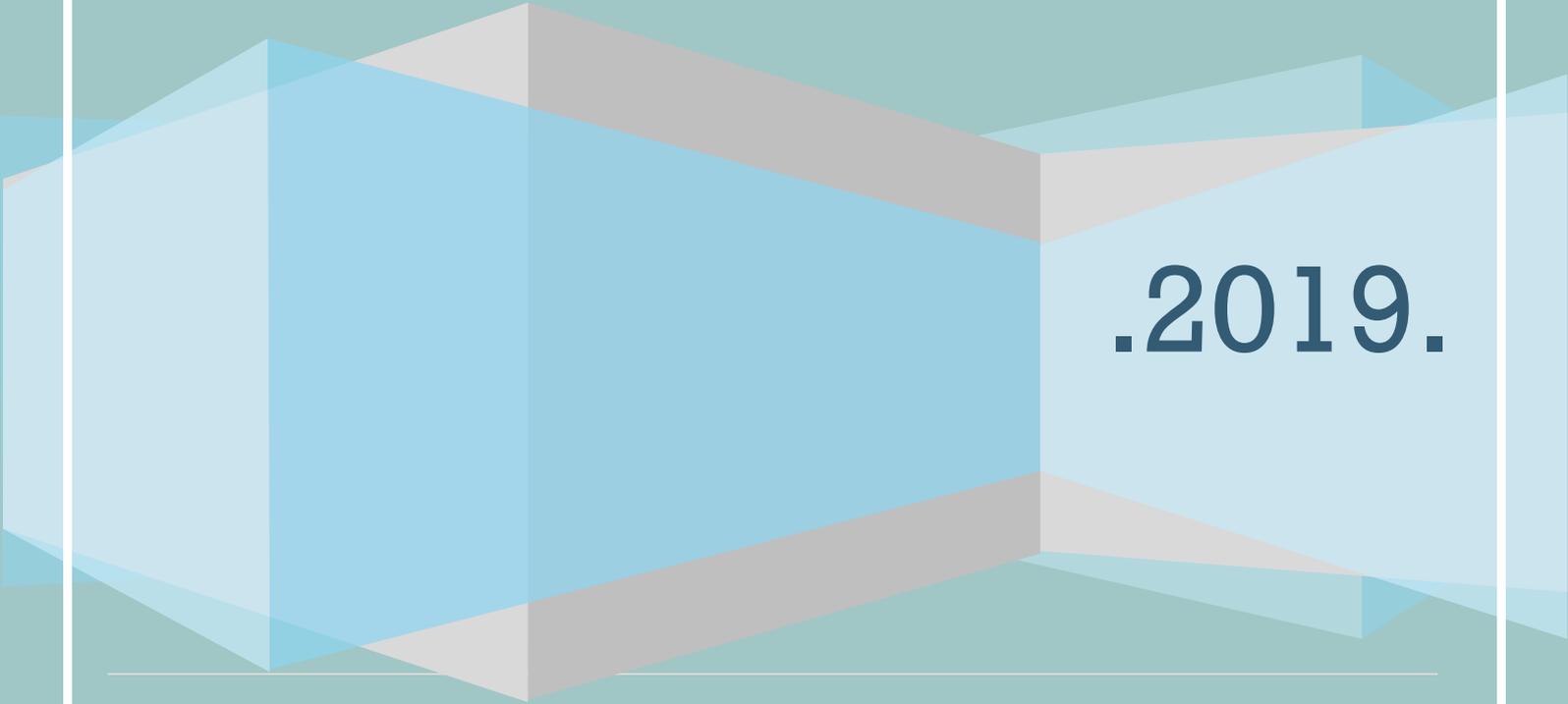


Dignity4Patients Annual Report



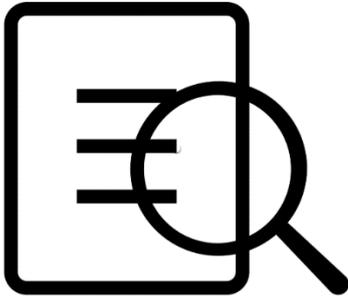
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“I wouldn’t be alive today if it wasn’t for Dignity4Patients”

“I am so appreciative of Dignity4Patients service and their kindness, I never knew where to turn to until contacting them”



Dignity4Patients History

Dignity4Patients was founded in 2008 and incorporated as a charity in 2010. Dignity4Patients has advocated on behalf of Irish patients for over a decade seeking support, recovery and justice for all sufferers of sexual abuse within the Irish Health service. Prevention of sexual abuse of patients is key to our work.



