Volunteering projects –
Abbeyleix Bog Project hosted 25 corporate employees (Oct 9) and Down Syndrome Centre, Midlands hosted 18 corporate employees (Oct 16)

Second year compliant with Charities Regulator

Sponsored Junior Volunteer of the Year 2023 Awards at Laois Community & Voluntary Awards, November

Located office in Bloom HQ, Mountrath

Completion of first annual report in compliance with the Charity Regulator

Preparation of Strategic Plan 2023-2026

First AGM in October

First year compliance with Charities Regulator

Development Officer recruited in August.

Shortlisted for Good Governance Awards



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Volunteers from the Sue Ryder Garden Makeover Project, Ballyroan.

Statement from the Manager



We are delighted with the huge progress made by Laois Volunteer Centre in 2023. Our third year of operations saw a sizable increase in the numbers of registered volunteers and also non-for-profit organisations compared to the previous year and we

numbered 1,200 approximately volunteers and almost 230 non-for-profit organisations by the end of the year. We focused throughout the year on promoting volunteering to both volunteers and organisations seeking our service.

Corporate Volunteering

As well as matching volunteers with a broad range of volunteering opportunities, we also commenced corporate volunteering in 2023. Whereby employees of corporate organisations spend time volunteering on biodiversity, disability and other projects.

Recruitment

Staff numbers rose to four persons in 2023. We recruited an Outreach Officer and Ukrainian Support Office to add to the existing staff of Manager and Development Officer. These extra staff members ensured that volunteers and also volunteer involving organisations (VIOs) received individual support and advice throughout the year. Our work with migrant communities multiplied and the addition of a migrant worker ensured that we offered volunteering as a means of integration.

Volunteers

In 2023, we commenced a project management role of volunteers whereby we recruited and managed volunteers to carry out specific community projects throughout Laois. This provided us with an insight into the broader service that we can offer and also to the importance of partnership working with local businesses and agencies.

Good Governance Awards

With regard to governance, our shortlisting to category 2 of the Carmichael's National Annual Good Governance Awards reflects our commitment to the transparency and compliance of all that we do.

Communications

At all times, we endeavour to improve our communication channels with all our stakeholders and have developed new communication tools throughout the year.

Acknowledgements

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the stakeholders that contributed to the development of our organisation throughout 2023. Many thanks also to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the unrelenting commitment of our staff.

And finally, I want to express my gratitude to the huge contribution and time commitment shown by the board of Laois Volunteer Centre. Your ongoing input has been of immense value, not only to Laois Volunteer Centre, but to the wider communities throughout Laois.

Caitriona Ryan

Manager
Laois Volunteer Centre

A Note from the Treasurer



Laois Volunteer Centre (LVC) had a positive year. We expanded our reach, mobilised a high number of volunteers and successfully delivered several volunteer-led events in the year 2023.

As of 31st of December 2023, our cash reserves were €134,429. The higher-than-expected level of reserves was mainly the result of the time it took to find replacements for the outgoing members of the team. After the year's end, the team operates at full capacity with all open positions filled.

The Board and the Manager have identified various avenues to use the available reserves in the year 2024. These initiatives would include our financial and non-financial support to the local causes that meet the LVC's objectives and aspirations.

Maintaining the financial discipline has been at the centre of our activities. The Finance Committee has played a key role and has supported the Board in overseeing the financial matters regularly. We explored various opportunities during the year 2023 to further strengthen the financial controls. The authorisation process and approval thresholds for the bank payments were reviewed during the year 2023. Our focus for the year 2024 is to explore opportunities to further strengthen the expense management process and to identify future opportunities to make good use of our reserves built up to date.

Zain Khan
Treasurer

About Us



History of the Organisation

The Laois Volunteer Centre was established in August 2020 as a company limited by guarantee in line with a government aim of expanding the volunteer centre network in Ireland to all counties.

Laois Volunteer Centre was preceded by the Laois Volunteer Information Service provided by Laois Partnership CLG.

Laois Volunteer Centre was granted charitable status by the Charities Regulator in April 2021. The Centre's board successfully recruited its first staff manager and development officer in 2021. With the recruitment of the manager and subsequently the development officer, work began on the core service tasks of matching volunteers with not-for-profit organisations.

Covid-19 impacted significantly on the work of the Centre in the initial years of operation.

The board and manager agreed that rather than open an office, the Centre's staff would work at a remote working hub, Bloom HQ in Mountrath and from home. This has had a beneficial impact on finances. It has also fostered a more proactive approach to networking and developing an outreach service.

A significant amount of work was also carried out in 2021 and 2022 bedding in the foundations and structures to support the board and staff.

Two milestones in 2022 were the completion of our first annual report/AGM and compliance with the Charities Regulator Governance Code.

In 2023, the recruitment of two extra staff members resulted in a greater number of volunteering opportunities.

Our first large scale volunteer management project took place in May 2023 in Sue Ryder residential facility in Ballyroan. The Garden Makeover Project saw 39 volunteers transform an unusable garden space over three weekends into a welcoming, biodiverse rich space for residents.

The roll out of corporate volunteering and also a community volunteer programme demonstrated an added dimension of our service.



About Us

Laois Volunteer Centre provides the following services for Volunteers:

- Finding suitable volunteering opportunities
- Matching skills, talents and abilities to a suitable non-for-profit organisation, taking into account the time availability, interests etc.
- Supporting and advising on volunteer matters.
- Managing the I-VOL app where volunteers can register their interest in volunteering opportunities.

We provide the following services for Non for Profit Organisations:

- Conducting skills gaps/needs analyses with organisations to identify volunteering requirements.
- Finding and matching suitable volunteers.
- Providing practical support and advice about volunteer engagement and management.
- Garda Vetting services for organisations who do not have an authorised signatory in their organisation.
- Free/low-cost training on various volunteer related matters such as Garda Vetting, Volunteer Engagement, Benefits of Volunteering etc.
- Volunteer Management at large community events.
- Facilitating corporate volunteering projects.
- Management of the I-VOL app where you can post your volunteer vacancies

Laois Volunteer Centre has sponsored a volunteering category in the annual Laois Community and Voluntary Awards since it's inception in 2021.

In 2023, we sponsored the Junior Volunteer of the Year Awards. Calum Byrne and Aaron Jacob were the winners.

Work continued on maintaining compliance with the Charities Regulatory Authority Good Governance Code and Laois Volunteer Centre was shortlisted for the second year running in 2023 for the Good Governance Awards.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Laois Volunteer Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee having no share capital and in accordance with clause 10 of the Constitution every member of the Company is liable to contribute a sum of €1 in the event of the company being wound up.

Board members are nominated to the board.

The term of office is three years and after the initial term can be renewed twice, with a total of nine years on the board for each member.

