



Traveller Counselling Service

Annual Report

2017

Presentation to All-Party Oireachtas Committee on Justice on Ethnicity



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From the Chairperson

2017 has been a very busy year for the Traveller Counselling Service. We have seen a sustained increase in the demand for the service and the numbers of Travellers availing of counselling has increased at a steady pace. There is also an increased demand to establish similar services in local areas, particularly outside of Dublin. We anticipate that the numbers will continue to grow and that the Traveller Counselling Service will succeed in meeting these needs as they arise.

One of the priorities for 2018 will be to support the establishment of counselling services outside of Dublin. We have received funding for a development worker for 2018, which will facilitate this process and will allow the service to expand and support local groups outside the greater Dublin area to establish similar culturally inclusive counselling services.

We have seen first-hand the difference that this service makes in supporting the Traveller community to deal with mental health difficulties and how this is supported by the hard work that all of the team in the Traveller Counselling Service put in. However, gaps remain between the Traveller community and the mental health services in Ireland and these need to be addressed if we are going to have a positive impact on the Traveller mental health.

One of the notable achievements of 2017 was the support given by the Traveller Counselling Service to the establishment of a National Traveller Mental Health Network which will be launched in 2018. This network aims to ensure that the Traveller community have a voice in how mental services in Ireland are developed and ensure that they are delivered in a culturally inclusive manner that meets the needs of the Traveller community in Ireland.

We are undoubtedly moving in the right direction in creating more collaborative approaches between the Traveller community and main stream services to address the mental health needs of the Traveller community. However, it is essential that we continue to develop partnerships at local and national level as it is through these partnerships that the mental health and wellbeing of members of the Travelling Community will be most effectively addressed.

I would like to thank all the staff and board members and all those who supported us in 2017 for their commitment to the vision of the Traveller Counselling Service. There will, without doubt, be challenges in 2018, however, with your continued support and commitment, we can face these challenges collectively and hopefully bring about positive change.

Jim O'Brien

Chairperson

Introduction

It has been a busy year since our last AGM in January 2017. The main focus of the work has continued to be the provision of counseling to members of the Traveller community in local areas. Last year saw the commencement of counselling in Mountjoy prison with Traveller men one day a week and while this took time to establish, it is now working well.

2017 similarly saw the establishment of the National Traveller Mental Health Network which is a community led, independent, mental health network, which is due to be launched formally later this year.

On a further positive note, we have been successful in securing funding from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform for a full-time community development worker which we have sought for number of years.

A further development in 2017, was the long awaited establishment of a culturally inclusive counselling service for Travellers in Kerry, which was one of our priorities for the year.

The Launch of the National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy took place in Dublin in 2017 which is the main policy forum on Travellers and the Roma community in Ireland. The Traveller Counselling Service played an active role in the development of this policy, and we are accredited accordingly. This policy correspondingly identifies mental as an issue that needs to be addressed in the Traveller community as one of its actions.

1st March 2017 will be remembered within the Traveller community and within wider Irish society, as the year that the State finally acknowledged Travellers are an Ethnic Minority Group. This was a really important and historical milestone for the Traveller community in Ireland and for Irish society at large. No longer can Travellers be viewed as failed settled people but as people with a history, culture and traditions that are as equally important as settled culture history and traditions. This acknowledgement is hugely significant for strengthening Travellers sense of identity, self-esteem and confidence which has been eroded over many decades. We have experienced clients who are currently attending our service, talking about this new development and we expect it to have a positive impact on all their lives.

The Traveller Counselling Service played a significant role in supporting this process to happen. A national event will be organised to celebrate the state recognition of Travellers as an Ethnic Group on the 1st March this year. The Traveller Counselling Service has been part of this organising group.

It has been a very busy year in 2017, and our hopes for expansion and continued development into the future are greatly enhanced by the support and commitment of the staff, board members and funders. We are very grateful to you all for your continued support and commitment.

Thomas McCann

Director

The Team

The team has been working very well and we have continued to provide both individual and team supervision. Louise McDonnagh, one of our therapists is still out on maternity leave, we are expecting Lousie to return to work in 2018 and look forward to her return. We are also delighted to welcome back Jimmy Judge. Jimmy had worked as a counsellor with us in 2008 and 2009 and now has returned to work with clients in Mountjoy prison and also to provide team supervision.

It has been and continues to be of huge benefit to the Traveller Counselling Service, to have both Aileen Tierney and Ruth Eustace from the Clanwilliam Institute as part of our team. They bring with them a vast amount of skills, knowledge and experience in terms of family therapy and a commitment to the development of culturally inclusive counselling and psychotherapy.

2017 also saw us provide training days on working with issues that have come up in the client work and we were delighted to have one of our Board members, Kerry Cuskelly provide training to the team in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding. Our administrator, Beatrice Hughes has had a very busy year and as we move into 2018 and look to take on a new community development worker, we may need to look at how Beatrice can be supported with the increased work load for 2018.

The Team 2017

Thomas McCann	.	.	.	.	.	Director/Supervisor
Jimmy Judge	.	.	.	.	.	Supervisor/Therapist
Cairenn Bryson	.	.	.	.	.	Therapist
Jacky Grainger	.	.	.	.	.	Therapist
Margaret Doyle	.	.	.	.	.	Therapist
Louise McDonnagh	.	.	.	.	.	Therapist
Aileen Tierney (Clanwilliam)	.	.	.	.	.	Director/Therapist
Ruth Eustace (Clanwilliam)	.	.	.	.	.	Therapist
Beatrice Hughes	.	.	.	.	.	Administrator

The Board

The board have been very active in supporting the work and taking on to do particular pieces of work both individually and in working groups, whether this is being part of the finance sub-group or support with and feedback on particular policies. We were pleased to welcome Chris McDonagh as a new Board member in 2017 and look forward to working with him into the future.

Board of Management 2017

Jim O'Brien	.	.	.	.	.	.	Chairperson
Kevin Burn	.	.	.	.	.	.	Treasurer
Cairenn Bryson	.	.	.	.	.	.	Secretary
Fr Paul O'Driscoll	.	.	.	.	.	.	Director
Kerry Cuskelly	.	.	.	.	.	.	Director
Chris McDonagh	.	.	.	.	.	.	Director
Geraldine Hanley	.	.	.	.	.	.	Director
Patrick Nevin	.	.	.	.	.	.	Director

The Clanwilliam

Our long standing relationship with the Clanwilliam Institute, where Traveller families are seen on behalf of the Traveller Counselling Service, is a great asset to our service. The level of expertise that these families are met with in the Clanwilliam is second to none and the shared learning for both organisations is an added benefit. We hope to continue to work and grow in partnership with the Clanwilliam Institute into the future.

Client Work

The provision of counselling to Travellers is the main stay of our service. We have continued to provide counseling in Clondalkin, Tallaght, Balbriggan, Bray and Phibsborough, Dochas and Mountjoy throughout 2017. We also worked in partnership with the Clanwilliam Institute where Traveller families were seen.

Our work in these areas involved supporting the local groups to develop collaborative approaches with local service providers to address Traveller mental health issues in their areas.

There continues to be a demand for the service with an increase in the number of Travellers self-referring and an increase in Travellers returning to the service following long breaks. The statistics, which follow on page 14, give a detailed breakdown of our client work in each area.

Training

During 2017, the Traveller Counselling Service provided numerous training sessions to a variety of service providers at local and national level and to both Traveller and mainstream service providers. This training covered areas such as the different aspects of Traveller mental health, the development of cultural competency and one very successful initiative was the provision of training to local Traveller groups to support them to put structures in place that will ensure that they are giving the best possible support to presenting clients who are self-harming or suicidal.

Engagement with Local and National Groups

We have been very active in engaging in relation to mental health issues with local and national Traveller organisations including, Minceir Whiden, the ITM, the National Traveller Women's Forum and Pavee Point. We have also supported LGBT Travellers and took part in a DVD that the Irish Traveller Movement in the UK produced on supporting LGBT Travelers which can be viewed on YouTube and Facebook (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-9QW8wBi2c>). During 2017 we similarly provided support to the Galway Traveller Counselling Service through inputs and supervision.

We have done numerous presentations at national conferences on the issues of Travellers and mental health including the very successful 'Travellers in Prison' conference which took place in Dublin castle this year. In November last we gave a presentations on Travellers and self-harm a Clinical Nurse Team which was very well received.

Traveller Pride Week

We were very involved in Traveller Pride Week and supported the successful showing of a film with footage of Travellers from the 1940s in the Irish Film Institute in Dublin. This short film examined the changes in Traveller culture over the last number of decades and received a very positive feedback from the Traveller community and the wider settled community and is since being shown for both Traveller and settled audiences at a variety of festivals.

Mediation Training

The training course to train Traveller mediators which is run by the Traveller Mediation Service in conjunction with Maynooth University finished in 2017 and now has eight Travellers who are fully accredited mediators with the Mediators Institute of Ireland, some of whom are now actively involved in providing mediation and training to Travellers in the prison and in various local areas.

The Director of the Traveller Counselling Service was one of the of the core tutors on the development of the cultural module of this course. A similar course has started this year with a number of Travellers taking part. It is anticipated that this course will also provide a number of trained mediators on completion.

The Traveller Counselling Service is also part of the feuding subgroup of NTRIS which is exploring ways of bringing feuding to an end in the Traveller community. As part of the mediation work the Traveller Counselling Service has been looking at ways that the service can provide counselling support to individuals and families who are involved or affected by inter-family violence.