Dignity4Patients Mission

To provide hope, healing and empowerment to those affected by patient sexual abuse.
To use our specialist knowledge and expertise to help end patient sexual abuse.



Dignity4Patients Vision

Recovery of those affected and a health service free of sexual abuse of patients.

Chair's Introduction

It is a privilege for me to present the Dignity4Patients annual report for 2019. This report provides an overview of the important work of the organisation in the protection of patients from sexual abuse and of our services to citizens who have suffered this abuse and who need assistance in repairing their lives.

Even a cursory perusal of media reports will show that sexual abuse in the health system is an ongoing problem that must be faced up to. The perpetrators are in the minority and the vast majority working in the health system have the care of their patients as their number one priority. But it is an established fact that patients continue to suffer sexual abuse or inappropriate sexual behaviour while in the care of medical and care services. It is our role to support patient victims and advocate for them in whatever way possible. This includes providing valuable telephone and face-to-face services to those who have been adversely affected. We also serve the general public by disseminating information on sexual abuse in the health system, how best to combat it and how to bring perpetrators to justice. In all, 217 of the 329 clients of Dignity4Patients sought and were given support, advocacy or information during 2019.

Dignity4Patients places a high premium on flexibility and innovation in the development of our services. In this regard we continue to strengthen our board by the introduction of experts specialising in different aspects of client care and in the management and governance of the organisation. As Chairperson I would like to extend my thanks to our Executive Director Ms Bernadette Sullivan and our staff for their excellent work during the year, and to those who volunteer for service on our board and to all other agencies and persons who have supported our service.

We would also like to thank the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive and the Department of Justice for their support for Dignity4Patients during 2019.

Paul Murphy

Chairperson, Dignity4Patients Board of Management

Executive Director's Report

2019 proved an even greater challenge than many previous difficult years. HSE annual funding was not confirmed until July 2019 which threatened the stability of our service. Thankfully the matter was resolved and we would like to thank the Minister for Health, the HSE & all who assisted. This funding crisis impacted on staffing levels and client services. At the same time client numbers grew as did management administration to meet new Charities Regulation compliance. In response we were forced to increase our remote client contact whilst still providing essential client appointments and Court Accompaniment service

In this report we provide a summary of Dignity4Patients work in 2019. We highlight areas of achievement and limitation and areas of difficulties for our clients. In launching this report Dignity4Patients wish to raise awareness of the level and risk of sexual abuse of patients as reported to our service. In doing this we hope to improve services for patient victims and to assist Health authorities in preventing sexual abuse of patients. We remain concerned this serious patient safety risk is not being addressed at the level warranted. We hope we can assist through this report launch and follow up engagement with relevant authorities. It is our long held belief that an examination of known cases is a mandatory first step. Following such an examination a clear message of zero tolerance of any level of sexual impropriety towards patients must be widely broadcast with an awareness raising campaign in Healthcare and for the general public. To quote Professor Alan Barrett CEO of the ESRI "we believe that knowledge and facts are the most powerful problem-solving tools for policymakers." Protecting patient trust and the integrity of both Health Professions and the Health Service is mandatory in the manner in which this difficult and sensitive issue is addressed.