At 31 December 2023 there were five board members:

Conor Ganly (Chairperson)
Pauline Flanagan (Secretary)
Zain Jawed Khan (Treasurer)
Julia O'Connor (Director)
Seamus Bennett (Member)

During 2023 the board met every second month. In addition to the board, there are four sub-committees of the board:

- Finance
- HR
- Communications
- Governance

Board members receive no remuneration in respect of their services but may be paid for travel, hotel and other expenses incurred. In 2023, there were 7 Finance Sub Committee Meetings, 5 Governance Sub Committee Meetings, 2 HR Sub Committee Meetings and 1 Communications Sub Committee Meeting (the latter two Sub Committees were set up in Quarter 3 of 2023).

The role of the board of management is to support the manager and staff in the day-to-day operations of Laois Volunteer Centre.

Laois Volunteer Centre is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Laois Volunteer Centre is compliant with the Charities Regulator's Governance Code. All registered charities in Ireland are expected to meet the core standards of the six principles of the Code.



Judging Panel of Good Governance Awards 2023



Goals and Objectives





Core Objective 1:

Increase access to volunteering by offering a support service to the public and volunteer involving organisations.



Core Objective 2:

Increase overall levels of participation in volunteering by consistent relationship building with volunteers.



Core Objective 3:

Increase the knowledge and skills of VIOs to manage and support volunteers.



Core Objective 4:

Ensure the organisation is sustainable through good governance and management.

Social Media

PEOPLE FIRST CREDIT UNION SEEK VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THEIR BOARD AND COMMITTEES



Congratulations



**ANDY CULLEN,
HUSKY RESCUE LAOIS**

Volunteer Ireland National Awards



VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER REQUIRED BY SOSAD LAOIS



CHRISTMAS AT THE CONVENT 2023

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED FOR MOUNTRATH CHRISTMAS MARKET

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER



ALONE

Supporting older people to age at home

BEFRIENDING VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED



Steering Group Committee Member required by

Midlands LGBT+ Project



SOSAD LAOIS REQUIRE A VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATOR



MOUNTMELICK TIDY TOWNS

Volunteers needed



PRELOVED BOUTIQUE IN PORTARLINGTON SEEKS VOLUNTEERS



STREET COLLECTORS REQUIRED FOR CONCERN PORTLAOISE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24 2023



Husky Rescue Ireland



Are looking for Kennel Volunteers

Please see link in post



VOLUNTEER SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER

wanted



See link in post to apply

www.volunteerlaois.ie





Benefits of Volunteering

- Feeling useful, purposeful and valued and good about doing something practical, making a worthwhile and meaningful difference.
- Feeling friendship, social interaction, meeting new people and getting to know people.
- Feelings of enjoyment, happiness, fulfilment and contentment, positive energy and a buzz.
- Feeling a sense of personal growth and development, an opportunity to learn and practice (new) skills, professional development, e.g. English language, building CV, enhanced employment opportunities, etc.
- Feeling connected to community and a sense of belonging, socially included and being part of a team.
- Feeling an increased sense of self confidence, which can come from any number of sources including positive social interaction, enhanced skills, e.g. English language.
- Feeling better mentally, feeling good about myself, a sense of purpose and structure, uplift in mood and a zest for life.
- Feeling fortunate, a sense of meaning and perspective on life, gratitude and appreciation for life's blessings.
- Feeling more tolerant and open to people and their diversity.

Ref: **Volunteer Ireland**, '*The impact of volunteering on the health and well-being of the volunteer*'.

Organisation Testimonials

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all at Laois Volunteer Centre for the unwavering support we have received in SoSad. Without the support and guidance, it would not have been possible to run fundraising events of their magnitudes for our charity. From providing training to helping us navigate the world of volunteering and all it encompasses I can hand on heart say that without Caitriona and her team we would be lost. From advertising upcoming volunteering positions to signposting people to our service. Laois Volunteer Centre has become a massive source of support for us since opening our doors. The approachableness and openness from each and everyone in the Laois Volunteer Centre is a testament to their dedication and vision of "every person feels connected to their community".

Shirley McKay, Portlaoise Coordinator, SoSaD



<https://sosadireland.ie/>

The Leaves Festival of Writing and Music were very pleased with the assistance and support given by the volunteers in 2023. The volunteering ranged from decorating shop windows in Portlaoise publicising the Leaves festival by talented artists living in the community and front of house assistance. The support by the volunteers was a great asset to the festival and we appreciated it very much. It was a fantastic addition to the festival.

Muireann Ni Chonaill, Arts Officer, Laois Co Council



<https://laois.ie/>

Abbeyleix Bog Project were delighted to have a group of corporate volunteers on site in October 2023 for work on our invasive species control programme. Close to 30 volunteers came on site and equipped with cycles, hand saws, loppers and secateurs went about tackling the rhododendron problem. Seedlings were gathered and large clumps of growth were removed. The day was a big boost to our efforts and while we have not eradicated it, we made a dent to further growth and spread. Special thanks to Caitriona, Storm and Volunteer Laois for facilitating the day and providing much needed refreshments. We look forward to further work in Autumn 2024."

Garry Luttrell, Director, Abbeyleix Bog Project



<https://sosadireland.ie/>

I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your invaluable support in connecting us with dedicated volunteers for our recent event. Your commitment to fostering community engagement truly made a difference.

The success of our event was, in large part, due to the enthusiastic participation of the volunteers you helped us find. Their willingness to contribute their time and efforts ensured that our event ran smoothly and was a memorable occasion for all involved. We are deeply appreciative of the role Laois Volunteer Centre played in this success. Thank you once again for your assistance and for the pivotal role you play in our community.

David Murray Chair of the Down Syndrome Centre Midlands



<https://www.dsamidlands.org/>

Organisation Testimonials

Over the past year we have accessed the services of Laois Volunteer Centre to recruit a number of competent, professional and committed volunteers, specialists in their fields, to develop the work we do in the local community. The staff team of LVC have supported us to identify role titles, write role descriptors, and set up interviews, all of which worked to increase our chances of finding the right people. The work done over the past couple of years, by the volunteers recruited with the help of LVC, has strengthened our service offering, promoted and increased awareness of our organisation in the community, led to more meaningful community engagement and interest in domestic abuse, and enhanced our governance. The service development we as an organisation have undertaken would not have been possible without the generosity of LVC staff in sharing their expertise and insight and their unwavering dedication to the betterment of the local community.

Marna Carroll, Coordinator, Laois Domestic Abuse Service



Laois Domestic Abuse Service

<https://www.laoisdomesticabuseservice.ie/>

The staff in Laois Volunteer Centre were of enormous help to us for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Portlaoise, providing event volunteers for the parade. There was one stage where there was literally no-one to help with the wristbands for bouncy castles etc. and we would have been honestly lost, if we did not have volunteers from Laois Volunteer Centre. Thank you so much. Roll on next year!"

Pauline Flanagan, Secretary, Portlaoise St Patrick's Day Parade Committee.



At the recent Live Well Expo, we sought the help of Laois Volunteer Centre to help with the event. In 2023, we ran the event for the first time and attracted large numbers on the day. We realised quickly that we needed assistance in the area of event volunteering and general event assistance. From there Laois Volunteer Centre took over - they recruited the volunteers and briefed them as to our needs. On the day they were the first point of contact for all who attended – they set a positive tone for the event and attendees and exhibitors have commented on the organisation of the event and Laois Volunteer Centre were a huge part of that. Managing a crowd of almost 2000 on the day was no easy job but the preparation and communication prior, during and after the event from LVC made it possible. They are such an important resource to us and to many others in Laois.