Funding

Securing funding has been a challenge for the Traveller Counselling Service, however this year we are delighted to announce that we received much needed funding from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. This funding will allow the service to take on a full time community development worker. Finances are in reasonably good shape with the support of our funders and the work of the finance sub-group. Our financial report is on page 32 of this document where both finances and funding will be looked at in greater detail

Governance

We have been very active in continuing to develop our codes of Governance and policies for the organization and have most policies now in place. Our governance work in 2017 included drawing up contracts between the Traveller Counselling Service and local groups with whom we work, contracted counsellors, employees, our external supervisor and our landlord. We anticipate signing off on these and many more policies during 2018 in the hope that we will be fully compliant by the end of 2018.

Establishing Counselling Outside Dublin

Establishing counselling for Travellers outside of Dublin and particularly where there is no Traveller group on the ground has been and continues to be a challenge. We have supported the establishment of counselling for Travellers in Kerry, which was one of our priority areas for 2017 and we have continued our efforts to support the emergence of counselling in Limerick, however, with little Traveller infrastructure in place this has been very difficult, though on a positive note, we have started a number of conversations with Travellers and service providers on the ground in Limerick and we will continue to work on this in 2018.

National Policy Work

We continue to have an input in to the NTRIS strategy which was launched earlier this year. This will play a key role in the development of policy regarding the Traveller community in Ireland and the ways that services are provided to Travellers. Policy work in 2017 also saw the submission to the all-party Oireactas committee on the future of mental health in Ireland.

Priorities for 2018

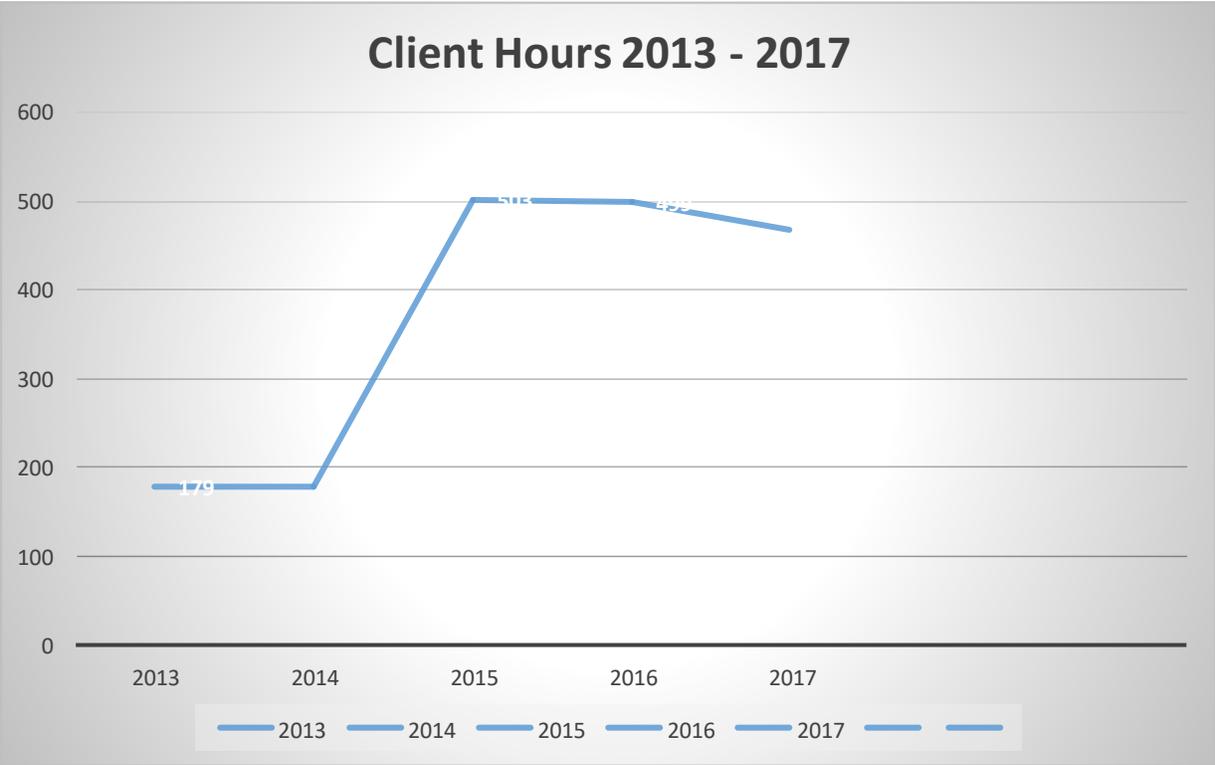
As we go forward there are a number of priority areas that have been identified in our Strategic Plan for 2018:-

- Continue to develop and expand the Traveller Counselling Service with a particular focus outside Dublin
- Develop our capacity to support local groups to put structures in place that will address the mental health needs of the local Traveller community in their area
- Support the development of Partnership structures between mental health services and Traveller organisations
- Continue to develop, support and expand the team to meet the continuing demand
- Develop the work with the Travellers in Prison Initiative
- Work in partnership with mainstream service providers at national level
- Continue to advocate on behalf of Travellers with regard to mental health
- Develop and expand Policy work through making submissions on key issues in relation to Traveller Mental Health
- Develop a training program and a manual on cultural competency that can be used by both Travellers and mainstream service providers
- Develop a training module for workers engaging with Travellers who are self-harming and/or suicidal
- Explore taking on a CE worker who would be trained as an admin person
- Develop counselling supports for Travellers who are involved in inter-family violence
- Reach full compliance with the Governance Code

Client Statistics for 2017

Client/Counselling Hours 2013 - 2017

Since our inception in 2013, to year end 2017, we have provided a total of 1827 counselling hours to members of the Traveller community. The graph below shows the client hours provided between 2013 and 2017 and records the significant increase in the provision of counselling to Travellers since 2015. The slight dip in 2017 is due to a member of the counselling team being on extended maternity leave for all of 2017. We are expecting her return in 2018.

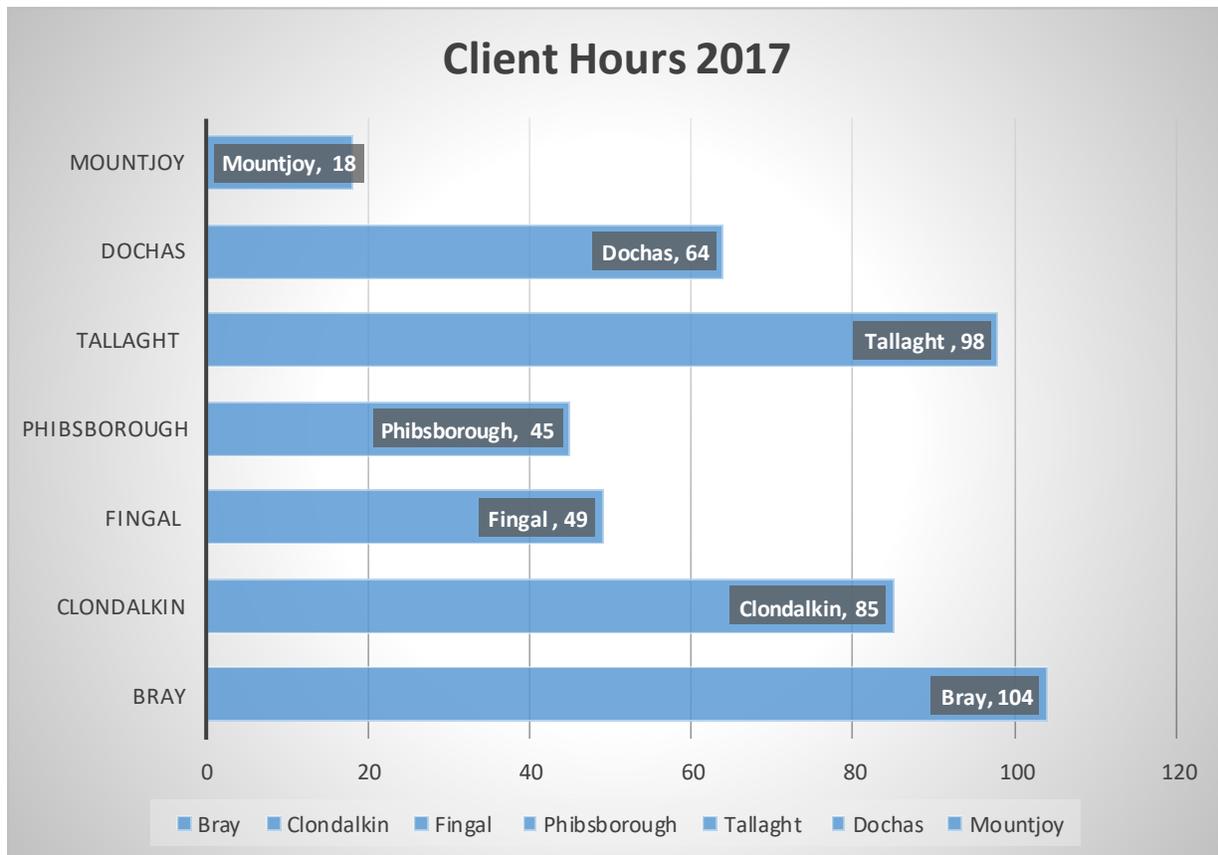


Client Hours 2017

We have provided a total of 468 counselling hours during 2017 which is consistent with the previous two years, taking into account one therapist on maternity leave.

