



For Polio Survivors By Polio Survivors since 1993

ANNUAL REPORT



2024

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Introduction

As part of its deliberations around the development of our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, the Board considered a vision statement for Polio Survivors Ireland. Heretofore the organisation did not have one, although its previous mission statement incorporated elements of a vision within it. The Board discussed the wording of a vision statement that they believed reflected the aspirations of polio survivors, and agreed on the following:

The Vision

“A society where polio survivors can live with independence and dignity and are fully included and valued within the community.”

The Mission

The Board also agreed that the previous mission statement needed revision and agreed on the following mission statement:

We address the diverse needs of polio survivors - advocating for them, educating healthcare professionals, and providing a comprehensive range of person-centred services and supports.

The Board believes that these statements reflect the aspirations of the members and the priorities and focus of the organisation on meeting its members' needs.



The Organisation



Polio Survivors Ireland was established for polio survivors by polio survivors. The organisation was formed in 1993 and is run by a voluntary Board of polio survivors and volunteers. We are supported by voluntary committees, active members, and a small executive staff at the office in Dublin.

Our organisation is the only one in Ireland providing practical support to those unfortunate enough to have contracted polio as babies and young children.

At the end of 2024 we had 1,028 members across the country.

What we've accomplished so far

We assist polio survivors by providing aids to daily living such as stairlifts, callipers, bespoke footwear, electric scooters, and wheelchairs. We also help survivors access Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Respite Breaks, and provide those who need it with assistance with their heating bills. We employ two Service and Information Co-ordinators who provide information, respond to requests for assistance from members and, perhaps most importantly, provide a listening ear to survivors in need.

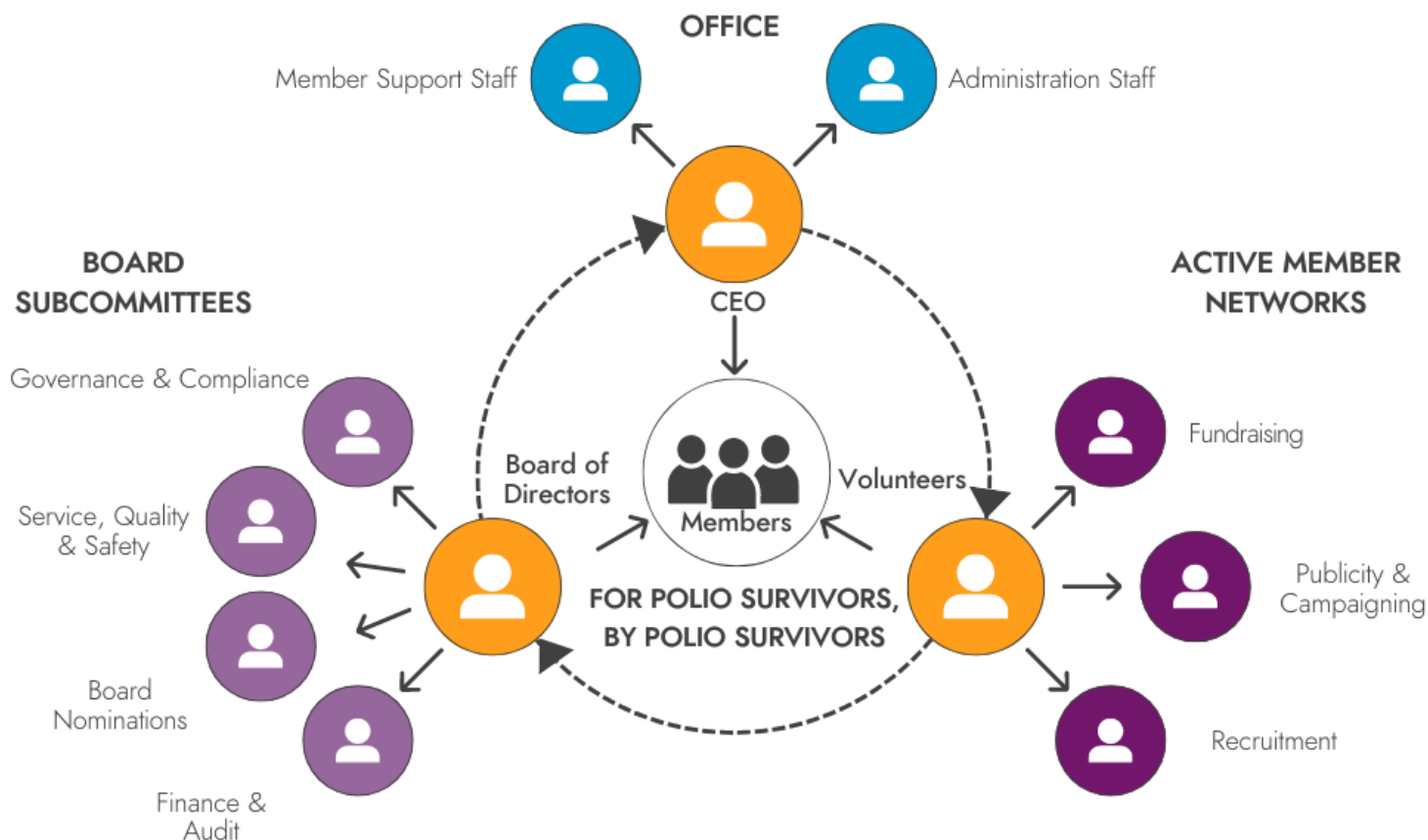
The organisation has a network of Social Support Groups around the country and offers a Telephone Support Service for those members who have difficulty in attending meetings. We have recruited two Member Engagement Officers who travel around the country to hold Area Meetings and reinvigorate member activity.

Any of the estimated 5,000 polio survivors in Ireland can contact us for support irrespective of whether they are a member or not. Funding for Polio Survivors Ireland is provided by the Health Service Executive, the National Lottery, and various grants from statutory bodies.



Leadership and Governance

POLIO SURVIVORS IRELAND GOVERNANCE




Board

The officers of the Board were:

- Macrina Clancy (Cathaoirleach)
- Patrick McGillion (Deputy)
- Fintan Foy (Company Secretary)
- Miriam Kavanagh (Treasurer)

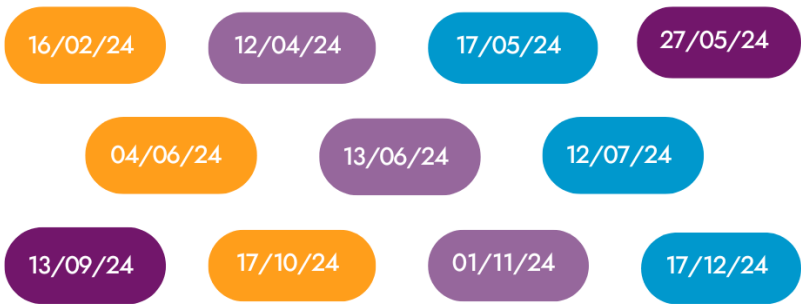


Other directors who served on the board in 2024 were:

 James Doorley; Charlie Smith; Zaynab Salman; Patrick Ryan; Frank Mitchell; Mary Byrne (Resigned 28 February 2024); Vera Keatings (Appointed 17 May 2024); Janet Cunningham (Appointed 24 January 2025); Paul Dunne (Appointed 24 January 2025)