In Dignity4Patients we understand the impact of suffering sexual abuse as a patient. It is traumatic and life changing. Our work centres around restoring Patient Victim's dignity, helping them rebuild their lives and recover. Our understanding of the impact of sexual abuse including issues particular to patient abuse, combined with knowledge of medical practices and health services are key. Patient Victims have many medical and patient related questions around what happened to them. Getting answers to these questions can be a fundamental part of their recovery. Medical and health system knowledge is also essential in obtaining and interpreting medical records. Many clients report reaching a manageable level of recovery through availing of Dignity4Patients services and for many others a combination of Dignity4Patients services and external counselling support is needed. We would like to thank all specialist counselling services who have supported our clients. However, it must be said that many Dignity4Patients clients are still impacted by the lack of a full Inquiry into the circumstances and systems failures which allowed abuse to happen.

I look forward to working with Health and Justice Agencies to create a better service for patient victims and improving patient protection from sexual abuse. I wish to thank Health and Justice Authorities for their support to date and also other agencies who have assisted us in our work. Last but not least I would like to thank all of our clients and other patient victims who contacted our service. They have provided us with information which could prove invaluable in protecting patients from sexual abuse.

Bernadette Sullivan

Executive Director, Dignity4Patients

Client Support Services

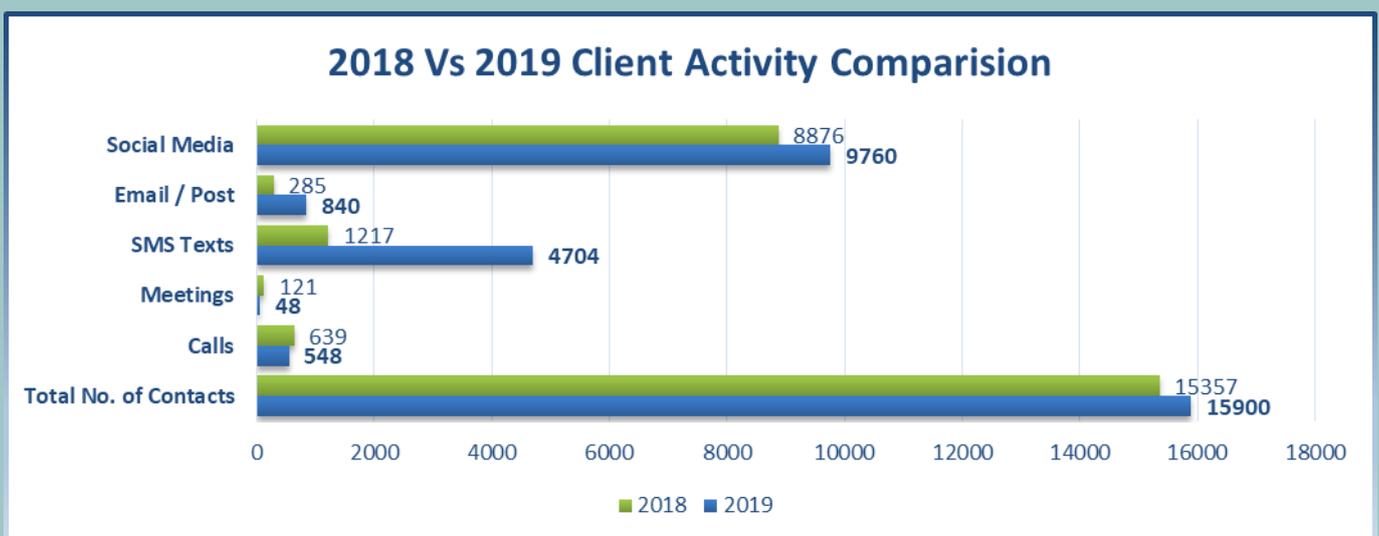
In 2019 Dignity4Patients supported 217 patient victims and their families through our support, advocacy and information services. Court Accompaniment services were also provided to 57 persons in this client group. Services were provided to 7 new clients who fell under current HSE Grant Aid Agreement but services could not be provided to 9 patients who requested our service but who did not fall under the terms of this agreement, four of whom related to patient sexual abuse. These clients were referred to other services.