Tom Curran, Age Friendly, Laois Co Council



Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co Laois

<https://laois.ie/>

On behalf of Healthy Laois I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the assistance provided by Laois Volunteer Centre at the Live Well Expo. This event was a resounding success and in no small part due to Laois Volunteer Centre. The aim of Live Well is to showcase the services available in County Laois and the assistance provided by all volunteers was instrumental in the smooth running of this event. However, on a deeper level, Laois Volunteers highlighted the spirit of volunteerism and community here in Laois and demonstrated the valuable role of we can all play when we work together.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Emma O'Connor Healthy Laois Co-Ordinator, Laois County Council



Healthy Laois

<https://www.laoisdomesticabuseservice.ie/>

Volunteer Testimonials

Following my retirement, I decided that I needed opportunities for meeting new people, helping out and exploring new opportunities.

I also needed something that would be flexible and would fit in with my new routine. Laois Volunteer Centre ticked all the boxes for me and since I joined, I have helped out at the Ploughing festival, the Literacy leaves festival and the Live well expo as well as Church gate collections. There are so many opportunities to Volunteer in our county and it's great to meet new people and to be part of what's happening locally.

If you can spare only an hour now and then, a once off commitment or volunteer on a regular basis, every little helps.

The managers and admin team do amazing work sending out new opportunities to all volunteers and then it's up to us to decide whether we want to opt in or out. I think the organisation is doing incredible work, and 'Im very happy to have joined as a volunteer.

Joan Volunteer

I have volunteered on three different occasions with Laois Volunteer Centre. I work full time so I don't have a lot of free time to give so I do some volunteering at event for different charities. All I do is 2-3 hours. I always find volunteering to be great fun. I always meet new people and the craic is mighty! It is a great for you mentally and you feel like you're giving back too.

Paul H, Volunteer

Volunteering is good fun and sometimes a bit hard as you're doing things you don't get to do in your normal life like meeting a lot of new people, sometimes they're even famous Laois people! It makes you feel good and more confident in handling things in your own life. I'd recommend it to anybody who wants to feel better about themselves and feel like they're doing something to help the community.

Joe L, Junior Volunteer



Volunteers at the Down Syndrome Centre, Midlands, Centre & Garden

“

The success of our event was, in large part, due to the enthusiastic participation of the volunteers.

There are so many opportunities to volunteer in our county and it's great to meet new people and to be part of what's happening locally.

From providing training to helping us navigate the world of volunteering and all it encompasses I can hand on heart say that without Caitriona and her team we would be lost.

”

Some of the Volunteering Opportunities in 2023

Volunteer Musician - Laois Offaly Mental Health Services

Volunteer Gardener - Cuisle Cancer Support

Volunteer Administrator - SOSAD Laois

Street Collector - Portlaoise Concern Group

Volunteer Till Assistant - Oxfam Ireland

Emo Tidy Towns Volunteer - Emo Tidy Towns

Side Walker for Disabled Riding - Riding for Disabled Laois Branch

Church Gate Collectors - Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind (Laois Branch)

Fundraising Committee Member - Laois Domestic Abuse

Volunteer Website Developer - Portlaoise Lions Club

Event Volunteer - Laois County Council - Business Support Unit

Bog Bridge Builder - Abbeyleix Bog Project

Event Helpers - Promenade Arts DAC

Board of Directors / Panel - Peoples First Credit Union



Some of the Volunteering Opportunities in 2023

Retail Community Champion - NCBI Portarlington Pre Loved Boutique

Sign Languages Support - Irish Wheelchair Association Laois

Dog Coordinator - Laois SPCA

Kitchen Assistant - St Joseph's Meals on Wheels

Receptionist / Information Provider - South Leinster Citizens Information

Driver - LSTEP (Laois Services to Elderly People)

Cleaner - Down Syndrome Centre Midlands

Social Media Administrator - Laois Partnership Company

Office Administrator - Midlands Living Links Laois

Electric Picnic Volunteer - SOSAD

Fundraising and Events Person - Husky Rescue Ireland

Social Media Officer - YWI Laois Youth Services

Event Volunteer - Relay for Life Laois, Irish Cancer Society

Models for Videography Session - Laois Chamber Alliance

Festival Volunteer - Old Fort Quarter



New Volunteers

Town/Village	2022	2023	Difference
Portlaoise	158	174	16
Portarlinton	53	40	-13
Mountmelick	15	20	5
Abbeyleix	9	9	0
Stradbally	7	11	4
Mountrath	8	7	-1
Rathdowney	3	3	0
Clonaslee	5	3	-2
Durrow	4	3	-1
Ballybrittas	8	2	-6
Ballylinan	2	5	3
Emo	1	1	0
Borris in Ossory	4	2	-2
Erill	0	1	1
Ballyroan	2	6	4
Killenard	2	2	0
Ballyfin	1	1	0
Ballyadams	1	0	-1
Cullahill	1	1	0
Ballickmoylar	1	2	1
Ballycarroll	1	1	0
Subtotal:	286	294	8
Unknown	24	36	12
Total:	306	330	24

Comparision	2022	2023	Difference
New Volunteers Registrations	306	330	24
New VIO's registered	36	49	13
Opportunities Applied For	434	605	171
Volunteers Referred	434	605	171

Migrant registrations	2022	2023	Difference
	92	115	23

Past Events



Callum Byrne, Winner of Junior Volunteer of the Year 2023, Caitriona Ryan, Manager, Laois Volunteer Centre, Aaron Jacob, Winner of Junior Volunteer of the Year 2023.



Corporate volunteering presentation to the members of Laois Chamber Alliance .



Donations of plants from local garden centres for Sue Ryder Garden Makeover Project/



Laois Integration Network Volunteer serving food at Christmas Party for children in Direct Provision

Past Events



Corporate Volunteer, Down Syndrome Centre, Midlands, October 2023.



Volunteers in Abbeyleix Bog Project - October 2023.