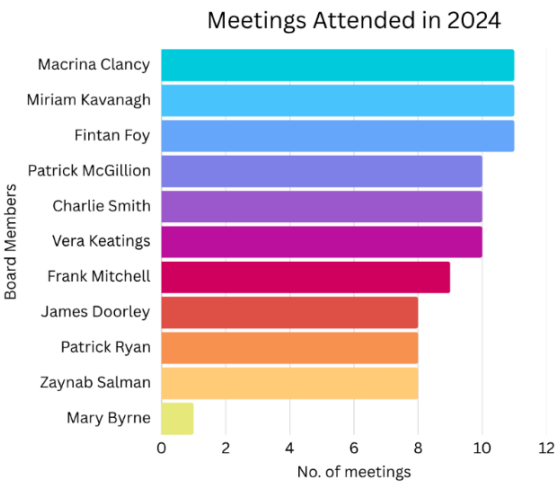
Board Meetings

The Board met 11 times over the last year on the following dates:



Board Attendance

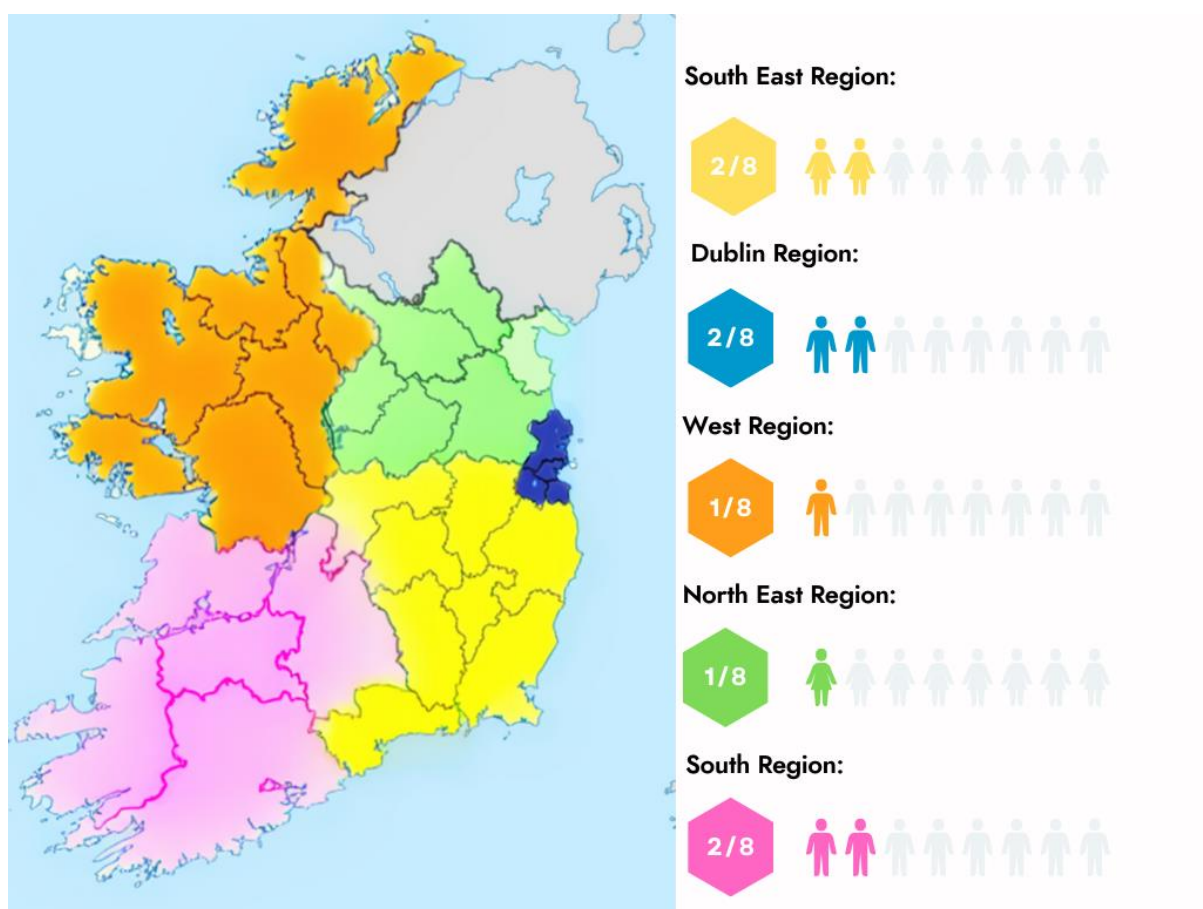
The number of board meetings each director attended is outlined here:



Board Composition

In accordance with its constitution, there are up to 8 Elected Directors on the Board and up to 5 Board Nominated Directors. The 8 Elected Directors are elected in 5 regions. Regions have either 1 or 2 seats on the Board depending on the number of members in the region.

The number of seats per region is as follows:



Elected Directors are elected at each Annual General Meeting (AGM). Elected Directors must be a member of the organisation for at least one year. All members are entitled to vote either by postal ballot or by attending the AGM. 50% of Elected Directors are required to step down each year but may stand again for election up to a maximum of 6 years.

Board Appointed Directors are appointed to the Board on a recommendation from the Board Nominations Committee. Board Nominated Directors are recruited externally from the organisation to supplement the mix of skills on the Board.



The Board Nominations Committee drafts a list of requirements for new Board Appointed Directors and seeks candidates in accordance with these requirements. The Committee meets with candidates before recommending them to the Board.

If the Board proceeds with the appointment, the Board Nominated Director joins the Board but must be ratified by a ballot of the members at the next AGM. Board Nominated Directors serve for a three-year term, but this may be renewed for another three-year term by the Board subject to the approval of the membership at an AGM.

Conflict of Interest

The Organisation has a Conflict-of-Interest policy, and, at the time of their appointment, each new Director is asked to complete a Conflict-of-Interest Declaration. Information on this Declaration is then entered onto the Conflict-of-Interest Register.

The Governance & Compliance Sub-committee reviews the Conflict of Interest Register from time to time and advises the Board of any issues arising. The Board reviews the Conflict of Interest Register once a year. At each Board meeting Directors present are asked to declare any possible Conflict of Interest that might arise in respect of any item on the meeting's agenda.

Risk Management

The Organisation has a Risk Policy and maintains a Risk Register. The Risk Register has the following risk categories: *Financial, Governance, Operational, People, Reputational, Service, Strategic*.

Each Board Sub-committee monitors risks in its area of responsibility. If a Sub-committee identifies a new risk, it will consider mitigation actions and refer the matter to the Governance & Compliance committee. This committee reviews the risk and advises the Board if it believes the risk and its accompanying mitigation actions should be added to the Risk Register.

The Governance & Compliance Sub-committee monitors progress on implementation of the mitigation actions. The Risk Register is reviewed in its entirety by the Board each year.



BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES 2024

Service, Quality & Safety

Remit: The committee oversees service, quality, and safety on behalf of the Board. The Committee endeavours to ensure that all services and supports provided to polio survivors are in accordance with the highest ethical, quality and safety standards.

Frank Mitchell (Chair)
Zaynab Salman
Joyce Henderson
Roisin Nolan Susan
Dowling
Vera Keatings

Board Nomination

Remit: To ensure that the Board, and its duly appointed Sub-Committees, have access to persons with the necessary qualifications, skills, expertise, and experience to guide the organisation in achieving its mission, and to ensure good governance. The Committee considers, evaluates, and recommends to the Board the nomination of suitably skilled and qualified people as Board Nominated Directors.

Macrina Clancy (Chair)
Fintan Foy
Frank Mitchell
James Doorley
Frank Keenan

Finance & Audit

Remit: To oversee the effective financial management including financial risk management of Polio Survivors Ireland, to oversee the external audit and to audit the company's internal financial controls and their effectiveness. The Committee agrees policies, procedures and reporting mechanisms relating to financial matters to make sure there is compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements, monitors compliance with the terms and conditions of public or private grants and ensures that financial reports comply with all statutory requirements and meet current best practice.