Breakdown of the 9 patients referred to other agencies:

Patient Sexual Abuse	Non Patient Sexual Abuse	Patient Complaints -Non Sexual Abuse.
4	1	4

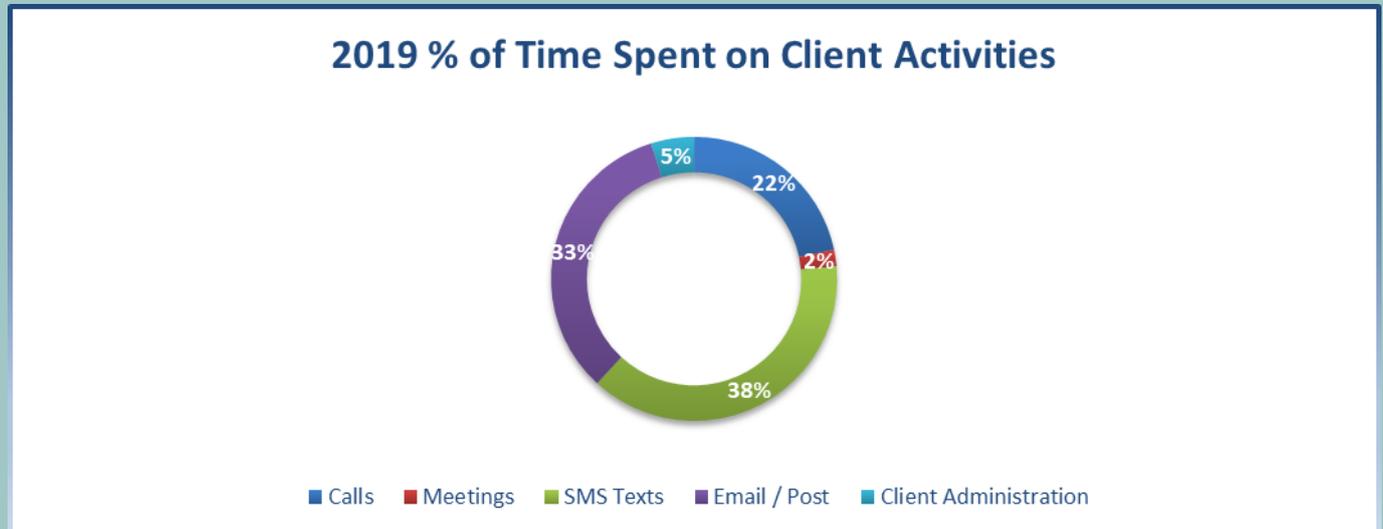
Due in part to the delayed funding in 2019 and the loss of Community Employment (CE) staff the service in 2019 had to adapt to the most efficient service option to meet client needs. Dignity4Patients services via text, email and social media increased, resulting in a marked increase in the total number of contacts made with clients in 2019. If a caller to our helpline does not meet the criteria of the current HSE Grant Aid Agreement then we listen and support the caller and direct them to alternative services. However, our experience tells us that most callers in the area of patient sexual abuse, are reluctant to contact a service which does not specialize in patient sexual abuse. Callers have stated they are reluctant to report to HSE or Health Authority Services as it was within these services they suffered the abuse. This a source of ongoing concern to Dignity4Patients. We do not know if such callers contact the service to which we referred them. We are concerned for the patient and concerned that other patients may be at risk.

In 2019 we increased our client engagement despite the funding difficulties that arose.