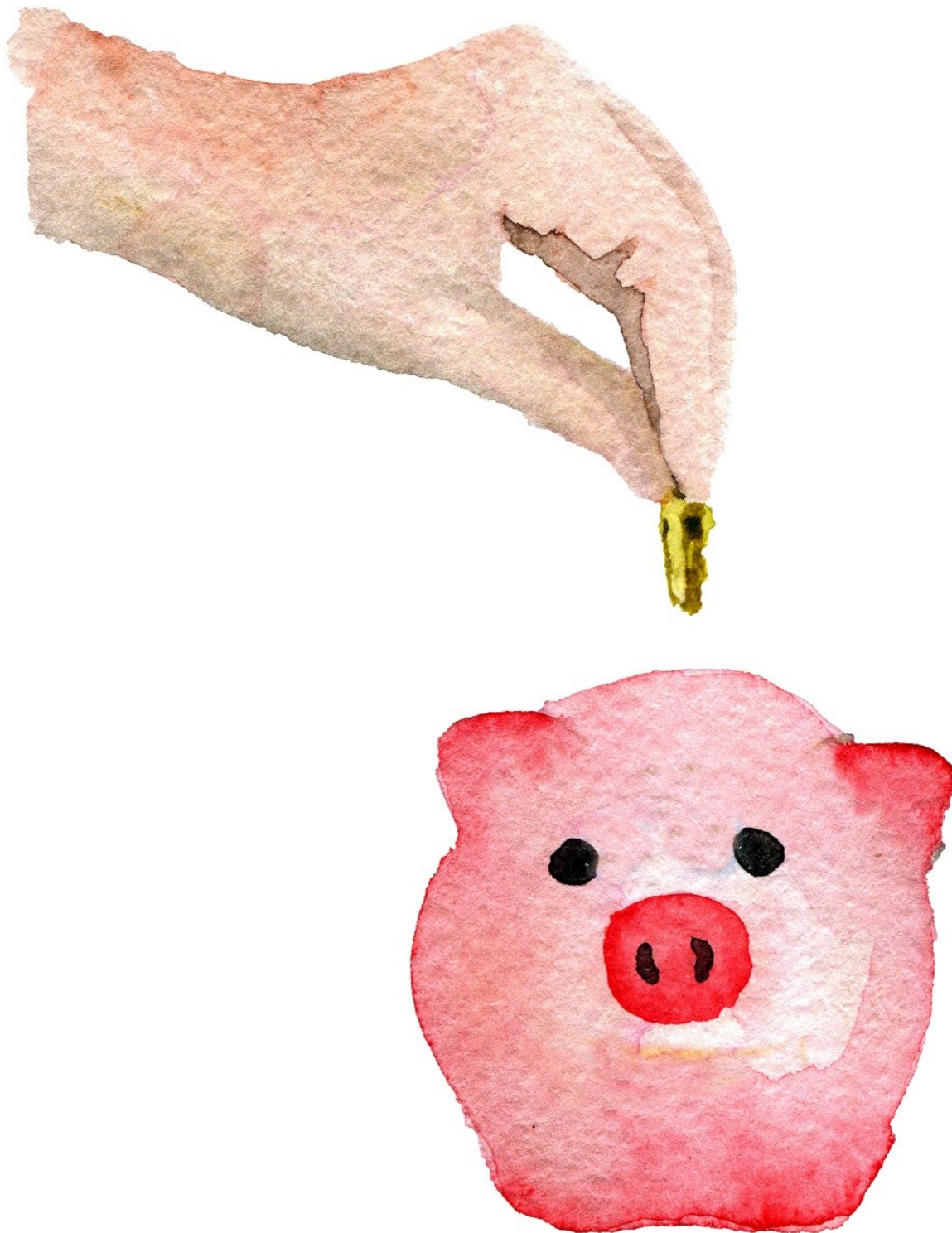


Group of charities attending LVC Speed Networking Event. May 2023.

Key Documents



Financial Statements



Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

Directors' Report And Financial Statements

For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

Registered Number 676229

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Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Directors and Company Information
For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

Directors

Conor Ganly
Seamus Bennett
Pauline Flanagan
Zain Jawed Khan
Julia O'Connor

Secretary

Pauline Flanagan

Registered Office

Bloom HQ, Unit 6
Mountrath
Co Laois

Registered Charity Number

20206150

Tax Registration Number

3731813BH

Charitable Tax Exemption Number

22937

Business Address

Bloom HQ, Unit 6
Mountrath
Co Laois

Auditors

Duncan Financial Services Limited
Georgian House
12 Patrick Street
Kilkenny

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
Portlaoise
Co Laois

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

Chairman's Report

For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

The early years of any new organisation are the most exciting and challenging and the Laois Volunteer Centre (LVC) is no different. The twelve months covered by this report represents a year of bedding in and building upon key work done by staff and board members since being founded in the autumn of 2020.

Consolidation and growth is carried out in tandem with delivery of services required to fulfil our mandate of matching volunteers with volunteering organisations. Integral to this is constant engagement with voluntary groups in communities which require volunteering.

While reinforcing past work is a must and delivery service in the present is required, planning for the short, medium and long term is essential.

During 2023 LVC embraced the challenge of delivery in all three, often overlapping, areas. In terms of delivery, LVC staff, led by Manager Caitriona Ryan, have also been innovative in broadening the delivery of service. Examples of this were volunteer/project management at the Sue Ryder Garden Makeover involving 40 volunteers over three weekends.

The potential of working with business to facilitate and grow volunteering was also realised.

LVC led two corporate environmental volunteering projects supporting people with disabilities. LVC staff and board view Corporate Volunteering as an area for growth and further innovation.

Delivery of service is difficult if not impossible without staff. However, recruitment has proved to be a challenge.

It took some months to recruit an Outreach Officer to support volunteer involving organisations (VIOs). In a buoyant jobs market, similar delays were experienced with recruiting a Migrant Support Worker and replacing the Development Officer.

LVC is committed to supporting and incentivising staff who are invaluable and an indispensable part of the organisation. The board will remain committed to reviewing conditions to retain and when necessary attract new employees.

Apart from working with VIOs, LVC continues to work with its local strategic partners to advance community volunteering and integration. These and other partnerships are vital to both the short and long term success. Looking to the medium term, LVC continues to work on the implementation of the 2023-26 Strategic Plan which forms a roadmap to deliver on our remit but also to expand our services.

The plan was drawn up with input from staff, board and outside parties and strategic partners. Governance remains a constant area of focus for the Centre's board and staff. Work continues in ensuring LVC remains compliant with the Charities Regulator Governance Code and the Quality Assurance Standards for Volunteer Centres.

As a small organisation, compliance with both is a challenge. Maintaining compliance would prove very difficult without staff.

Laois VC remains grateful to Volunteer Ireland for its ongoing support and is also very appreciative of the Department of Rural and Community Development for their ongoing commitment backing the volunteering ethos with public funds to encourage Laois people to volunteers.

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

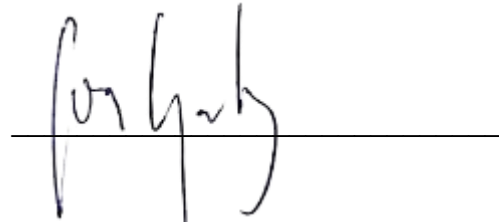
Chairman's Report

For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

We look forward to a new funding model the we hope would have a multi-annual element which would provide a degree of certainty to the delivery and expansion of services in the future.

In conclusion, thanks to all the board members who contributed during 2023. A special word of thanks to our manager Caitriona Ryan who consistently delivers a high performance in leading staff and working with the board in delivering a high standard of service.

Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Conor Ganly', is written over a horizontal line.

Conor Ganly
Chairperson
Laois Volunteer Centre

Date: 18th June 2024

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

Directors' Report

For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

The directors present their report and audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Our Aim

Laois Volunteer Centre aims to be a 'one stop shop' for all your volunteering needs in County Laois. Laois Volunteer Centre is an independent organisation which works with individuals and organisations to carry out a range of activities to improve our communities.