Miriam Kavanagh (Chair)
Pat Ryan
Charlie Smith
Marie Hyland
Frank Keenan

Governance & Compliance

Remit: The Committee devises policies and procedures for approval by the Board and monitors their implementation. It also reviews all external factors affecting the organisation or with the potential to affect the organisation, including proposed, new, or changed legislation, new or changed relationships between the organisation and other bodies, including funding bodies.

Fintan Foy (Chair)
Pat McGillion
Fran Brennan (CEO)
James Doorley
Jim Connolly



Conference & AGM 2024

The Annual Conference and AGM was held on Thursday, 13th June 2024 in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Jim Costello Polio Hero Award

The Jim Costello Polio Hero award was created to honour the legacy of Jim, a founding member of the organisation and the last man in Ireland in an iron lung, passed away. Jim, like so many polio survivors, was truly independent, determined and selfless, and this award is presented annually to a worthy recipient at the Annual Conference. Eileen Dunne, former RTE journalist and newsreader, presented the award to the winner.



This year, the award was given to Mick Keegan for his active role in the organisation as Telephone Support National Co-ordinator. Telephone Support is a peer support service for polio survivors, by polio survivors, particularly helping those who feel isolated or are unable to get to meetings.

Mick contracted polio at just seven months old and has been affected by Post Polio Syndrome since his forties. Despite these challenges, he is a stalwart supporter who makes an essential contribution to the organisation, from running telephone support, to his work in advocacy, media activity and disability activism.

When asked how he felt about receiving the award, Mick said: "I was speechless. I mean I was stunned. I got it for something I like doing, connecting polio survivors with each other."



While Mick was delighted to get the award for his work coordinating Telephone Support, he felt it was important to note: “There are other people here [who helped] me... and the people making the telephone calls as well...thanks for the opportunity.”

Town Hall Debate on Health & Disability

Eileen Dunne also moderated our Political Town Hall on accessibility and disability, with Councillor Vicki Casserly (left) and Senator Annie Hoey (right).



A lively discussion followed with questions from the floor, personal stories from Vicki and Annie, plus issues of importance to polio survivors were highlighted by members.

We were thrilled to have such an experienced and professional moderator in Eileen, who added plenty of gravitas to the event. The session gave us an excellent opportunity to ensure that politicians hear the real stories and problems encountered by polio survivors. An improved understanding is essential if we are to ensure that survivors are not forgotten, especially when it comes to change.



Cathaoirleach's Report

The Cathaoirleach, Macrina Clancy, reported on some highlights of 2023: the organisation lost €5,694, new staff members recruited during the year were Advocacy Officer, Ciara Power, and two Member Engagement Officers, Órna Maddock and Nuala McLaughlin. The organisation continued to develop its new strategic plan with surveys, workshops and meetings held.



The Chair described the important work of the Advocacy & Policy Officer in 2023 along with the impact of the Member Engagement Officers. Other developments were the recruitment of new active members.

Pat McGillion was elected to the Board at last year's AGM and earlier this year sadly, Mary Byrne stepped down from the Board. Macrina also advised the members on the follow up to the presentation by Frans Nollet at last year's conference and discussions that had since taken place with the Royal Hospital Donnybrook and the National Rehabilitation Hospital.

Macrina updated the members on the work of Pat McGillion and herself on the Board of the European Polio Union and how developments in other countries can inform and support our work here. Finally, the Chair introduced the new staff appointed recently to the organisation; Siobhan Banville, temporary Policy Researcher, Aline Gomes, who is supporting Administration, and Elizabeth Derwin, the new Administration Officer.

During Q&A, Peter Barron referenced the 35 new members recruited and asked by comparison how many members has passed away? The Chair responded that it was about 30 members. As there were no other questions, the Chair's report was then adopted on a proposal by Peter Barron, seconded by James Doorley.



Company Secretary's Report



The Company Secretary, Fintan Foy, advised the meeting that Polio Survivors Ireland made all the required returns to the various regulatory bodies.

There were 8 meetings of the Board and 6 meetings of the Board Sub-committees in 2023.

In accordance with the constitution Frank Mitchell and Pat Ryan were stepping down from the Board at this year's AGM but were offering themselves for re-election.

As the number of candidates seeking election was less than the number of vacancies, Fintan advised the meeting that they were both deemed elected. Therefore, the Elected Directors for the year ahead were Frank Mitchell, Pat Ryan, Macrina Clancy, Zaynab Salman, Pat McGillion and Charlie Smith. The Board Nominated Directors were, Miriam Kavanagh, James Doorley and himself and, recently the Board had appointed a new Board Nominated Director, Dr Vera Keatings. This appointment, however, was too late for ratification at this year's AGM and therefore the members will be asked to ratify Vera's appointment at next year's AGM. In the meantime, however, she will sit on the Board.

The Co. Secretary then referred to Resolution 3 to be voted on at this AGM, the proposed change of the organisation's legal name, from Post Polio Support Group CLG to Polio Survivors Ireland CLG. If passed, this name change will require updates to the constitution as well as the approval of the Charities Regulator. He advised the meeting that the Board was recommending this change of the legal name to the members.

That completed his report and as there were no questions the Co. Secretary's report was adopted on a proposal by Peter Barron, seconded by Evelyn Wainwright.



Treasurer's Presentation



The Treasurer, Miriam Kavanagh, presented a series of slides illustrating financial figures from the Audited Accounts for 2023.

In her opinion, the organisation delivers good value for money given the level of services provided within the available resources.

The Treasurer presented details of expenditure in 2023 across the various headings, highlighting the increase in expenditure arising from the Pobal SSNO grant, as well as costs incurred from the EGM and the office move last year. Finally, Miriam explained that the Auditors, BMOL, had advised us they were no longer doing audits. This presented us with a dilemma given the tight timelines for auditing the accounts and presenting them to the members at the AGM. BMOL recommended Whelan Dowling & Associates, and the Board appointed them to conduct the 2023 audit which they did on time and at an acceptable cost. The Board was now recommending the appointment of Whelan Dowling & Associates as auditors for the next three years.

The Treasurer completed her report and, as there were no questions, the report was adopted on a proposal by Peter Barron, seconded by Seamus Haughton.

Resolutions

Resolution 1: Approval of the 2023 Financial Statements

Resolution 2: To appoint Whelan Dowling & Associates as Auditors for 2024

Resolution 3: To change the legal name to Polio Survivors Ireland CLG

All resolutions were passed.











As there were only two nominations for four Board vacancies there was no need for a Board election and both Directors, Frank Mitchell and Pat Ryan, were deemed re-elected.

The Chair then thanked all the delegates for attending in person and on Zoom, she especially thanked her colleagues on the Board for their hard work over the past year, and she expressed her gratitude to the staff for their work on behalf of the members and in the organisation of the event.

Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029

CEO Fran Brennan gave a presentation of the new Strategic Plan, giving an overview of the process and the main strategic objectives that the organisation is to focus on over the next five years. Out of this presentation, Fran reminded members:

-  For us to provide you with a good service, we need information, so please do return our questionnaires.
-  Do contact the office as there is a wealth of information available.
-  Do attend Social Support Groups where possible to keep this service going, to combat isolation and to gain peer support which is invaluable.
-  There is an obligation on us to undertake more advocacy work – we certainly plan to follow up with the politicians who we engaged with ahead of the Town Hall.
-  We plan to strongly advocate for medical cards, physio in the community and for the cost of disability to be addressed
-  The organisation acknowledges that advocacy is now vital and should Pobal funding not be renewed, the Board will undertake to finding an alternative resource to continue to fund it.
-  We need to ensure that our staff team remains strongly resourced.
-  Extra volunteers are essential to continue the services and we will look to family and friends to provide this vital support if necessary.