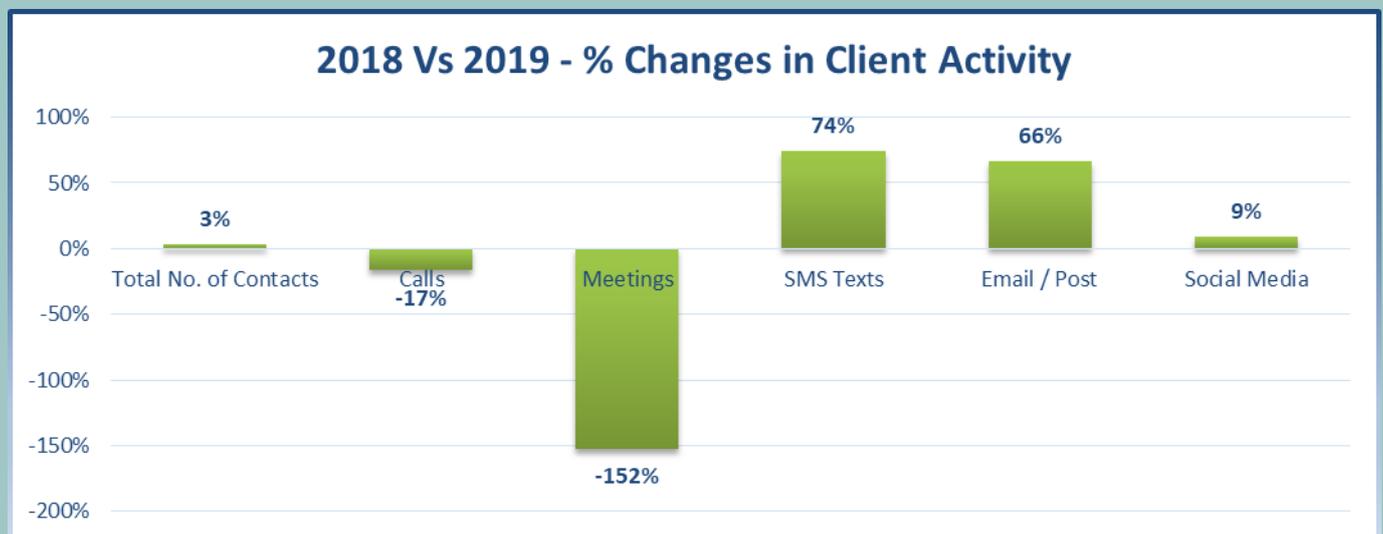
***Note:** Once again in all areas there has been a marked increase in client engagement as can be seen in the Total Number of Contacts made between Dignity4Patients and our clients. The exception to this was client meetings and clients calls which during 2019 have been substituted for SMS texts services due our funding and staffing crisis.

Our core client work over 2019 was divided into the following areas:-



**Note: The above graph demonstrates our success in managing our client support services despite the very limited funding and staffing resources. As the graph demonstrates we optimised digital communication to maintain vital client contact.*

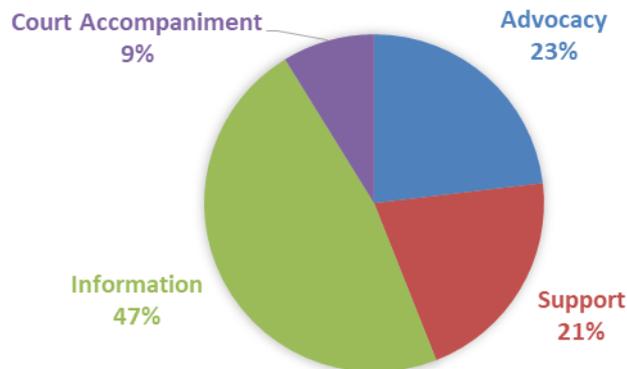
In fulfilling our mission statement Dignity4Patients provided support, advocacy and information services to clients throughout 2019. These services were provided as listed in the graph below:-



**Note: Year on Year comparisons in the chart above demonstrate the continued need for our service within the community as the number on contacts seeking our service has increased again from the previous year. As the graph shows our ability to meet clients on a one to one basis was severely diminished due to our funding and staffing crisis. As clients became aware of these difficulties there was a drop off in clients calls to our service.*

Dignity4Patients provided information on counselling support options, referrals to other support services and supported our clients in their many areas of difficulties during 2019. Dignity4Patients also provided information on reporting options to Hospitals, Medical and Nursing Boards, civil and criminal authorities. The four main activities where the most hours were spent supporting Clients are as follows:- follows:-