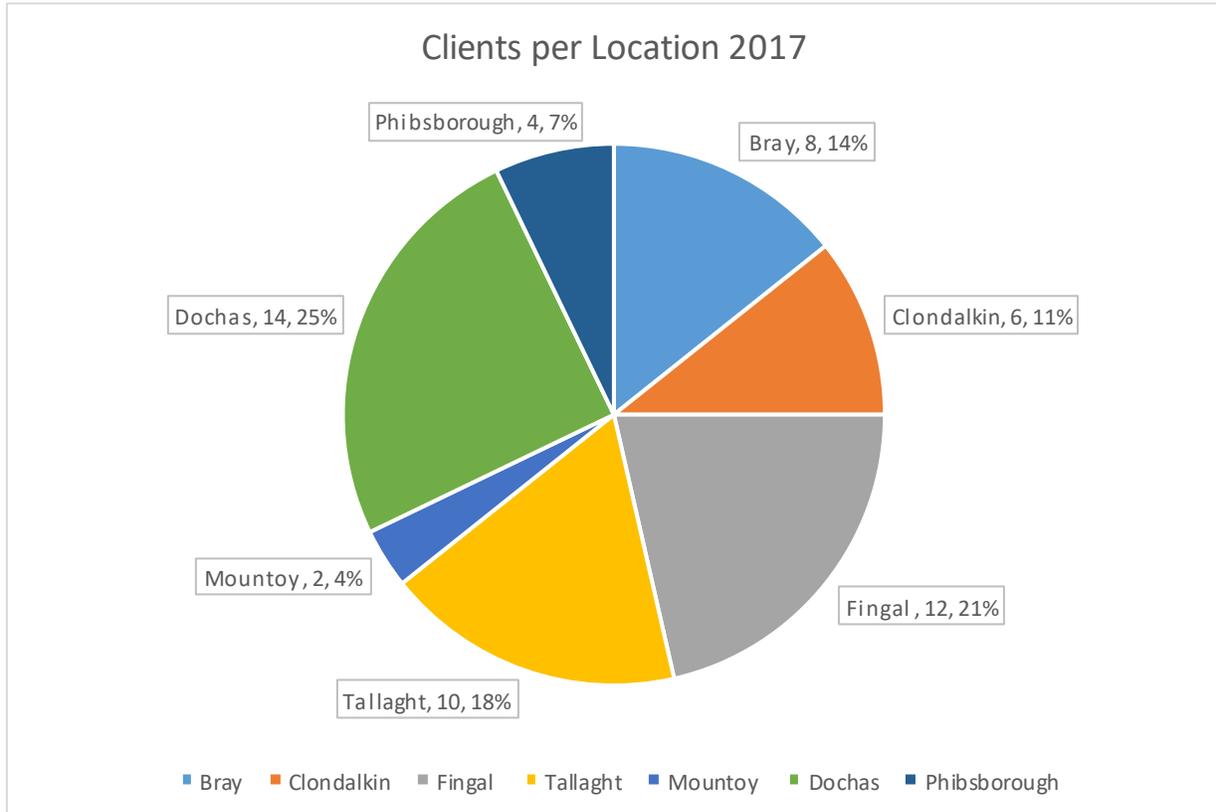
The counselling that took place during 2017 was provided in 1 Wicklow and 6 Dublin locations, including the commencement of a new counselling service in Mountjoy Prison and a return of the counselling service for MABS.

Client Hours by Location 2017



Total Number of Clients for 2017

We have seen 56 individual clients in 2017, in the six locations listed below.



While Dochas represents the highest number of clients per location, this high figure may in many respects be representative of the high turnover of Travellers in Dochas.

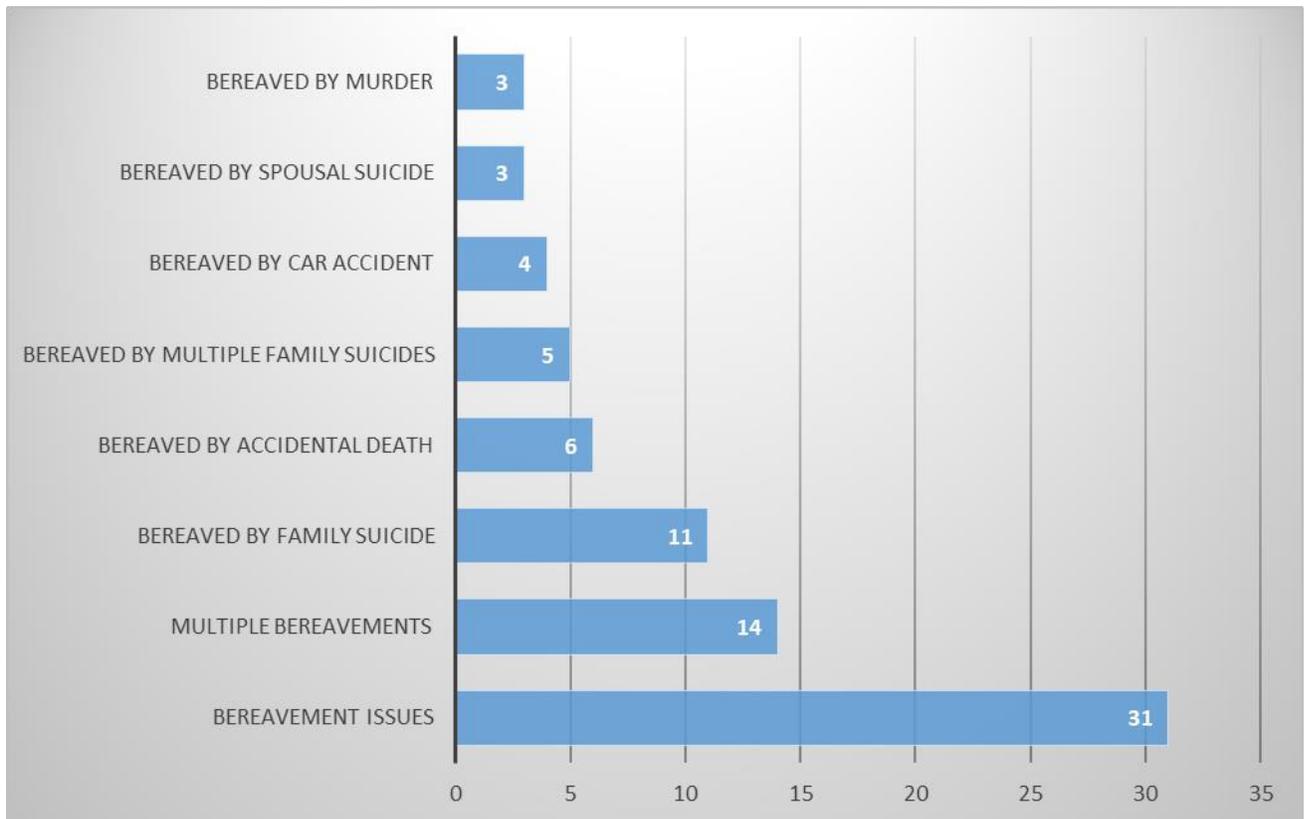
Bereavement 2017

Bereavement remained one of the biggest issues our clients dealt with during 2017

- 55% of all clients present with bereavement issues
- 25% of clients experienced multiple bereavements
- 20% of clients have been bereaved by suicide
- 11% were bereaved as a result of an accident
- 9% of clients have experienced multiple family suicides
- 7% were bereaved as a result of a car accident
- 5% of clients lost their spouse to suicide
- 5% of clients were bereaved by murder

Suicide continues to be an issue for our clients with one fifth of all clients impacted directly as a result of a family suicide.

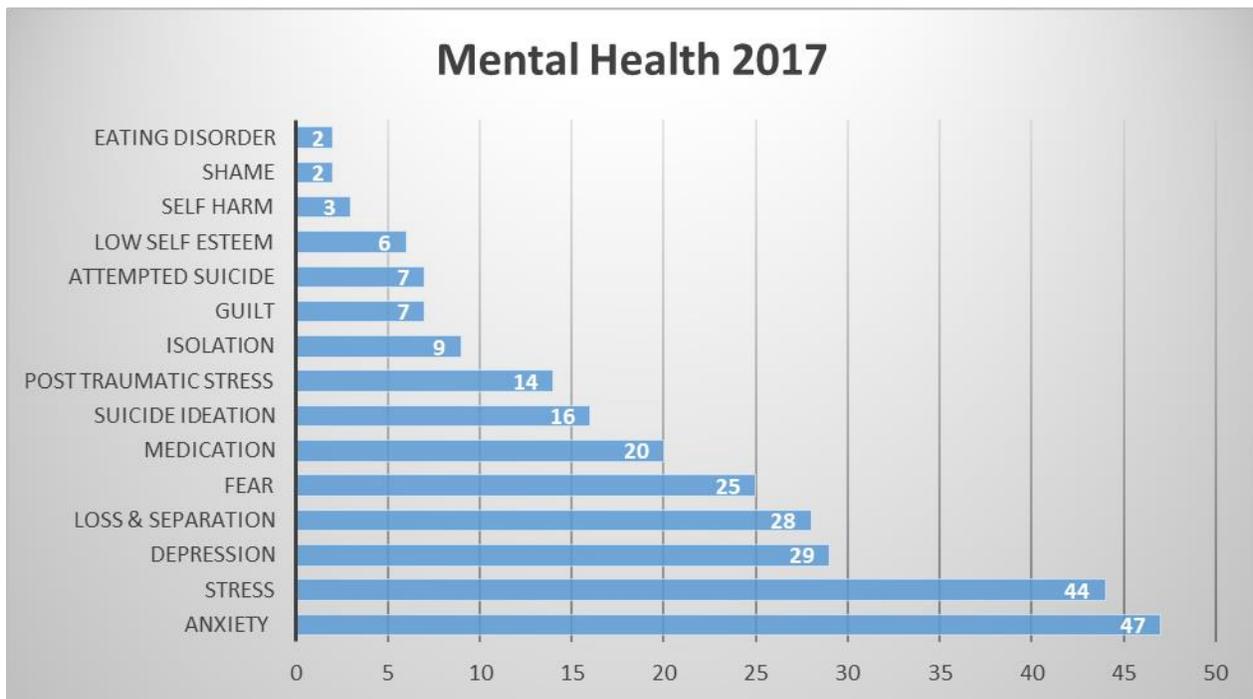
Bereavement/Bereaved through Suicide 2017



Mental Health & Related Issues 2017

The majority of clients attending our service are facing very real struggles with their mental health with almost one third of clients during 2017 experiencing suicide ideation. An alarming statistic here is that over one third of clients are using medication to help manage their mental health.