Our Vision

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Laois Volunteer Centre provides the following services for Volunteers:

- Finding suitable volunteering opportunities
- Matching skills, talents and abilities to a suitable non-for-profit organisation, taking into account the time you have available, your interests etc.
- Support and advice about volunteering.
- Management of the I-VOL app where volunteers can register their interest in volunteering opportunities.
- Check out the I-VOL app [here](#).

We provide the following services for Organisations:

Conducting skills gaps/needs analysis with organisations to identify volunteering requirements.

- Finding and matching suitable volunteers.
- Practical support and advice about volunteer engagement and management.
- Garda Vetting services for organisations who do not have an authorised signatory in their organisation.
- Free/low-cost training on various volunteer related matters such as Garda Vetting, Volunteer Engagement, Benefits of Volunteering etc.
- Volunteer Management at large community events.
- Facilitating corporate volunteering projects.
- Management of the I-VOL app where you can post your volunteer vacancies.

We provide the following services for Organisations

- We also provide services for organisations who would like to engage with volunteers.
- Finding and matching suitable volunteers.
- Practical support and advice about volunteer engagement and management.
- Garda Vetting services for organisations who do not have an authorised signatory in their organisation.
- Free/low-cost training on various volunteer related matters such as Garda Vetting, Volunteer Engagement etc.
- Management of the I-VOL app where you can post your volunteer vacancies.

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

Directors' Report

For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

The Laois Volunteer Centre was established in August 2020 as a company limited by guarantee in line with a government aim of expanding the volunteer centre network in Ireland to all counties. Laois Volunteer Centre was preceded by the Laois Volunteer Information Service provided by Laois Partnership CLG. Laois Volunteer Centre was granted charitable status by the Charities Regulator in April 2021.

The Centre's board successfully recruited its first staff manager and development officer in 2021. With the recruitment of the manager and subsequently the development officer, work began on the core service tasks of matching volunteers with not-for-profit organisations. Covid-19 impacted significantly on the work of the Centre in the initial years of operation. The board and manager agreed that rather than open an office, the Centre's staff would work at a remote working hub, Bloom HQ in Mountrath and from home. This has had a beneficial impact on finances. It has also fostered a more proactive approach to networking and developing an outreach service. A significant amount of work was also carried out in 2021 and 2022 bedding in the foundations and structures to support the board and staff.

Two milestones in 2022 were the completion of our first annual report/AGM and compliance with the Charities Regulator Governance Code.

In 2023, the recruitment of two extra staff members resulted in a greater number of volunteering. Our first large scale volunteer management project took place in May 2023 in Sue Ryder residential facility in Ballyroan. The Garden Makeover Project saw 39 volunteers transform an unusable garden space over three weekends into a welcoming, biodiverse rich space for residents and wildlife. The roll out of corporate volunteering and also the community volunteer programme demonstrated an added dimension of our service;

Two corporate volunteering projects included an environmental project (Abbeyleigh Bog Project) and a renovation project with Down Syndrome Centre Midlands. Over 35 employees from a well known financial institution undertook these projects over a two day period.

Laois Volunteer Centre has sponsored a volunteering category in the annual Laois Community and Voluntary Awards since its inception in 2021. In 2023, we sponsored the Junior Volunteer of the Year Awards. Calum Byrne and Aaron Jacob were the winners.

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Structure, Governance and Management

Laois Volunteer Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee having no share capital and in accordance with clause 10 of the Constitution every member of the Company is liable to contribute a sum of €1 in the event of the company being wound up.

Board members are nominated to the Board. The term of office is 3 years and after the initial term can be renewed twice, with a total of nine years on the Board for each member.

At 31 December 2023 there were five Board members:

- Conor Ganly (Chairperson)
- Pauline Flanagan (Secretary)
- Zain Jawed Khan (Treasurer)
- Julia O'Connor (Director)
- Seamus Bennett (Director)

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

Directors' Report

For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

During 2023 the Board met every second month. In addition to the Board, there are three sub-committees of the Board: Finance, HR, Communications and Governance. Board members receive no remuneration under any circumstances in respect of their services but may be paid for travel, hotel and other expenses properly incurred. There were 7 Finance Sub Committee Meetings, 5 Governance Sub Committee Meetings, 2 HR Sub Committee Meetings and 1 Communications Sub Committee Meeting (the latter two Sub Committees were set up in Quarter 3 of 2023).

The role of the board of management is to support the manager and staff in the day-to-day operations of Laois Volunteer Centre. Laois Volunteer Centre is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Laois Volunteer Centre is compliant with the Charities Regulator's Governance Code. All registered charities in Ireland are expected to meet the core standards of the six principles of the Code.

CORE OBJECTIVE 1:

Increase access to volunteering by offering a Support Service to the public and volunteer involving organisations.

In 2023, Laois Volunteer Centre established stronger working relationships and partnerships by providing a more personalised service to the volunteer involving organisations (VIOs).

Targets

In general, we aimed to increase the number of volunteer involving organisations so that 1) a greater number of volunteering opportunities would be created and 2) that the organisations could run their services more effectively by engaging with us and our volunteers.

Relationship building with key stakeholders is crucial and through extensive networking 608 volunteer opportunities were applied for compared to 433 in 2022. However the number of non-for-profit organisations recruited in 2023 declined from 36 in 2022 to 30 due to the intensive support work given to existing VIOs which numbered 230 at the end of 2023.

Learning from 2022

In 2023, we moved away from delivering outreach in libraries and other community-based spaces as this activity yielded little in terms of volunteer or volunteering involving organization recruitment.

Instead, we focused on attending and participating in a diverse range of stakeholder networking events with organisations including the PPN, Laois County Council, Laois Chamber of Commerce and Laois Partnership Company. Having a staff member (outreach officer) dedicated to the recruitment of organisations was crucial in enabling us to carry out this type of networking and relationship building.

We found that not only did we increase our own learning about the various other services, activities and events in the county but we also made contact with key staff from the other organisations. The benefits of establishing and building relationships with the key players resulted in Laois Volunteer Centre increasing the diverse range of volunteering roles created.

Following on from the learnings of 2023, Laois Volunteer Centre will continue to reach out to organisations to 'sell' the benefits of our service.

CORE OBJECTIVE 2:

Increase overall levels of participation in volunteering by consistent relationship building with volunteers. Laois Volunteer Centre provided a more personalized, accessible service to volunteers compared to 2022. This approach increased volunteer recruitment numbers from 310 to 330.

Our principal funder allocated funding to support displaced Ukrainian people. We recruited a Ukrainian Support Worker and this helped us to increase our migrant volunteer numbers as well as helping these volunteers feel more included in the broader Laois community.

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

Directors' Report

For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

Learning from 2022

Ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to supporting volunteers is essential. For the service to remain vital to the community, we must continue to offer a personalised, customer focused orientation. Contacting volunteers upon registration is only the first step in the volunteering journey and while it is important, following up with volunteers is crucial to ensure a quality placement which ensures increase sustainability.

We also learned the importance of appreciating the volunteers through affirmation and recognizing their input by simply saying "thank you".