2019 - SPLIT OF SERVICE TYPE



**Note: As indicated in the graph above in 2019 the main area of Dignity4Patients service activity was in providing vital information to patients and former patients who suffered the trauma of sexual violence while they were ill, injured or concerned about their health. This service was provided to new and ongoing Dignity4Patients clients and to callers to our Helpline to whom we could not provide a service under our current funding conditions.*

Support

Dignity4Patients provides support to patient victims through our helpline, email, text, one to one appointments and client support group meetings. We refer clients to counselling services, addiction services, suicide prevention services and General Practitioner and other medical services. Following contact with our service, if a person falls under our current funding criteria we offer the person an initial one to one support appointment. Here we assist the client in identifying their support needs both for them and for their family. They may wish to avail of Dignity4Patients services only or they may require referral to counselling or other support or medical services. Sexual abuse of patients ranges from inappropriate sexualized conversation to serious sexual assault including rape. Most clients have many medical and health care questions to be answered at this appointment. Clients very often report constantly questioning for many years, if what happened to them could have been a legitimate medical examination or treatment. Whilst we cannot give a definitive answer to a specific situation' being able to inform the client of what is the normal examination for their presenting medical condition is extremely helpful. Many reported that this uncertainty prevented them from reporting the abuse and it was only when they learned they could ask these questions of a nurse they then had the confidence to come forward. This patient victim uncertainty highlights the need for improved education of the public in the area of intimate medical examinations and treatments. It also highlights a need for more stringent safety measures in this area. In some cases the patient victim has absolutely no doubt that what they suffered was a sexual assault.

Additional knowledge and expertise gathered from experience in the area of sexual abuse of patients contributes significantly to the patient victim feeling understood and empowered to avail of support and to report the abuse.

Advocacy Programme

Following an initial support appointment, clients are offered an Advocacy and Information appointment. Here the client is informed of their reporting options and the processes involved in each. Information booklets are provided. All client questions are answered. The client is assisted in processing their reporting choices with ongoing support and assistance provided. Continued support, advocacy, information and court accompaniment services are provided through our helpline, email, text, client support group meetings and one to one appointments. Child Protection reporting obligations are addressed at this appointment. Assistance in obtaining and deciphering medical records is also an importance part of our advocacy service

Client Quote:

“It was a relief talking to Dignity4Patients who showed advanced understanding of my issue and knowledge of hospital procedures”

Court Accompaniment

In 2019 the Commission for Support of Victims of Crime (Department of Justice) kindly maintained funding of €11,000 to assist in the provision of our court accompaniment service. This service is provided to clients whose cases are currently in the criminal justice system and who meet this funding criteria. Court Accompaniment included continuous support throughout this process from making a Garda Complaint to attending Court hearings. Being enabled to provide this service to 57 patient victims through this funding is most welcomed by Dignity4Patients. We truly appreciate the assistance of the Commission. However, it leaves over 150 Dignity4Patients clients, who have cases in the criminal justice system, unsupported as they navigate this difficult and often traumatic process. This situation came into sharp focus in 2019 when 57 people were informed by the DPP their cases would not be prosecuted. It was not possible to provide the level of support required by these clients in this difficult time due to our current funding levels. We will continue to work with the Department of Justice in seeking to secure funding for improved services for these clients.

We would also like to thank the Department of Justice and allied services, for sharing their information on improved support of victims of crime in the Criminal Justice System. This is most welcome in what remains a very difficult system for victims.

8 Clients had their cases before the criminal Courts

150+ Clients with complaints with the DPP

7 Clients had their case go to trial

1 Trial resulted in a hung jury.

10 Number of Criminal Court hearings in relation to 10 clients scheduled for 2021

7 Guilty verdict was returned for 7 clients

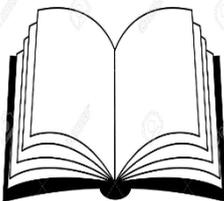
1 Supreme Court ruling affecting Dignity4Patients clients requesting access to transcripts.