Highlights of 2024

Joining GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to support Adult Vaccination

On the 3rd of July, Polio Survivors Ireland were invited to Leinster House to participate in the launch of a report promoting Adult Vaccination. The report from the Office of Health Economics (OHE) was commissioned by the pharmaceutical company, GSK and titled, 'The Value of Adult Vaccination in Ireland'.



The report shows that adult vaccination is not only beneficial for health but for the economy as well. The money spent on vaccines can be returned 23 times back on average - thanks to benefits to individuals, the healthcare system and wider society, due to a reduction in morbidity and mortality along with direct medical costs.



These results are similar to those found in other countries, meaning that an adult vaccination campaign could lead to nearly five billion euros in net monetary benefits.

The report focuses on vaccines for Influenza ('flu), Pneumococcal Disease (PD), Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and Herpes Zoster (HZ), known as shingles, immunisation programmes.

The event, which took place in the AV Room of Leinster House, was well attended by politicians and polio survivors alike. Guests included Senator Tom Lombard, Senator Fiona O'Loughlin, Senator Mark Daly and Senator Lisa Chambers.





Our Cathaoirleach, Macrina Clancy, gave a presentation. Members who attended were Mick Keegan, winner of this year's Jim Costello Polio Hero Award, along with Joyce and George Henderson.

Other speakers were Kate O'Connell (Pharmacist and former TD), Simon Brassell (OHE Consulting Ltd.), Prof Samuel McConkey (RCSI) and Senator Gerry Horkan.

Our Cathaoirleach, Macrina, shared her experience of contracting polio at just three years of age, as well as highlighting the lifelong impacts of this disease which is now eradicated in the Western world due to vaccination.

During the Q&A session, Mick Keegan pointed out the financial strain that vaccines put on people with a limited income, such as older polio survivors.

Kate O'Connell thanked Macrina and the other survivors, in particular for sharing their experiences, and for being a visual representation of the impact of not being vaccinated.

Macrina was also interviewed by Fergal Bowers from RTÉ and highlighted in media coverage of the event. This gave Polio Survivors Ireland an important opportunity to remind the public, the media and politicians of the challenges and issues faced by polio survivors today.



Leinster House - World Polio Day

In advance of World Polio Day (24th October), Polio Survivors Ireland gave a presentation to members of the Oireachtas in the AV Room in Leinster House on the 23rd of October. We were invited by Senator Mary Seery Kearney (Middle of photo).



The panel consisted of Dr. Deirdre Murray, (left) discussing the physiotherapy needs of polio survivors, as well as Siobhan Banville, our Policy Researcher, highlighting new research from the charity and also our member, Johnny O'Sullivan, a polio survivor, speaking of the challenges survivors continue to face as they age.

World Polio Day was established over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. While there is no cure for polio, it is preventable through vaccination.

In Ireland, it is thought that 5,000 people live with long term impacts as a result of polio including severe pain, fatigue, cold intolerance and muscle weakness.

As a result, polio survivors face ongoing financial burdens including the costs of aids and appliances such as stair lifts, callipers, bespoke footwear, electric scooters and wheelchairs, which enable them to maintain their independence and prevent falls.



To mark World Polio Day, Polio Survivors Ireland called on the Government to address the eligibility levels for the Medical Card means testing process to reflect the Social Welfare payment increases in recent years. Polio survivors who qualify for a Medical Card this year may lose it due to modest increases in their income.

We also called on the government to address the discrepancy that results when polio survivors reach retirement age and are transferred from disability benefits to the State Pension, losing entitlement to cost of disability payments and effectively erasing their disability status.

Additionally, Polio Survivors Ireland asked the Department of Health to immediately address the serious inadequacy of physiotherapy available in the community. Physiotherapy plays a crucial role in managing polio, but it needs to be tailored to the individual's specific needs to minimise adverse effects or excessive fatigue.

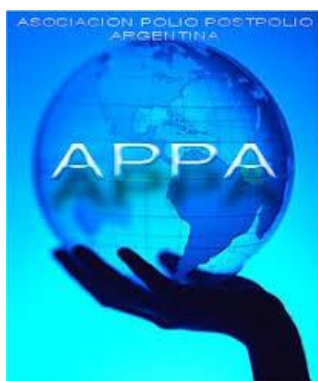


International Visitors

We are always pleased to connect with polio survivors from across the world and were lucky enough to receive visits from two international polio groups in 2024.

In August, the Vice President of Post Polio Argentina, Monica Caraballo came to Ireland.

Monica and her son Pablo (pictured right) came to the office and had a great discussion with our Cathaoirleach, Macrina Clancy, our Assistant Services & Information Coordinator, Ciara Hudson, (pictured right) and our Policy Researcher, Siobhan Banville (not pictured).



It was extremely interesting to hear how different things are for polio survivors in Argentina, and great to be able to share some of the things we do here in Ireland.

Monica and Pablo parted, promising to keep in touch, so we can continue to learn from each other.

In September, we were thrilled to have visitors all the way from Australia, representing the Polio Network Victoria. Macrina and Pat (who sits on our board of Directors) met Bev and Maxine from the Polio Network Victoria. We had a fascinating discussion about how each of our organisations work to support polio survivors. It is so valuable to connect with the international community of polio survivors and hear about their different experiences.



Fundraising 2024

Hospital Saturday Fund

The Hospital Saturday Fund presented Polio Survivors Ireland with a grant of €13,500 in February of 2024.



This very generous donation helps fund our Winter Heating Grant, which is such an important support for polio survivors.

With the current cost of living crisis, the burden of high heating bills can be overwhelming, especially as polio survivors suffer from extreme cold intolerance.

We are so grateful to The Hospital Saturday Fund for their support, which allows us to help more polio survivors stay warm and safe throughout the colder months.

Pictured (L to R) Paul Jackson, CEO of The Hospital Saturday Fund, Polio Survivors Ireland board member Zaynab Salman, Emma Clarke Conway, Communications & Development Officer along with HSF Health Plan's Mark Davies and Paul Clare.

It was a pleasure to have everyone in the office, and we are enormously grateful to The Hospital Saturday Fund for their kindness in supporting polio survivors.



SICAP

We are very grateful to SICAP and the Cork City Partnership for selecting us as a beneficiary of the Small Grant Scheme for Community/Voluntary Groups, which funded this year's Cork Chill-Out Day.



Heritage Credit Union

Huge thanks to the Heritage Credit Union, who donated a very generous €500 to Polio Survivors Ireland. Pictured are Laura Cahill, Marketing Officer from Heritage CU, with member Bridget Quigley O'Brien, in the gardens of Carmichael Centre.