- 84% of clients experiencing consistent anxiety
- 79% of clients experiencing consistent stress
- 52% of clients suffering from/diagnosed with depression
- 50% of clients experiencing loss and separation in its many guises such as bereavement, marital separation, separation from children etc.
- 45% of our clients are experiencing fear in their day to day lives, which is an alarming statistic that will be looked at in greater detail further on
- 36% of clients using psychotropic/anti-depressant/sleeping tablets or similar prescription medication
- 29% of clients experiencing suicide ideation
- 25% or one quarter of clients are living with PTSD, another alarming statistic
- 16% of clients feeling isolated
- 13% of clients were troubled with feelings of guilt
- 13% of clients attempted suicide
- 11% of clients experiencing low self esteem
- 5% of clients are engaged in direct self-harming behaviours
- 4% of clients struggling with feelings of shame; 4% of clients presented with eating disorders



Contributory Factors 2017

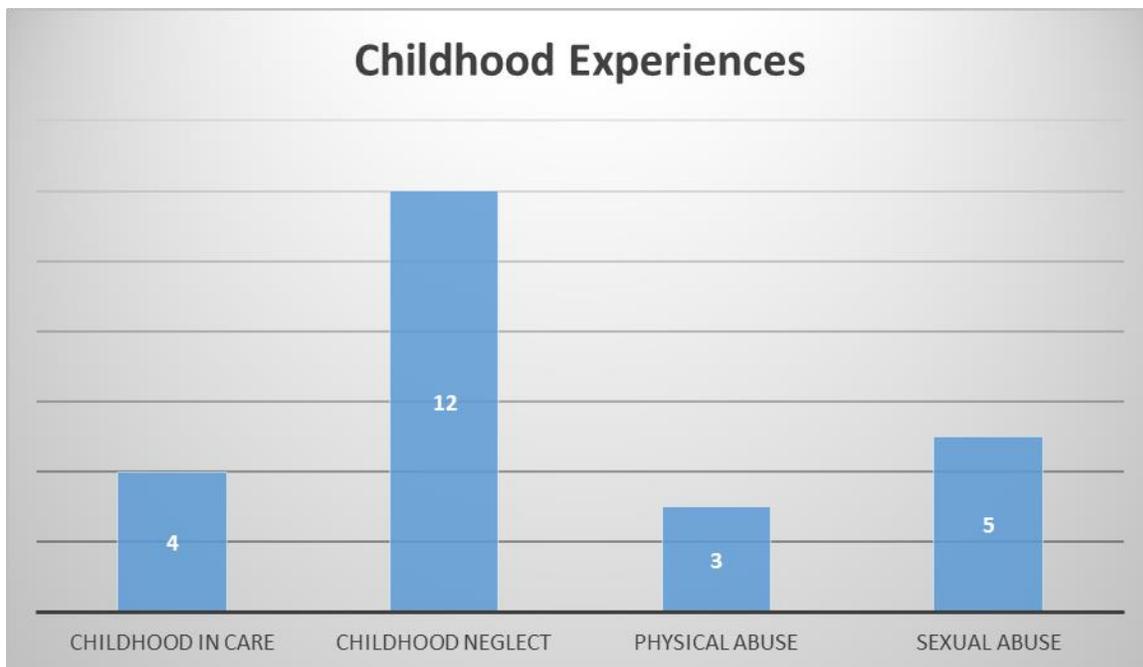
It is important to note before proceeding, that even though issues such as exclusion, discrimination and racism and the many issues they contribute to such as unemployment, social exclusion, low mortality etc. do not feature in the presenting issues of our clients, this is not to suggest that these are not very real issues for the Travellers attending our services, but rather, it signifies the extent to which these issues are ingrained in the psyche of Travellers that they come to accept these experiences as the norm.

There are a variety of factors that implicate the well-being of clients attending our service during 2017. We have separated some of the more prevalent factors to be looked at individually.

Childhood Experiences 2017

Unresolved traumas from childhood can implicate clients mental health and well-being into adulthood. Some of the issues that our clients presented with that impacted their childhoods and continue to reach into their adult lives are as follows:-

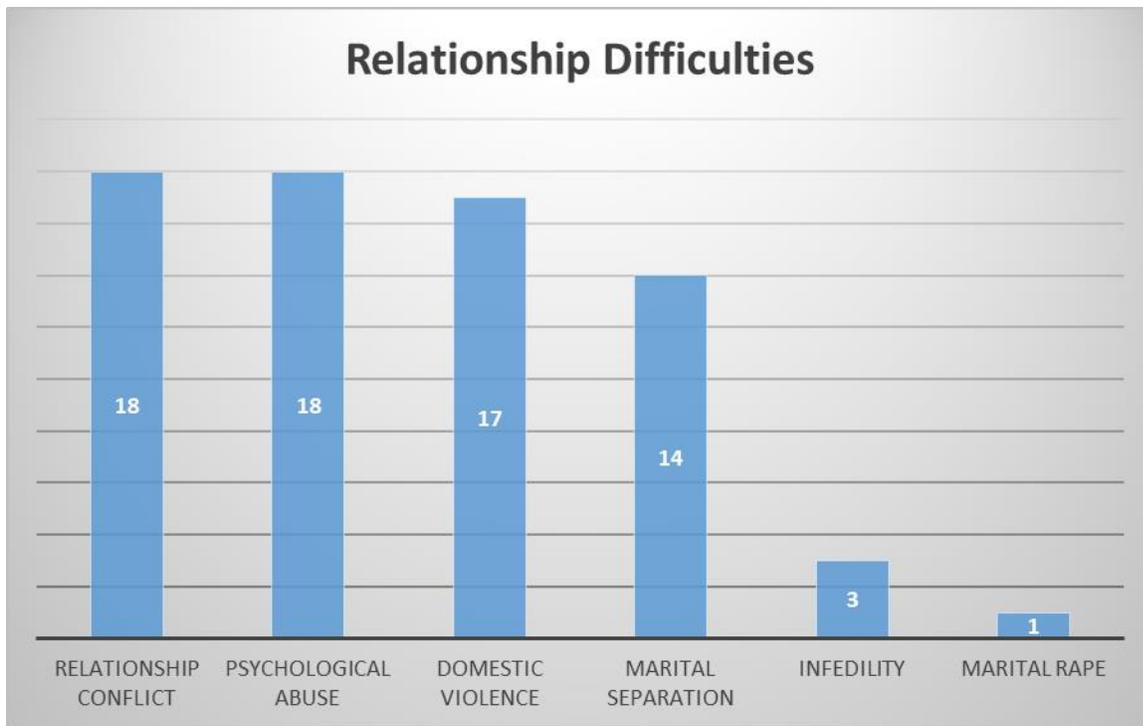
- 7% of clients spent some or all of their childhoods in care
- 21% of clients experienced neglect as a child
- 5% experienced physical abuse in childhood
- 9% of clients were sexually abused as children



Primary Relationships

Difficulties within their relationships with spouses or partners were a further cause for concern for many of our clients.

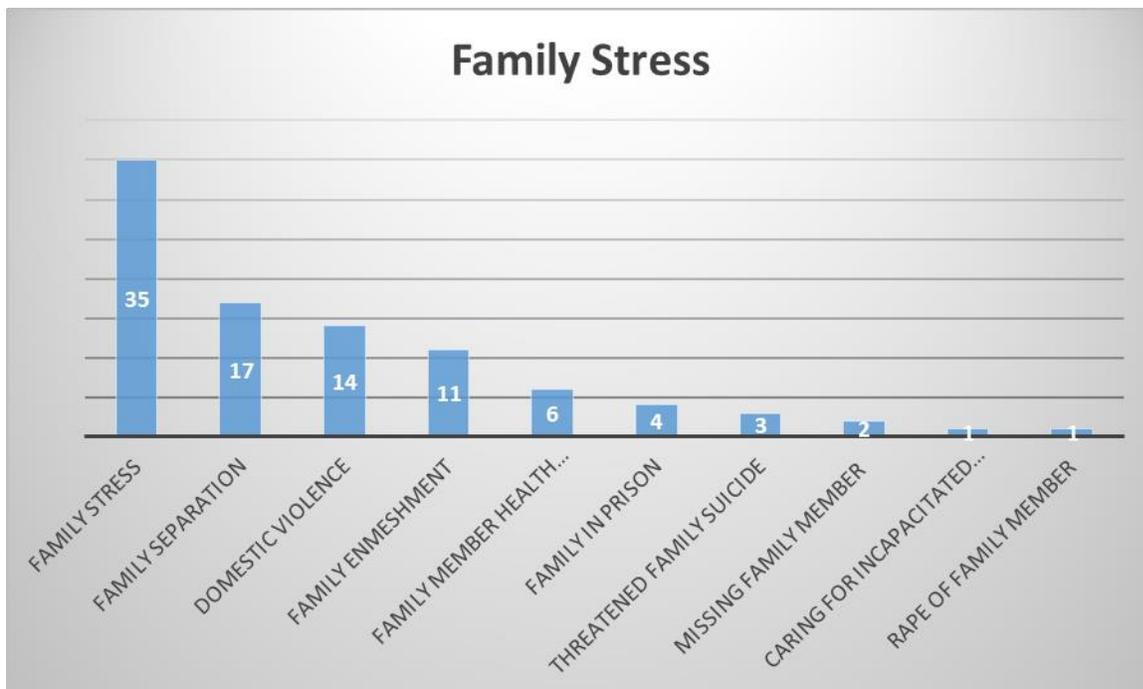
- 32% of clients were or had experienced conflict in their relationships
- 32% of clients were or had experienced psychological abuse in their relationships
- 30% or almost one third of all clients had or were experiencing domestic violence
- 25% or one quarter of all clients were separated
- 5% experienced infidelity and 2% had experienced marital rape



Family Concerns

Concerns and worries about their families or issues that are impacting their families was another major issues for our clients in 2017. Considering the role that family and extended family play in the lives of Travellers, these concerns have significant implications for our clients.