Micro volunteering

Micro or once off volunteering continues to be very popular amongst our volunteers. The appeal is obvious - people get to 'dip their toes' into the volunteering pool and do something worthwhile such as fundraising or event stewarding but do not have to commit to an organization. It often leads to volunteers taking up more long term roles.

UKRAINIAN/MIGRANTS RESPONSE

Additional funding for supporting displaced new communities in Co. Laois was secured in 2023 and it was agreed at a board meeting to research the most effective means of engaging this cohort.

Having consulted with members of Laois County Council's Community Response Forum (of which Laois Volunteer Centre is a member) and with other Volunteer Centres, we identified that employing a Support Worker would result in greater social integration in the county.

Laois Volunteer Centre actively participated in the monthly Community Response Forum facilitated by Laois County Council.

CORE OBJECTIVE 3:

Increase the knowledge and skills of VIOs to manage and support Volunteers.

Building capacity with VIOs is essential to ensure that relevant volunteering opportunities are identified and created.

VIO recruitment

In 2023, Laois Volunteer Centre focused on VIO recruitment by employing an additional staff member (outreach officer) whose role specifically included the developing of relationships with VIOs.

Needs analyses and skills audits were undertaken with VIOs prior to placement of suitable volunteers for the organization. Training needs and garda vetting requirements were also established and Laois Volunteer Centre provided relevant support in these areas. Up to 15 organisations received support with garda vetting issues.

Networking

Laois Volunteer Centre staff have participated in over 50 networking/collaborative events throughout 2023 including events such as Laois Chamber Alliance, Laois County Council, National Ploughing Championships, Live Well Expo, Volunteer Ireland, Alone, PPN events and others and exhibited stands at 6 county-wide events. In addition, LVC, partially organized and hosted a stand at a community awareness event in Heywood Community School.

CORE OBJECTIVE 4:

Ensure the organisation is sustainable through Good Governance and Management. Laois Volunteer Centre aims to provide a high quality, professional service to all stakeholders and to ensure effective and transparent governance within the organisation.

Five Governance Sub Committee meetings were held with regular reporting on progress to the other board members. For the second year running, we were shortlisted in category two of the Carmichael annual National Good Governance Awards.

Whilst we did not win the award, the detailed feedback provided by the judging panel has proved extremely useful with ongoing compliance and the preparation of this annual report.

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

Directors' Report

For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

Going Concern

The Company is economically dependent on the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding. The directors are satisfied that this funding will continue for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Financial Review

The surplus for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €22,543 (2022 - surplus €25,767).

At the end of the financial year the company has assets of €153,263 (2022 - €183,690) and liabilities of €18,834 (2022 - €71,804). The liabilities of the company have decreased by €52,970, which includes a decrease in deferred income of €52,962.

Laois Volunteer Centre had total income of €152,560 in 2023 (2022 - €130,366). €152,190 (99.76%) was received for specific purposes and was therefore treated as restricted funds. €152,190 which represents 99.76% of total income was received is state funding. Total other income received was €370 (2022 - €480) which represented 0.24% of income and was mainly derived from Garda vetting.

Total expenditure in the Laois Volunteer Centre in 2023 was €130,017 of which €90,696 (69.76%) related to staff and staff related costs and €39,321 (30.24%) related to other costs.

Restricted Funds

Restricted reserves represent funding, grants, donations and sponsorships received which can only be used for particular purposes specified by the donors and binding on the directors. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the charity.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds represent amounts which may be spent or applied at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the objectives of the Company. They may include designated reserves which are earmarked by the directors for specific projects.

Remuneration Policy

The salary rates of all staff are agreed by the board.

The directors do not receive any remuneration for their services as directors.

Directors and Company Secretary

The directors who served during the financial year were:

Julia O'Connor	Catherine Corbett - (retired 27 June 2023)
Pauline Flanagan	Damien Kirwan (appointed 18 April 2023)
Conor Ganly	Zain Jawed Khan (appointed 18 April 2023)
	Seamus Bennett (appointed 1 June 2023)

The company secretary throughout the financial year was Pauline Flanagan.

Events Since the Financial Year End

No significant events have affected the company since the financial year end.

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

Directors' Report

For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

Accounting Records

The directors are responsible for ensuring that adequate accounting records, as outlined in Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 are kept by the company. To achieve this the directors have appointed appropriately qualified accounting personnel to ensure that those requirements are complied with. The accounting records are maintained at the company's office at Bloom HQ, Unit 6, Mountrath, Co. Laois.

Statement of Relevant Audit Information

The directors of the company at the date this report is approved have in accordance with Section 332 of the Companies Act 2014 confirmed:

- 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, Duncan Financial Services Limited, will continue in office in accordance with the provision of Section 382(2) of the Companies Act, 2014.

Approved by the board of directors and signed on its behalf by:



Conor Ganly - Director

Zain Jawed Khan - Director

Date: 18th June 2024

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Directors' Responsibilities Statement
For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

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 the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective from 1 January 2015. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as 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 judgements 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the 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 readily and properly audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Auditor's Report
To the Members of
Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Laois Volunteer Centre CLG for the year ended 31 December 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Funds, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 3. 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, issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

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 2023 and of its surplus/deficit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been properly 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 described below in the Auditor's 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 for Auditors (Ireland) 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.

We have availed of the exemption provided by IAASA'S Ethical Standard - Section 6 - "Provisions available for Audits of Small Entities" in the circumstances set out in note 21 to the financial statements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Independent Auditor's Report
To the Members of
Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

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 auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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 course of the audit, or 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 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 that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are 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 the 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 any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of Sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement on page 9, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Independent Auditor's Report
To the Members of
Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the company's 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 Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority's website at:

<http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/> Description of auditors responsibilities for audit.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our 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 auditors' 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.

**Georgian House
12 Patrick Street
Kilkenny**

**Patrick Duncan
For and on behalf of
Duncan Financial Services Limited
Certified Public Accountants,
Statutory Audit Firm**

Date: 18th June 2024

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG**Statement Of Financial Activities And Income And Expenditure Account**
For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

		<u>2023</u> <u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>€</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>€</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Total</u> <u>€</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Total</u> <u>€</u>
	Note				
<u>Income from</u>					
Charitable activities					
- Community service	5	152,190	-	152,190	129,886
-Other trading activities	6		370	370	480
<u>Total Income</u>		<u>152,190</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>152,560</u>	<u>130,366</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities					
Community services	7	<u>129,647</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>130,017</u>	<u>104,599</u>
<u>Total expenditure</u>		<u>129,647</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>130,017</u>	<u>104,599</u>
<u>Net surplus for the financial year</u>		<u>22,543</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,543</u>	<u>25,767</u>
<u>Net movement in funds</u>		<u>22,543</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,543</u>	<u>25,767</u>
<u>Reconciliation of funds</u>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>111,886</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,886</u>	<u>86,119</u>
<u>Total funds carried forward</u>		<u><u>134,429</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>134,429</u></u>	<u><u>111,886</u></u>

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Statement Of Changes in Equity and Funds
For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

	<u>Restricted Funds</u> €	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> €	<u>Total</u> €
At 1 January 2022	86,119	-	86,119
Retained surplus for the financial period	25,767	-	25,767
At 31 December 2022	111,886	-	111,886
Retained surplus for the financial year	22,543	-	22,543
At 31 December 2023	134,429	-	134,429

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>€</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>€</u>
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Tangible assets	12	2,835	1,685
<u>Current assets</u>			
Debtors	13	4,630	1,646
Cash at bank and in hand		145,798	180,359
		150,428	182,005
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(18,834)	(71,804)
Net Current Assets		131,594	110,201
<u>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</u>		134,429	111,886
<u>Net Assets</u>		134,429	111,886
<u>Net Funds</u>			
Income and Expenditure Account	17	134,429	111,886

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102.