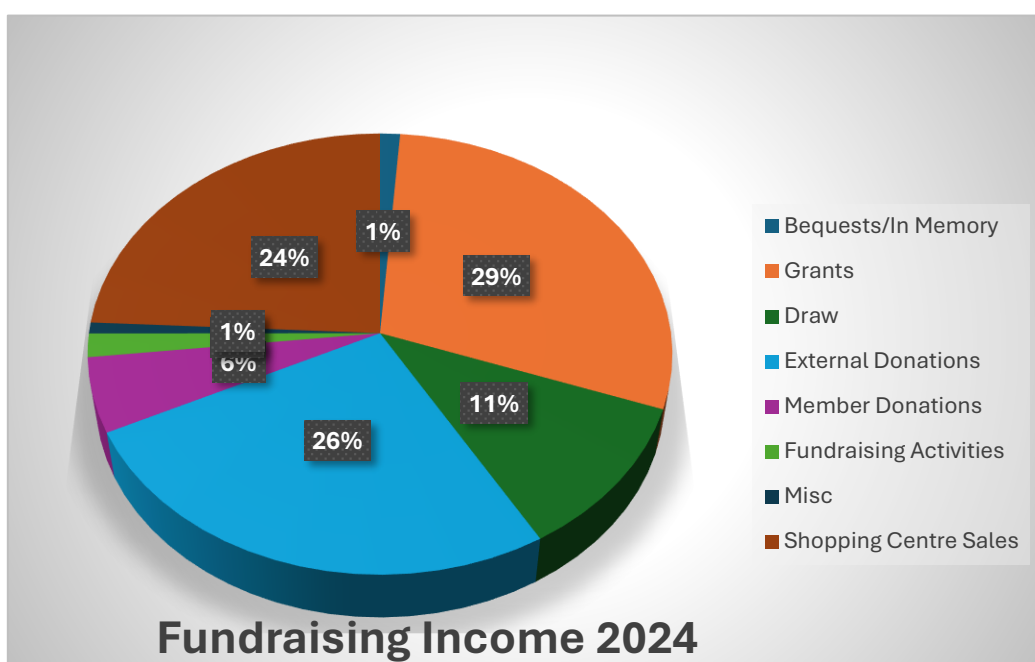


A selection of other key grants we received in 2024 came from:

- 👣 Monkstown Hospital Foundation
- 👣 Cork Street Fund
- 👣 JP McManus Charitable Foundation
- 👣 CESCA Equality and Social Inclusion Small Grants Scheme

These grants all played an important role in maintaining our services and helping to ensure the future of the organisation.

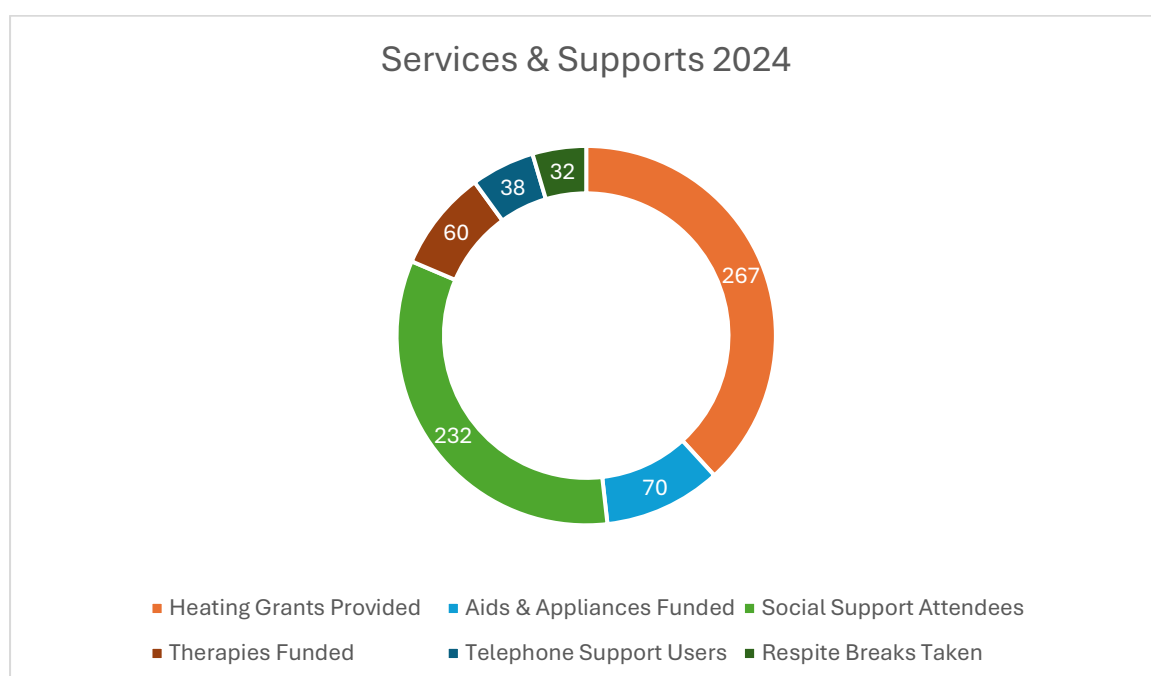
The total income from Fundraising was €91,920.94. This income came from the following sources:



Service Provision Report

Polio Survivors Ireland directly provides services and supports to a significant proportion of its members each year, while the remainder receive news and helpful information through our Survivor magazine and our regular ezine.

The number of members stood at 1,028 at the end of 2024. In addition, another 5 polio survivors joined the Polio Register, meaning that 457 survivors have signed the register since it was launched. We recruited 47 new members in 2024, and 12 members volunteered for active roles within the organisation.