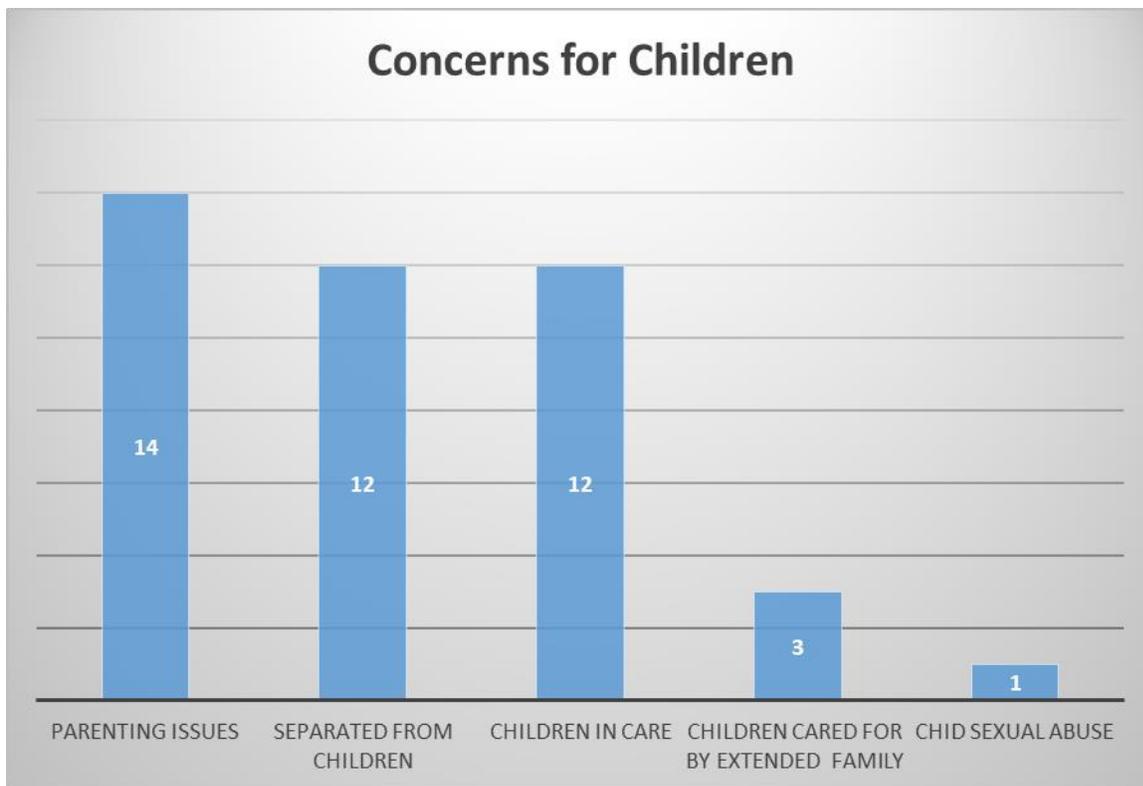
- 63% of clients were experiencing high levels of stress due to family issues
- 30% were separated from their families
- 25% of clients families were impacted by domestic violence
- 20% of clients felt the negative impact of family enmeshment
- 11% of clients had on-going health concerns with family members
- 7% of clients had a family member in prison
- 7% of clients families are engaged in internal family conflict
- 5% were living with the threat of suicide within their family
- 4% of clients were dealing with the stress of a missing family member
- 2% were dealing with the rape of a family member
- 2% were caring for an incapacitated family member



Concerns for Children

Closely linked to the concerns for family, are the concerns that clients presented with in relation to both their adult and dependant children.

- 25% or a quarter of clients presented with parenting difficulties
- 21% of clients were separated from their children. The large volume of clients seen in Dochas explains this elevated figure though does not represent all clients separated from their children
- 21% of clients children were in care. Again this figure is elevated due to the high number of clients seen in 2017 in Dochas, though again, it is not all inclusive of women in prison, there were a number of other clients, both men and women whose children were in care.
- 5% of clients children were being cared for by a family member
- 2% of clients were dealing with the sexual abuse of their child.

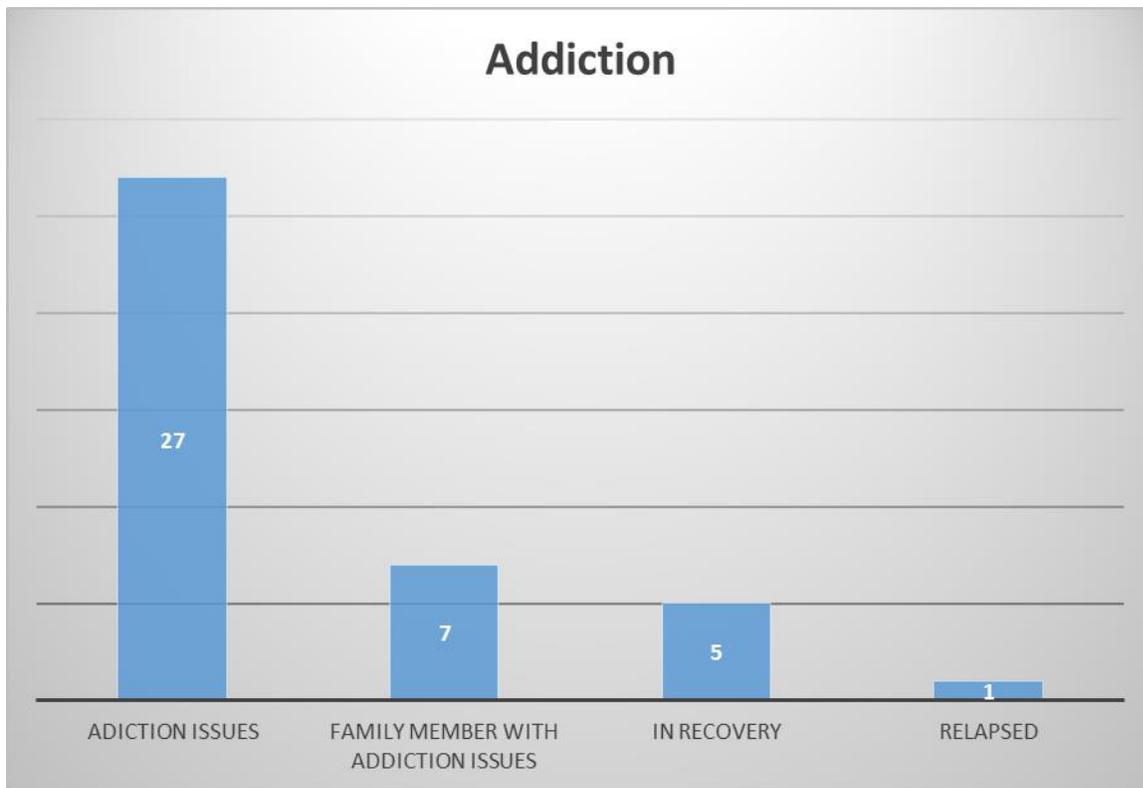


Addiction

In previous years, we have included addiction under the heading of contributory factors, though considering the impact of addiction on our clients during 2017, with just under half of all clients presenting with addiction issues, we are examining addiction as a separate issue.

For the most part, addiction can be understood as a symptom of other underlying issues. In our service we see addiction as a disease affecting all of the family and for many Travellers, the extended family.

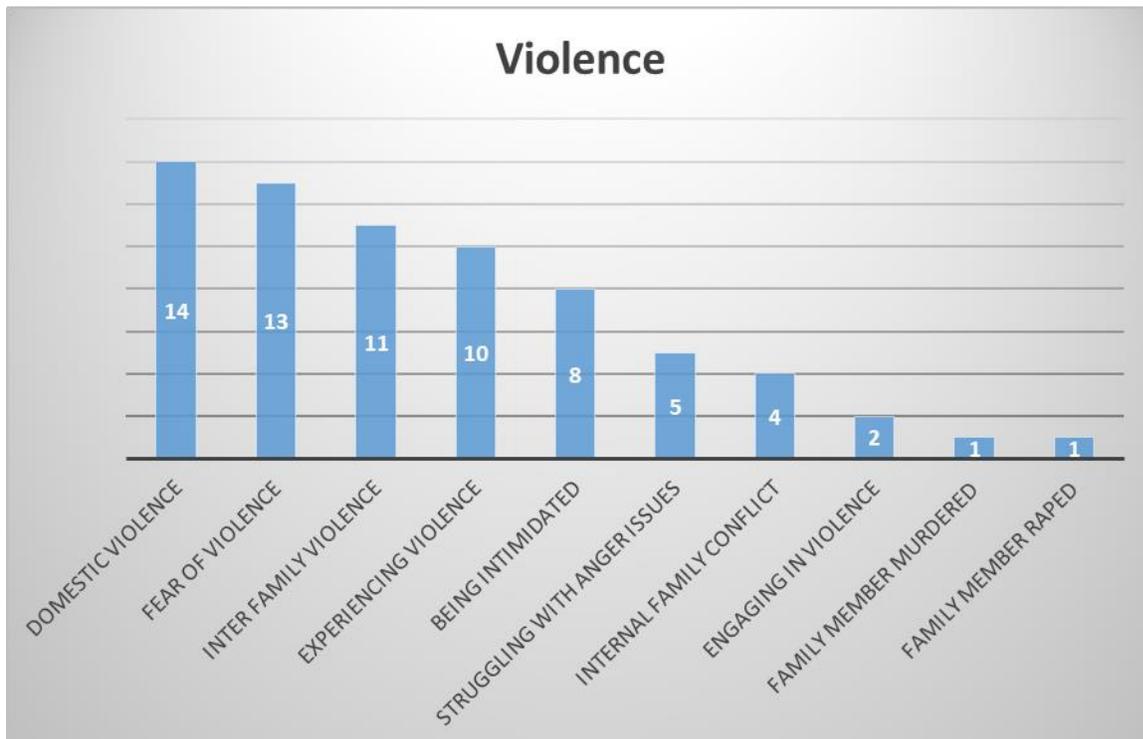
- 48% of clients presented with addiction issues. This referred to addiction to both alcohol, drugs and prescription medication
- 13% of clients were impacted by the addiction of family members
- 10% of clients went into or were in recovery
- 2% of clients had relapsed