Approved by the board of directors and signed on its behalf by:



Conor Ganly - Director

Zain Jawed Khan - Director

Date: 18th June 2024

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	2023 €	2022 €
<u>Cash flows from operating activities</u>			
Operating surplus		22,543	25,767
Depreciation		1,833	838
(Increase) in debtors		(2,984)	(822)
(Increase /Decrease) in creditors		(52,970)	67,677
Additions to fixed assets		(2,983)	(535)
Net cash flows from operating activities		(34,561)	92,925
<u>Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents</u>		(34,561)	92,925
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		180,359	87,434
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		145,798	180,359

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. General Information

These financial statements comprising the Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Funds, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes constitute the individual financial statements of Laois Volunteer Centre CLG for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG is a company limited by guarantee and not having share capital, incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office is Bloom HQ, Unit 6, Mountrath, Co Laois which is also the principal place of business of the company. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report on pages 5 to 10.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective from 1 January 2015.

Currency

The financial statements have been presented in the Euro currency (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

2. Significant Judgements and Estimates

Preparation of the financial statements requires management to make significant judgements and estimates in arriving at the figures in the financial statements. The most significant judgements and estimates used in the preparation of these financial statements are:

Going Concern

The company is mainly funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. After reviewing the company's forecasts, plans and financial projections, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company, with the continued support of the Department of Rural and Community Development, will have adequate resources to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. On this basis the directors consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the company was unable to continue as a going concern.

3. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective from 1 January 2015.

Income

Government funding for revenue purposes is recognised as income when the intended activities have been undertaken or offer of funding has been communicated to the company, the related expenditure has been incurred and there is reasonable probability of receipt.

Income due to the company but not yet received by the financial year end is included in debtors in the balance sheet and funds already received but not yet expended are included in creditors. Donations are recognised when received.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the liability can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for when incurred and includes amounts due at the end of the financial year but not paid. Expenditure includes attributable value added tax which cannot be recovered.

Support costs

Support costs are those costs that assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the company's programmes and activities. These costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities as appropriate.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds

Restricted funds represent funding, grants, donations and sponsorships received which can only be used for particular purposes specified by the donors and binding on the directors. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the charity.

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds represent amounts which may be spent or applied at the discretion of the directors and enhance the overall aims of the charity.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Furniture, fittings and equipment	-15% to 33.33% Straight Line
-----------------------------------	------------------------------

It is a requirement of FRS 102 that the carrying value of tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment and losses recognised in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. As the company does not hold fixed assets for the purpose of generating cashflows, but were acquired to carry out charitable activities, the value cannot be meaningfully measured in terms of cashflow as the benefits that derive from their use are not financial. Accordingly, an impairment of fixed assets will only arise where the asset suffers impairment in the physical sense resulting in physical damage and the use of the assets has reduced significantly or is no longer in use or where the quality of service it provides has deteriorated. As long as such assets continue to provide the anticipated benefits to the company, the consumption of such benefits will be reflected in regular depreciation charges.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised in the financial statements at transaction value less impairment for any bad or doubtful debts.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in bank and in hand.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised in the financial statements at transaction value.

Taxation

The company is a registered charity, regarded as established for charitable purposes only, and is exempt from taxation on its income under the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997.

Government and Other Grants

Capital grants received are shown as deferred income and credited to the statement of financial activities and income and expenditure account by instalments on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy of the relevant assets. Revenue grants are credited to income to offset the matching expenditure.

Specific Funds

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

Monies raised for specific projects are matched with the related expenditure when same is incurred.

Reserves Policy

In case of unforeseen and significant reduction in funding the company is working towards having sufficient financial reserves to maintain the operations of the company for six to nine months.

4. Financial Instruments

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash consists of cash on hand, bank current accounts and demand deposits. Cash equivalents consist of short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Other Financial Assets

Other financial assets including debtors for services provided to clients on short-term credit, are initially measured at the undiscounted amount of cash receivable from that client, which is normally the invoice price. If payment is deferred beyond normal business terms or is financed at a rate that is not a market rate, this constitutes a financing transaction, and the financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument. Subsequently, other financial assets are measured at amortised cost less impairment, where there is objective evidence of an impairment.

Other Financial Liabilities

Other financial liabilities, include trade creditors arising from goods purchased from suppliers on short-term credit, are initially measured at the undiscounted amount owed to the creditor, which is normally the invoice price. Liabilities that are settled within one year are not discounted. If payment is deferred beyond normal business terms or is financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, this constitutes a financing transaction, and the financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument. Subsequently, other financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

5. Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities

	<u>Restricted Funds</u> €	<u>2023 Total</u> €	<u>2022 Total</u> €
<u>Community Services</u>			
DRCD - Core Funding	130,075	130,075	121,000
DRCD - Ukrainian Response Funding	15,796	15,796	11,674
DRCD - Additional Funding	13,857	13,857	-
Other Public Funding	-	-	3,833
Transfer to Deferred Income	(7,538)	(7,538)	(6,621)
	<u>152,190</u>	<u>152,190</u>	<u>129,886</u>

6. Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> €	<u>Restricted Funds</u> €	<u>2023 Total</u> €	<u>2022 Total</u> €
Other income	370	-	370	480
	<u>370</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>480</u>

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

7. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Programme costs represent necessary costs incurred in the provision of the principal activities of the company

		<u>Restricted Funds</u> €	<u>2023 Total</u> €	<u>2022 Total</u> €
<u>Direct costs</u>	<u>Note</u>			
Staff and related costs		86,161	86,161	74,777
Staff and volunteer training		838	838	1,288
Advertising, promotions and community projects		11,466	11,466	5,997
Transport and travelling		2,457	2,457	1,015
Establishment costs		5,419	5,419	4,826
Office and administration costs		6,202	6,202	6,723
		112,543	112,543	94,629
Support costs	8	7,711	7,711	5,751
Governance costs	9	9,763	9,763	4,219
		130,017	130,017	104,599

7. Support costs

Support costs common to all activities are allocated on a percentage basis as deemed appropriate by the directors.