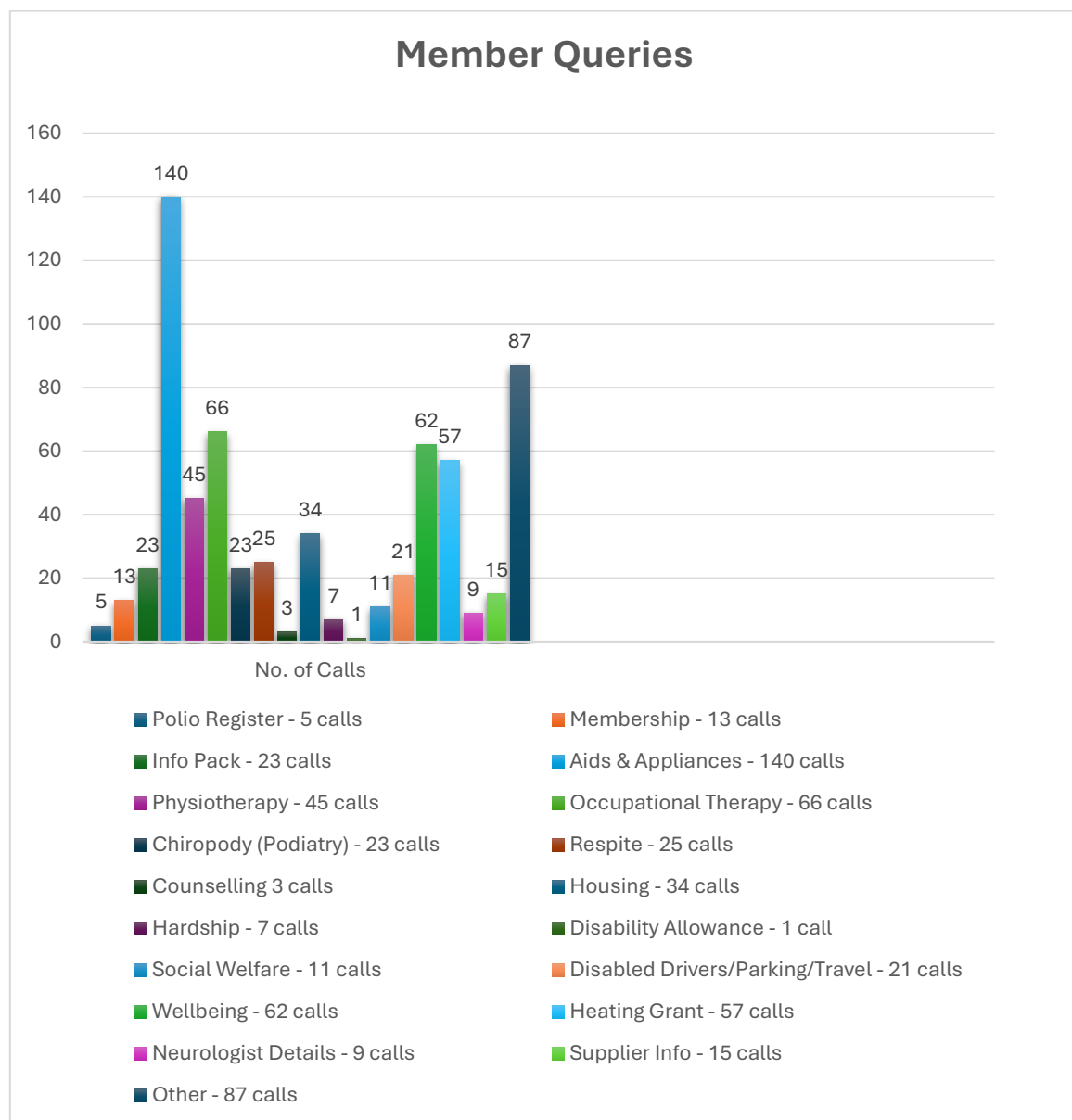


In 2024, we provided 70 survivors with Aids & Appliances, e.g. wheelchairs, orthotics, customised footwear and mobility scooters. 60 survivors were provided with therapies such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Chiropody and Counselling. 32 survivors and their carers received a respite break. Our Winter Heating Grant of €125 went to 267 survivors. 232 members attended meetings of our 18 social support groups and 38 were supported by our Telephone Support Service.



Overall, 241 polio survivors were supported on a one-to-one basis with information, advice and individual advocacy. In addition, 78 members attended our Annual Conference, and 82 members attended 8 Area Information Meetings in various locations around the country. Our Survivor magazine was sent to 980 members and over 620 received our monthly ezine, while 158 non-member polio survivors received three information bulletins.

Please see the chart below for a more detailed listing of member enquiries.



As the figures above illustrate, all members derive some benefit from membership of the organisation and, as we provide information to 241 non-members, the total number of people benefiting from the organisation is 1,271.

Complaints

Polio Survivors Ireland has a complaints procedure and maintains a register of all complaints and actions arising from them. No complaints were recorded in 2024.

Social Support

Member Engagement Officers (MEO's)

Our MEO's, Nuala McLaughlin & Órna Maddock worked to provide support to our Social Support Groups (SSGs), as well as running successful Area Meetings and additionally dealing with individual member contacts. The main outcomes of their work in 2024:

- 👣 SSG group growth, development & streamlining
- 👣 Online & in-person training
- 👣 Increase in the number of SSG meetings
- 👣 Increase in group attendance & meeting quality
- 👣 Area Meetings around the country
- 👣 IT/Digital Skills supports & referrals of individual members

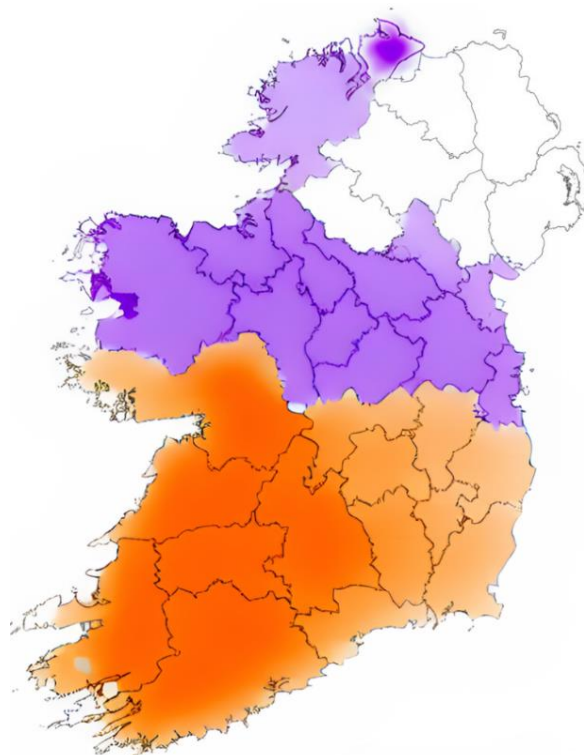
Nuala is Member Engagement Officer for:

Dublin, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim & Longford, Louth, Westmeath, Roscommon, Sligo, Mayo, Donegal.

Órna is Member Engagement Officer for:

Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly, Kildare.

There were 67 meetings of the 18 active SSGs in 2024.



Area Meetings

There were 8 Area Meetings (pictured below) throughout the country, with 79 attendees, many who had never engaged with us previously, prompting new members and volunteers.



Membership & Volunteer Recruitment Officer

Our Membership & Volunteer Recruitment Officer role had been vacant for a time and to assist with the gap in service, staff member, Nuala McLaughlin stepped into the role on a temporary, part-time basis in addition to her MEO duties.

Nuala engaged with potential volunteers, reviewing all prospects on our CRM and following up with individuals and with relevant staff or areas in organisation where volunteers might slot in.

Nuala organised Convenor training in September and reviewed documentation to ensure all policies and procedures around volunteering were kept up to date.



Telephone Support Service

The Telephone Support Service is a highly successful peer service provided from home to home where a volunteer polio survivor calls a fellow survivor who may have difficulties attending our events or even leaving the house. This service continued to provide help, reassurance and a listening ear throughout 2024. With an ongoing waiting list for TSS, work continues by the MVRO and our Telephone Support Service Coordinator, Mick Keegan, to recruit volunteers to provide the service, which continues to be peer led.



Training is provided for all Telephone Support volunteers, with a new influx of volunteers attending training in October 2024 in Cavan.

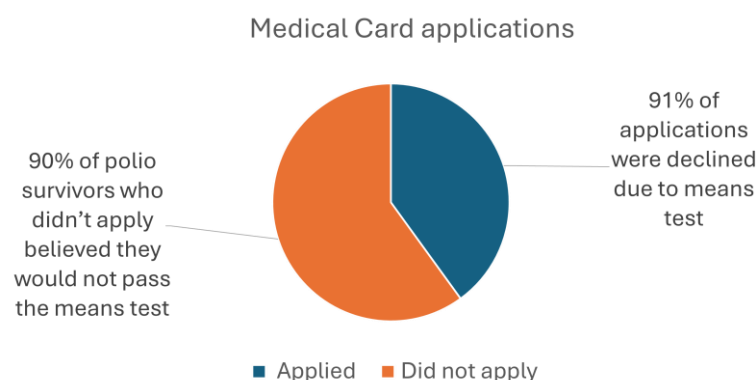
Advocacy

In 2024, our advocacy activities were undertaken by Ciara Power and later when Ciara was on leave, by Siobhan Banville, to raise profile of polio survivors and call for changes to national policy, health services and state benefits, including:



- 🧩 Cross sector collaboration/engagement with umbrella organisations (e.g. DFI- Disability Federation of Ireland; NAI- Neurological Alliance of Ireland); DPO- Disabled Persons Organisations.
- 🧩 Sustained engagement with TDs, Oireachtas members, Government Departments & Committees via meetings, AV room events (pictured above), letters, PQs, etc.
- 🧩 Policy Submissions and Briefing documents circulated with detailed advocacy asks.
- 🧩 Research and surveys of members completed to ascertain gaps in community services, social welfare supports and a general overview of the issues being faced by an ageing polio population.
- 🧩 Focus on accessibility so that survivors might remain active citizens for longer
- 🧩 Research into the cost of disability and poverty attached to those circumstances.