Violence

In the past number of years, we have noticed more and more clients impacted by violence. With this in mind, we have for our 2017 statistics, taken 'violence' as a separate issue. Our statistics include those impacted by violence and those engaged in violence and who are working towards positive change.

- 25% or an alarming one quarter of all clients were impacted by domestic violence during 2017. This figure includes clients no longer living in violent relationships but who continue to be impacted by them and clients that grew up in families where domestic violence was an issue.
- 23% of our clients are living in fear of violence. This figure incorporates all forms of violence.
- 20% or one fifth of clients are impacted by inter family violence. The Traveller Counselling Service is in the process of devising counselling in conjunction with the Traveller Mediation Services, specifically aimed at families engaged in or impacted by inter-family violence. We hope that this intervention will support the work of the mediation services in reducing the levels of violence currently being experienced by the community.
- 18% of clients are currently experiencing violence in their lives
- 14% of clients are being intimidated. This intimidation includes domestic violence, inter- family violence and in one instance a client is being intimidated by her landlord and his son.
- 9% of clients are struggling with anger and rage and their violent behaviours
- 7% of clients are dealing with internal violence in their families and extended families
- 4% of clients are engaging in violent behaviour
- 2% of clients have had a family member murdered; 2% of clients are perpetrators of domestic violence; 2% of clients are dealing with the rape of a family member

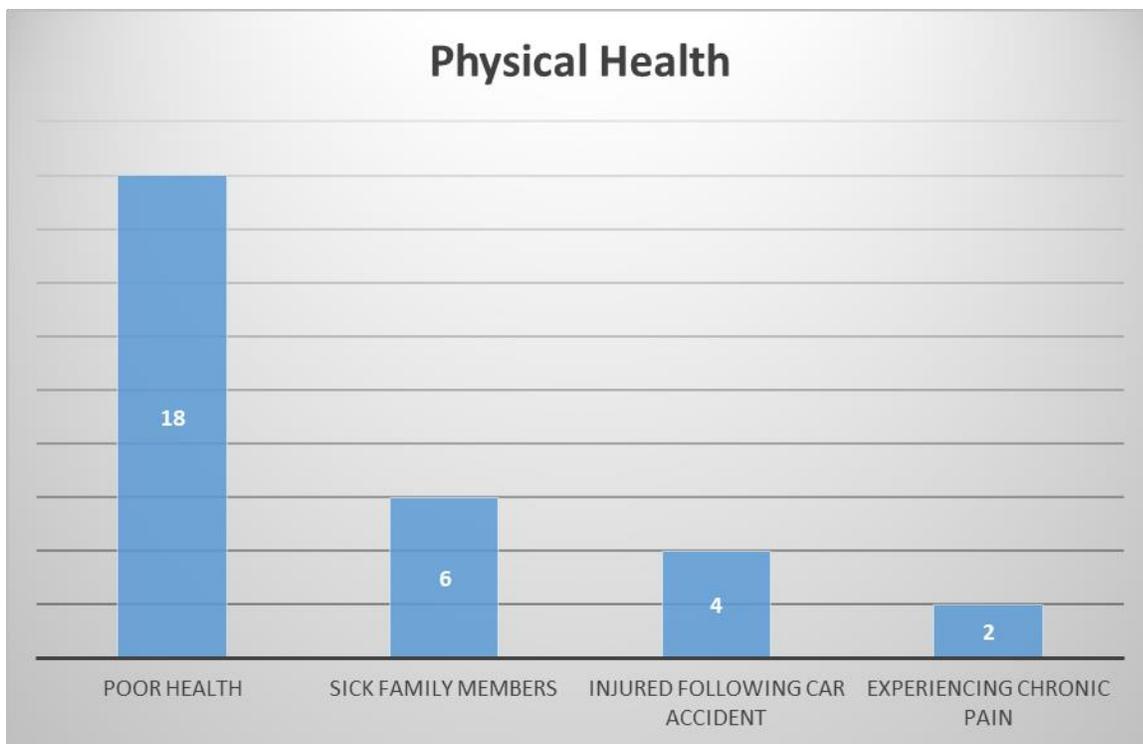


Physical Health

A high percentage of clients presented with health issues during 2017. This included those living with health conditions themselves and those living with family members with health concerns.

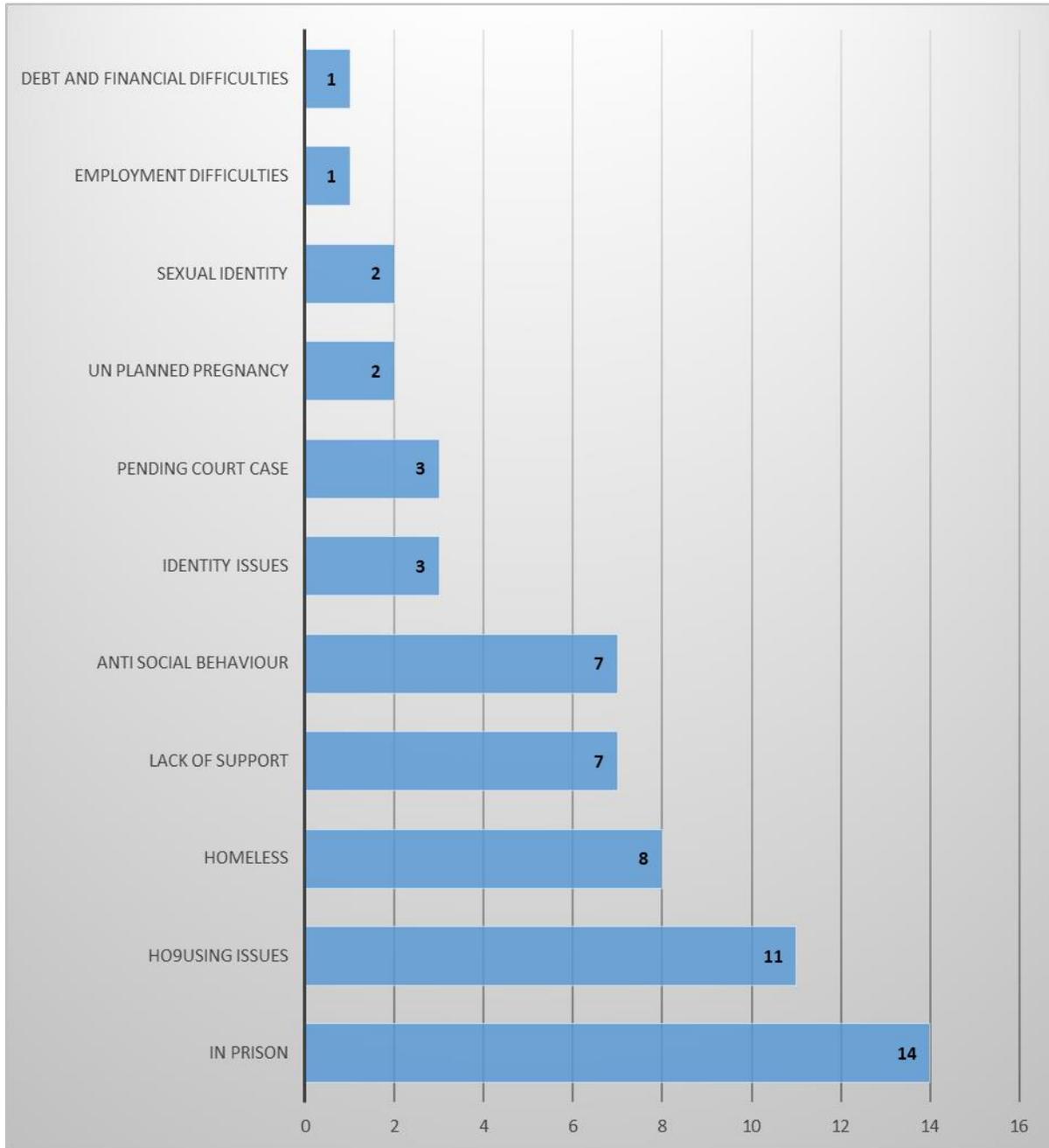
Poor physical health can have an impact on mental health and well-being, and it is for this reason that we have included this issue as a separate topic.