	<u>Community Services</u> €	<u>2023 Total</u> €	<u>2022 Total</u> €
Staff and related costs	4,535	4,535	3,936
Advertising, promotions and community projects	603	603	316
Transport and travelling	129	129	53
Establishment costs	285	285	254
Office and administration costs	326	326	354
Depreciation etc	1833	1833	838
Total			
	7,711	7,711	5,751

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

9. Governance costs

Governance costs are allocated on a percentage basis as deemed appropriate by the directors.

	<u>Community Services</u> €	<u>2023 Total</u> €	<u>2022 Total</u> €
Legal and professional fees	7,118	7,118	1,759
Audit fees	2,645	2,645	2,460
	<u>9,763</u>	<u>9,763</u>	<u>4,219</u>

10. Employees

Number of employees

The average number of employees during the financial year were:

	<u>2023 Total</u> €	<u>2022 Total</u> €
Support services etc	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
Payroll Costs	<u>2023</u> €	<u>2022</u> €
Wages and salaries	81,254	69,323
Social welfare costs	7,942	7,640
	<u>89,196</u>	<u>76,963</u>

During the financial year, there were no employees paid a salary greater than €70,000

11. Directors' Remuneration and Transaction

Directors' remuneration

No remuneration has been paid by the company to its directors

Directors' transactions

The company had no related party transactions with the directors during the year.

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	<u>Furniture, Fittings & Equipment</u> €	<u>Total</u> €
<u>Cost</u>		
At 1 January 2023	2,852	2,852
Additions	2,983	2,983
At 31 December 2023	5,835	5,835
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 January 2023	1,167	1,167
Charge for the year	1,833	1,833
At 31 December 2023	3,000	3,000
<u>Net Book Values</u>		
At 31 December 2023	2,835	2,835
At 31 December 2022	1,685	1,685

13. Debtors

	<u>2023</u> €	<u>2022</u> €
Debtors and prepayments	4,630	1,646
All debtors fall due within one year		

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2023</u> €	<u>2022</u> €
Creditors and accruals	3,535	3,149
Deferred income	14,159	67,121
Taxation creditors	1,140	1,534
	18,834	71,804

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

15. Financial Commitments

On 4th April 2022 the company commenced a rolling agreement to occupy as office space, Unit 6 Bloom HQ, Mountrath, Co Laois on a non exclusive basis. The monthly licence fee on the office space is €350.

16. Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 13/2014

Grant 1

Sponsoring Government Department:	Dept. of Rural and Community Development
Grant Programme:	Volunteering and Support Services
Purpose of the Grant:	General administration and service provision
Total grant approved:	<u>€60,500</u>
Grant taken to income in the period:	<u>€130,075</u>
Cash received in the period:	<u>€130,075</u>
Deferred income at period end:	<u>€69,575</u>
Term:	Expires 31 December 2023
Received period ended:	31 December 2023
Capital Grant:	Nil
Restriction on use:	General administration and service provision

Grant 2

Sponsoring Government Department:	Dept. of Rural and Community Development
Grant Programme:	Volunteering and Support Services
Purpose of the Grant:	Additional Funding
Total grant approved:	<u>€13,857</u>
Grant taken to income in the period:	<u>€13,857</u>
Cash received in the period:	<u>€13,857</u>
Deferred income at period end:	<u>€-</u>
Term:	Expires 31 December 2023
Received period ended:	31 December 2023
Capital Grant:	Nil
Restriction on use:	Additional Funding

Grant 3

Sponsoring Government Department:	Dept. of Rural and Community Development
Grant Programme:	Ukrainian Community Response
Purpose of the Grant:	Ukrainian Community Support
Deferred income at 1 January 2023	<u>€6,621</u>
Total grant approved:	<u>€15,796</u>
Grant taken to income in the period:	<u>€8,258</u>
Cash received in the period:	<u>€15,796</u>
Deferred income at period end:	<u>€14,159</u>
Term:	Expires 31 December 2023
Received period ended:	31 December 2023
Utilised on Capital Expenditure:	≡
Restriction on use:	Intercultural Exchange

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2022

17. <u>Appropriation of Income and Expenditure</u>	<u>2023</u> €	<u>2022</u> €
Opening balance	111,886	86,119
Surplus for the financial period	22,543	25,767
Closing balance	134,429	111,886

18. Analysis of Funds

	<u>Opening</u> <u>Surplus</u> <u>1 January</u> <u>2023</u> €	<u>Incoming</u> <u>Resources</u> €	<u>Outgoing</u> <u>Resources</u> €	<u>Closing</u> <u>Surplus</u> <u>31 December 2023</u> €
<u>Restricted Funds</u>				
<u>Community Services</u>				
DRCD Funding	111,886	152,190	(129,647)	134,429
Other Public Funding	-	-	-	-
	111,886	152,190	(129,647)	134,429
<u>Total Restricted Funds</u>	111,886	152,190	(129,647)	134,429
<u>Total Unrestricted Funds</u>	-	370	(370)	-
<u>Total Funds</u>	111,886	152,560	(130,017)	134,429

19. Events Since the Financial Year End

No significant events have affected the company since the financial year end.

20. Related Party Transactions

The transactions of the company with its directors and their connected persons are given in note 11.
Apart from these there were no other related party transactions during the financial year.

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

21. Provisions Available for Smaller Entities

In common with many other organisations of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements and deal with company secretarial matters on our behalf.

22. Legal Status of the Company

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. At 31 December 2023, the company had 5 members (2022, 4 members) whose guarantee is limited to €1 each.

23. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the board on 21st June 2023.

Director

Director

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG

Annual Report

For The Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

***The following do not form part of the audited financial statements ***

Laois Volunteer Centre CLG
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2023

<u>Schedule 1</u>	Income	2023 €	2022 €
	DRCD - Core funding	130,075	121,000
	DRCD - Ukrainian Community Response	15,796	8,974
	DRCD - addition funding	13,857	2,700
	Volunteer Ireland funding	-	833
	Laois County Council - funding	-	3,000
	Other income	370	480
	Transfer to / from deferred income	(7,538)	(6,621)
		<u>152,560</u>	<u>130,366</u>

<u>Schedule 2</u>	Administrative Expenses	2023 €	2022 €
	Wages and social insurance	89,196	76,963
	Staff and volunteer training	838	1,288
	Other staff costs	1,500	1,750
	Office rent and rates	5,040	4,410
	Insurance	664	673
	Postage, stationery and office expenses	1,589	2,323
	Advertising and promotions	12,069	6,313
	Telephone	1,484	1,318
	Computer and website costs	1,841	1,758
	Motor and travel	2,586	1,068
	Subscriptions and affiliations	798	871
	Legal and professional fee	7,118	1,267
	Accountancy fee	-	492
	Audit fee	2,645	2,460
	Bank charges	216	196
	Sundry expenses	600	611
	<u>Depreciation</u>		
	Furniture, Fittings and equipment	<u>1,833</u>	<u>838</u>
		<u>130,017</u>	<u>104,599</u>



Corporate volunteers in Abbeyleix Bog Project

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all our **volunteers** and **Volunteering Organisations**. Without your generosity of spirit, the Laois Volunteer Centre would be unable to exist. Your time and dedication has helped so many people in our community.

We would also like to thank our generous funders: **The Department of Rural and Community Development**.



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

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