Results of our Policy Researcher's Survey:



Financial Summary

Income 2024

Total Income in 2024 was €619,491, which was a 3% increase from €593,544 in 2023. Our Pobal Grant was €100,058, which funded three part-time staff members.

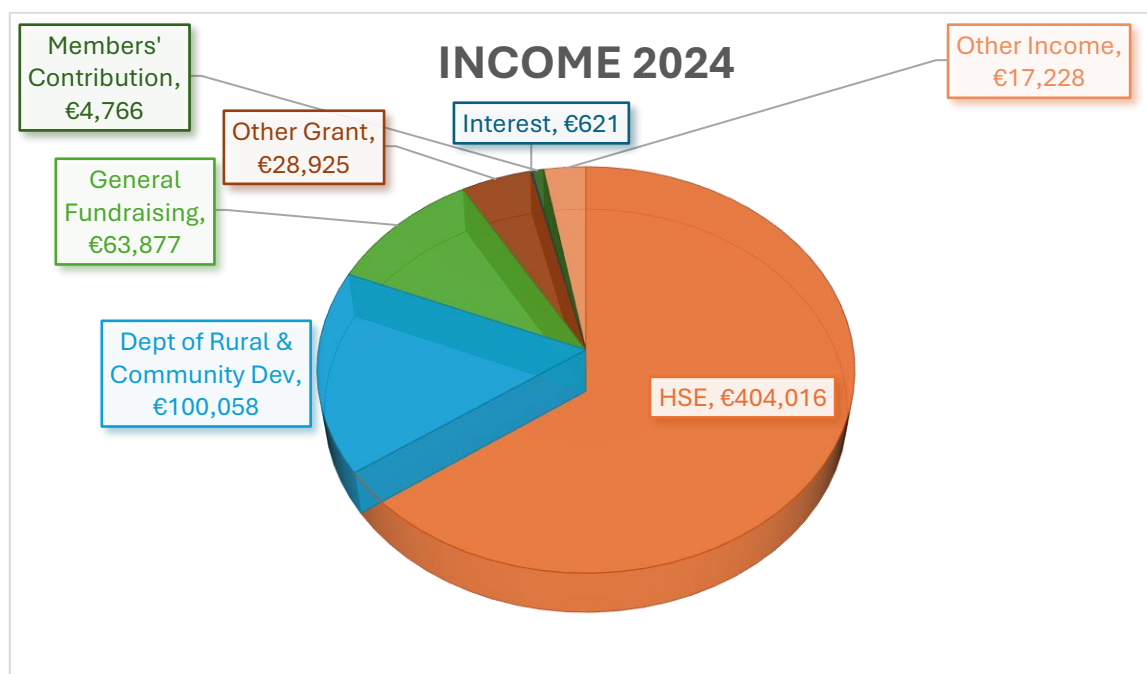
Total Expenditure was €622,030, which was a 3% increase from €599,239 in 2023. The total loss for 2024 was €2,539, down from €5,695 in 2023.

Members contributions refer to members' annual affiliations and contributions made towards the cost of events.

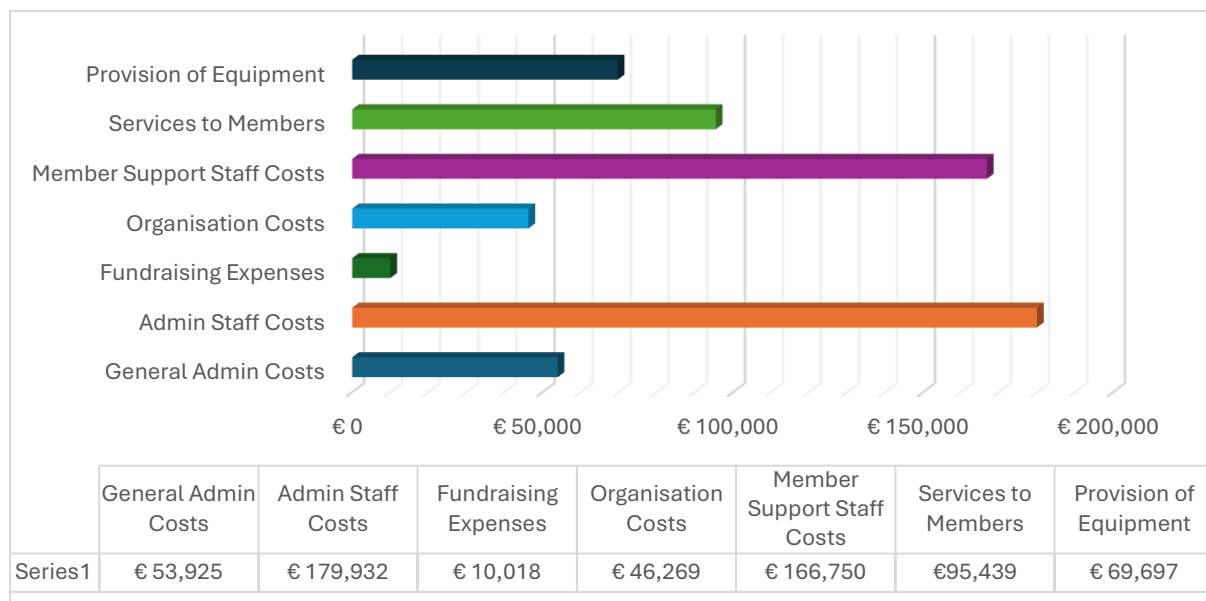
Other income includes deposit interest, advertising in the Survivor magazine and VAT refunds.

The organisation receives <50% of its funding from the Exchequer.

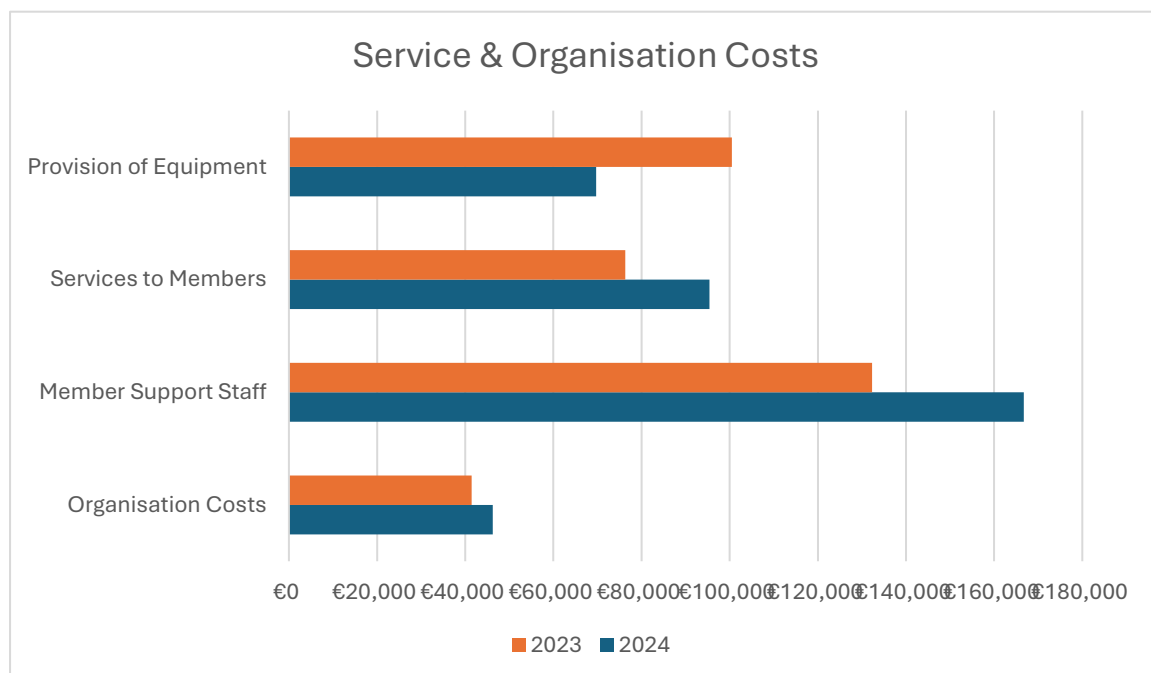
Below is a detailed breakdown of the overall income in 2024.