- 32% or just under one third of all clients presented with physical health concerns during 2018
- 11% of clients had family members with health problems
- 7% of clients were suffering as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident
- 4% of clients were experiencing chronic pain



Other Contributing Factors

Along with the issues addressed previously, the following are additional contributory factors that were impacting negatively on our clients lives during 2017.



There is an array of issues that implicate mental health for the Traveller community, and below are a breakdown of these issues in order of prevalence.

While being in prison is the most common issue in terms of contributory factors, this high figure can be attributed to our work in the prisons (Dochas and Mountjoy). The high figure of anti-social behaviour can also be accounted for by the work we were doing in the prison system during 2017

Housing and accommodation issues, are a constant issue for members of the Traveller community. This issue is comprised of two elements, firstly the lack of suitable accommodation for Traveller families, and secondly the standard of current accommodation. While these two issues have a significant impact on Travellers mental health, resulting tragedies from unacceptable standards of accommodation, such as Carrickmines, have a lasting and deep impact on mental health not only for those directly affected, but through the entire community.

While housing and accommodation issues are a common theme for the Traveller community, an emerging concern that our statistics indicates is the issue of homelessness. In the past Travellers rarely if ever experienced homelessness but with increasing numbers of Travellers moving into the private rented sector as a result of nowhere to pull in their trailers and criminalisation of nomadism through the anti-trespass legislation, we are seeing homelessness grow as an issue for Travellers.

Lack of support is an emerging and worrying concern, as it is indicative of the changed living circumstances within the community, with young families often opting for rented accommodation in the private sector thereby missing out on the family support that has traditionally been available to young Traveller families through living with the extended family.

Other factors that were less prevalent though none-the-less very significant are listed below:-

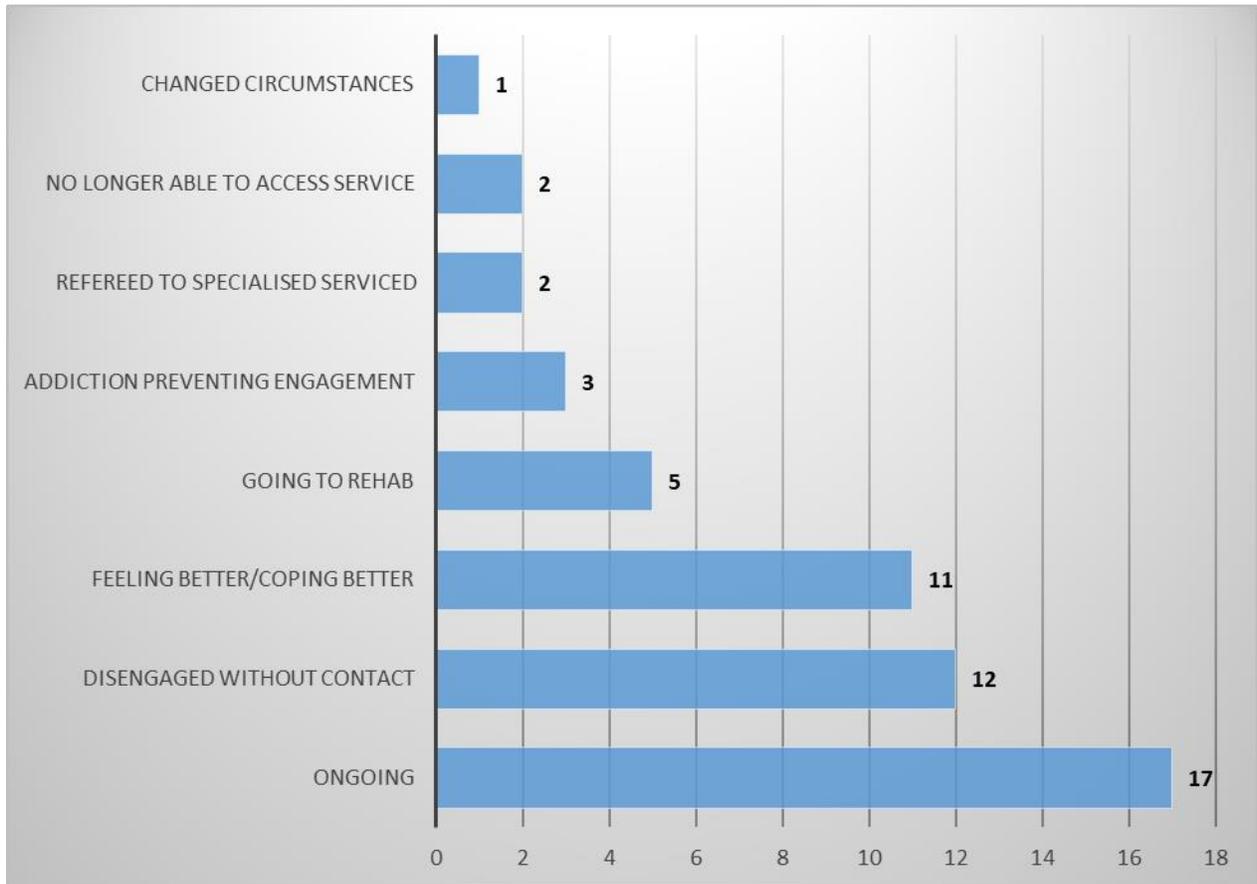
- identity issues
- pending court case
- unplanned pregnancy
- sexual identity
- debt issues
- employment difficulties

Outcomes for 2017

The following outcomes were recorded for clients for 2016 1st Quarter.

- 30% of clients who were attending the service in Jan 2017 still attending the service
 - 21% disengaged without further contact
 - 20% of clients finished up and were feeling better and were coping better with their circumstances (eg left violent partner, addressing addiction in family)
 - 9% of clients had gone into rehab
 - 5% of clients were unable to attend due to addiction issues
 - 4% of clients were referred on to specialised services
 - 4% stopped coming as they were no longer able to access the circumstances due to a change of location
 - 2% were no longer able to attend due to a change in their circumstances
- Of interest to note here, is that all clients referred to specialised services went into recovery programmes for either drug or alcohol addiction

Client Outcomes 2017



Referrals 2017

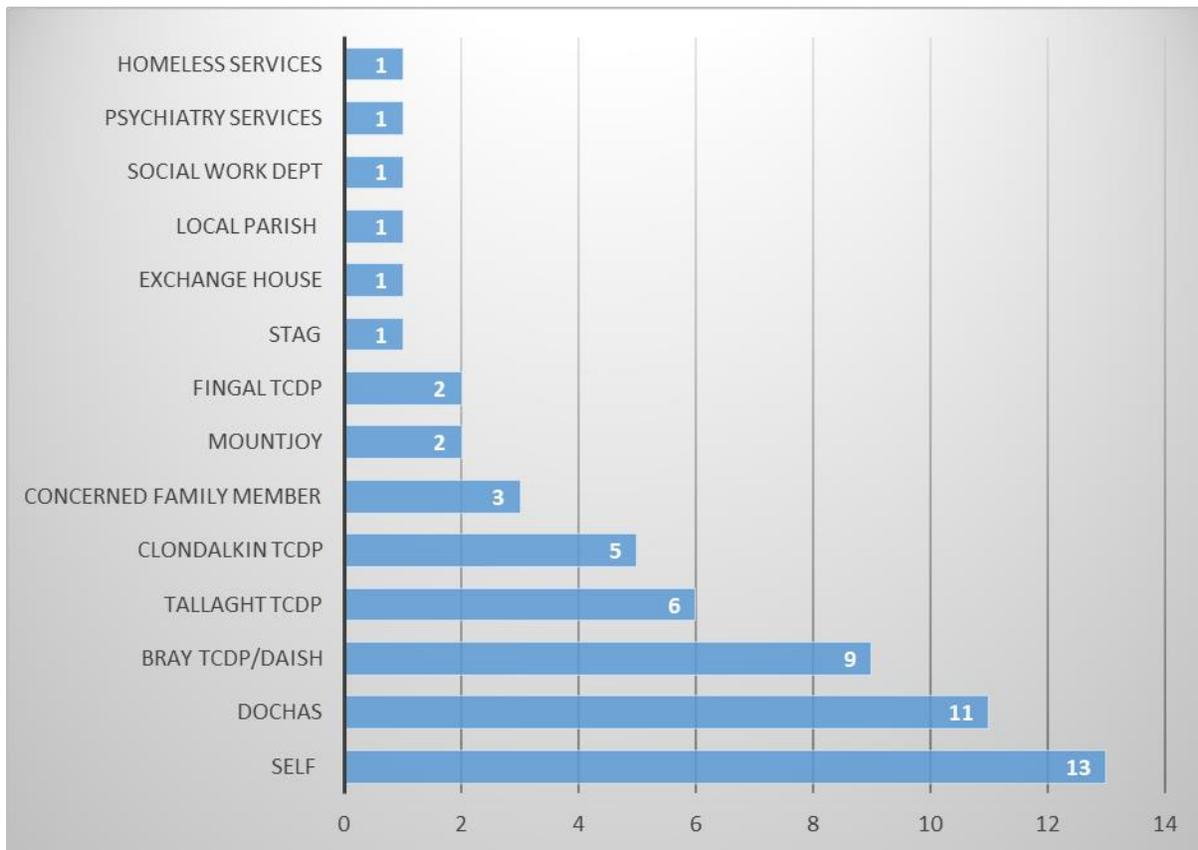
In 2016 we started to note where and how our clients were being referred to our service and the results for 2017 are outlined below.

We can see from the figures below that the local Traveller Community Development Projects are amongst our biggest source of referrals, highlighting the way in which the Local Traveller Mental Health Partnerships work.

Correspondingly, we can see that the highest number of clients self-referred, indicating that our service is known and trusted within the community. Within this figure we have seen for the first time in 2017, 5 clients returning to the service.

Referrals from ancillary services similarly indicates that awareness of our service has increased.

Referral Sources 2016

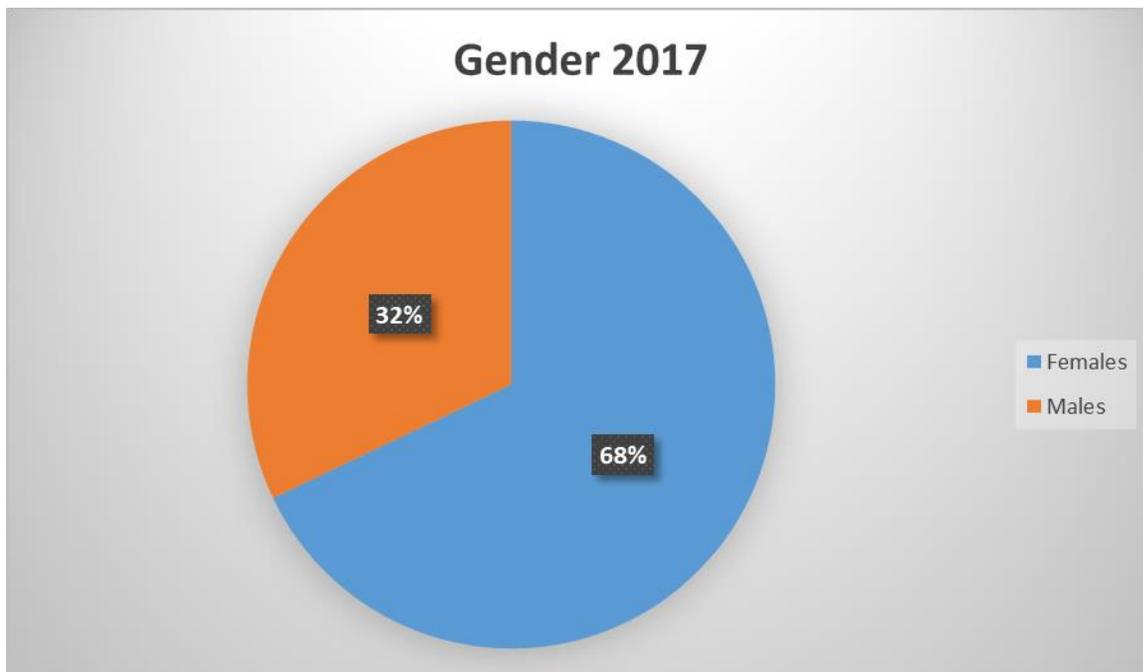


Client Profiles 2017

Gender

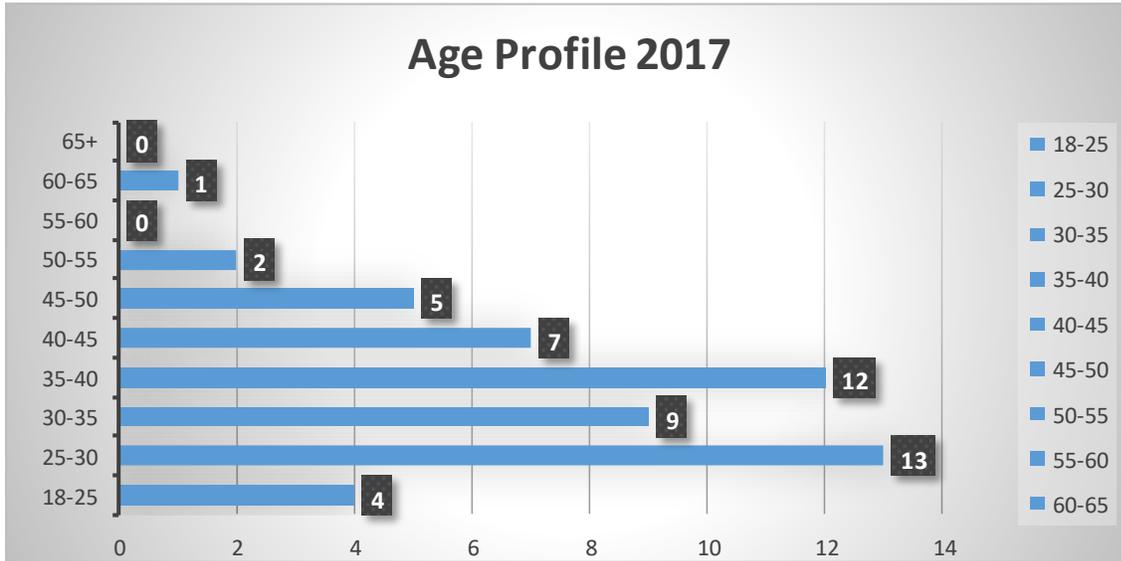
In counselling and psychotherapy services across the board in Ireland there tends to be a higher percentage of female clients to male, though in the Traveller Counselling Service we have noted an increase in male attendance since January 2016, with female clients representing just over two thirds of clients and male representing one third.

Gender Profile



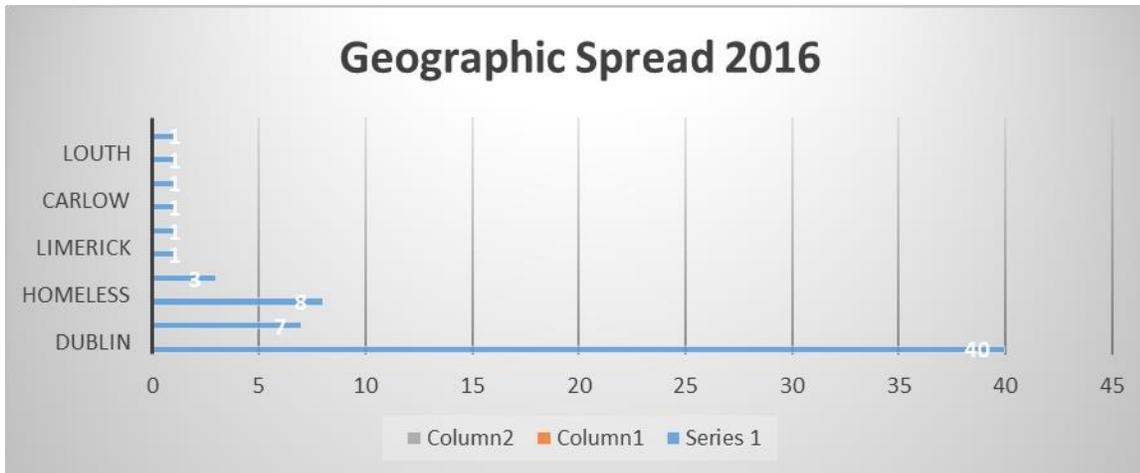
Age Profile 2017

The figures below indicate that individuals aged between 25 – 40 represent our largest client group in terms of age ranges with fewer older Travellers attending for counselling. This statistic is replicated in mainstream counselling services also.



Geographic Spread 2017

The limited availability of our service is reflected in the statistics below. While our geographic spread has increased with the inclusion of three new counties where clients hail from, this can be explained in part to the inclusion of Dochas and Mountjoy as locations where we conduct counselling. Though a concerning figure now is the homeless figure of 8 clients which represents 14% of clients attending the service.



Conclusion

While the statistics indicate some positive trends, such as clients returning to the service, the number of clients self-referring, other trends are quite worrying, such as the increase in clients experiencing or facing homelessness.

Addiction and violence continue to be prevalent issues for our clients during 2017, though we have seen an increase in clients going into rehab and we are hopeful that our work in collaboration with the Traveller Mediation Services in 2018 will address some of the issues that currently implicate our clients in terms of engagement in inter-family violence.

Financial Report

We are very pleased to say that our accounts reflect healthy balances at year end 2017, which is a considerable turnaround in terms of the financial crisis we experienced at year end 2015.

For ease of management, we have opened a second account, from which our paid staff wages are now drawn. The original account is still used to pay the therapists.

The balances on each of these accounts respectively, on 31st December 2017 was as follows:-

Account No 1	7,313.21
Account No 2	68,593.69

Account No 2 received a payment of €50,000 which represents funding from the Department of Justice for the position of Community Development Worker, which reached our account in late December. We are currently advertising for this post.

All of our banking is now done on line which has been found to be both time saving and efficient.

Our finance sub-group met during the third quarter of 2017 and had nothing to report from this meeting.

We are very grateful to all our funders for their support, without which, we would not be able to provide the service that we do. Funding that we received during 2017, totalling €120,100 is outlined on the following page.

Two instalments of funding came for specific projects and the rest was specifically for counselling or for core funding.

Funding Received During 2017

Funding Body	Type of Funding	Specifics	Amount
Department of Justice	Core Funding	Management and Admin Salaries	44,600
SSGT	Project	Prisons Partnership Project	6,000
Tusla	Counselling	Counselling Hours	3,100
HSE Social Inclusion Unit	Counselling	Counselling Hours	11,400
HSE	Project	Cultural Competency Training Programme	5,000
Department of Justice	Core Funding	Community Development Worker Salary	50,000

Conclusion

This year has been challenging at times however with the support and commitment of the team and the board of directors the service has managed to address these challenges and are now in a position to go forward on a much stronger footing.

This report has just touched on some of the key areas where the Traveller Counselling Service has been involved throughout the year, however, it does not represent the huge range of activities and work that all of the team have been involved with throughout 2017.

On behalf of the Traveller Counselling Service, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team and the Board of Directors for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

A special thanks also to our supporters and funders, the local Traveller organisations with whom we work, the Parish of the Travelling people, St Stephens Green Trust, Tusla, the THU, the HSE and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. We look forward to your continued support in 2018.