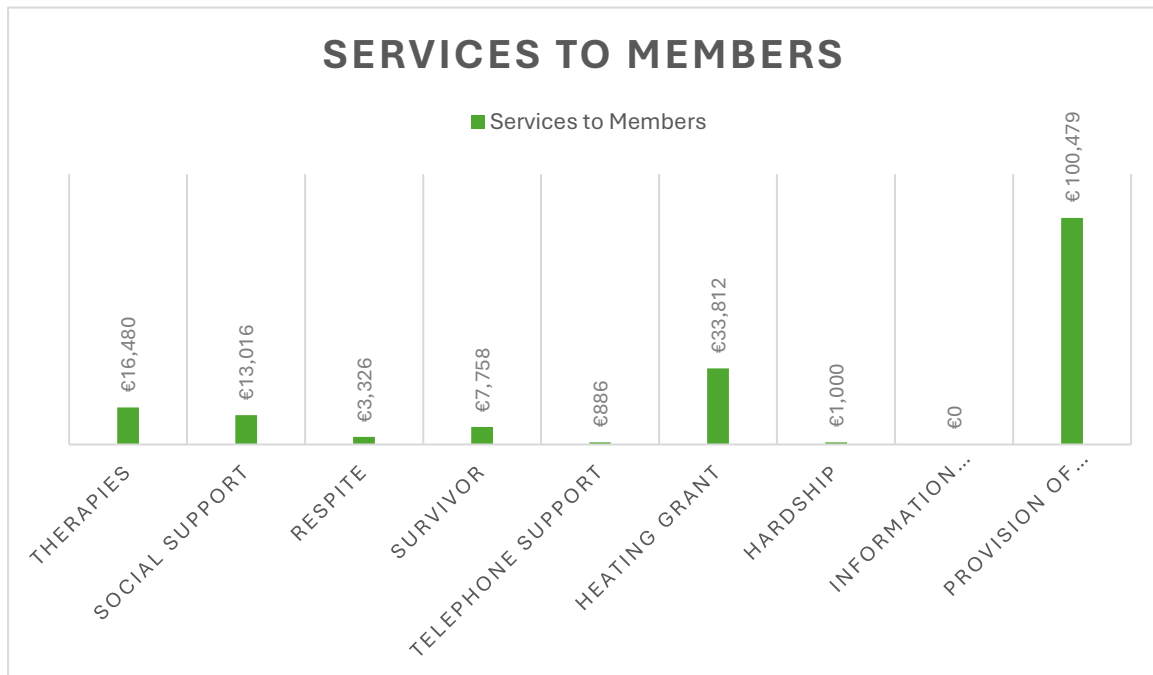
Expenditure 2024



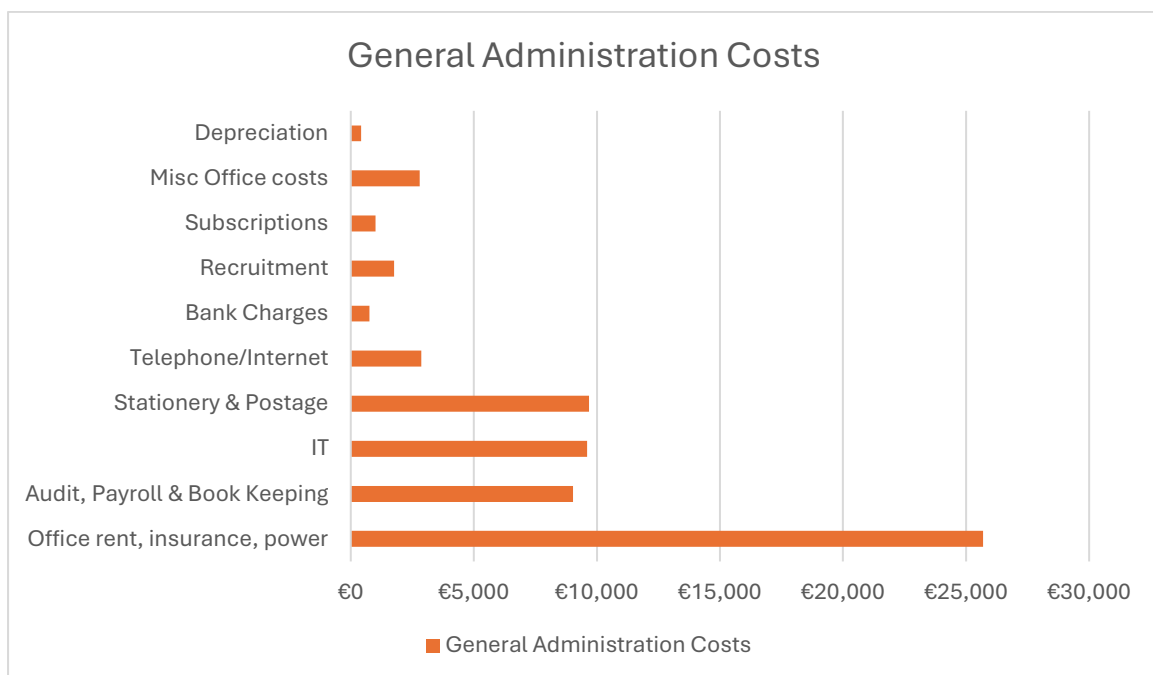
Service & Organisation Costs



Services to Members



Administration Costs



Expenditure on Staff

Staffing costs fall into two categories, Member Support Staff and Administration staff. The chart below illustrates expenditure on staff in 2024.



Member Support Staff:

- Service & Information Co-ordinator (SIC), and Assistant Service & Information Co-ordinator (ASIC) who directly support members through the provision of aids and appliances, therapies, respite, and the winter heating grant, along with supporting members with information, advice, and individual advocacy.
- Membership & Volunteer Recruitment Officer (MVRO) supports the recruitment of new members, the recruitment of active members and external volunteers and the training and support of these active members/volunteers.
- Member Engagement Officers (MEO's) travel around the country ensuring that polio survivors can connect with their peers and are being reached by the organisation.



Administration Staff:

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) responsible for the overall management of the organisation
- Communications & Development Officer (CDO) undertakes communications, promotional activities, and fundraising.
- Communications & Fundraising Assistant (CFA) assists the CDO.
- Administration Officer (AO) is responsible for general administration including financial administration, reporting to funders, and developing and maintaining policies and procedures.
- Advocacy & Policy Officer (APO) is responsible for research on key issues affecting the quality of life of survivors, developing policy proposals and advocating and campaigning for changes to public policy and improved State supports.

Fundraising Expenditure

Fundraising expenses were €10,018 in 2024 compared to €12,288 in 2023.

Reserves

Net Current Assets less current liabilities at the end of 2024 were €72,033. This compares with €74,572 at the end of the previous year.

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