2 Appeal of Conviction & Sentence in relation to 2 client cases was heard. Both Conviction and Sentence where upheld by the Court

1 High Court Hearing relating to 1 client for breach of privacy by the Court Services.

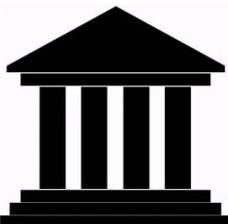
Criminal Justice

Dignity4Patients supports a large number of clients throughout their pursuit of Criminal justice.

		
Number of Criminal Trials	Number of Witness/Victims	Family Members Supported
2	8	5

Civil Justice

Dignity4Patients supports a large number of clients throughout their pursuit for civil justice.

		
Number of Civil Cases	Number of Complainants	Number of Judgements
105	105	2

Civil Justice

A number of Dignity4Patients are seeking justice through the civil courts. These legal processes are long and difficult. Clients report high levels of prolonged insidious stress and difficulties due to the length of time and the many legal challenges they face in this process. In one such case which involves a large number of Dignity4Patients clients many are elderly and have serious health conditions. They carry the additional fear and angst they will die before they receive the civil justice they seek. We frequently hear this distress in calls to our helpline and support meetings. An alternative and more humane legal process which takes cognisance of the complainant's health and wellbeing and the nature of the civil complaints must be considered.

Inquiry Requests & Reviews

In response to Dignity4Patients requests for an inquiry into alleged sexual abuse of patients the Department of Health established a Review in 2010. The findings of this review could not be published and some attendees were unhappy with the process and the outcome. Dignity4Patients and a number of clients lodged a complaint with the Ombudsman's office. The Review documentation including transcripts of attendance was stored in the Department of Health. Many attendees sought the transcripts of their attendance at the Review from the Department of Health. When transcripts were not forthcoming a number of attendees made complaints to the Information Commissioner. There ensued many years of legal challenges between the Department of Health and the Information Commissioner regarding attendees' rights to access their transcripts. In May 2019, the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the High Court that the transcripts of attendance at this Review are the property of the Judge who presided over this review and therefore the Department of Health could not provide these transcripts to attendees. Attendees remain unhappy with these court decisions. Dignity4Patients provided support and advocacy services to those affected in this case. Dignity4Patients met with Department of Health officials in 2016 to request a more expanded Inquiry/examination of reported cases of sexual abuse of patients. We would welcome an opportunity to readdress this request with the Department of Health.

Placing Dignity4Patients under the remit of the Patient Safety/Patient Services Sections of the Department of Health as well as the Indemnity Section would prove humanly cost effective for patients and financially cost effective for Health authorities.

Data Protection Commissioner Vs the Courts Service

The privacy of the attendee at the centre of the above case was breached by the Courts Service despite the existence of a Court Order to protect his privacy. Following a complaint, the Data Protection Commissioner ruled in favour of the attendee and found that the Courts Service had breached the Data Protection Act, The Courts Service appealed the Data Protection Commissioner's findings in 2019. The Court ruled in favour of the Data Protection Commissioner and the attendee. This decision has now been appealed to the High Court by the Court's Service. This breach of privacy impacted considerably on the client at the centre of this case. In this particular case of alleged sexual abuse of patients this was the 3rd time over the past number of years that the Courts Service breached the privacy of complainants through the courts website. Witness privacy in cases of sexual abuse is an issue which warrants attention by the Courts Service. The Court Support Service provided invaluable assistance to Dignity4Patients.



Medical Council

Dignity4Patients has provided further support to clients in the complex complaints processes and fitness to practice inquiries of the Irish Medical Council. In 2019 we supported 5 clients through the Medical Council complaints process. Dignity4Patients has a number of concerns regarding this process.

There is an element of disquiet among complainants as they find the process of complaint difficult to navigate and at times emotionally challenging. Whilst Dignity4Patients understand the statutory nature of the Preliminary proceedings committee role the level of disquiet and dissatisfaction among complainants is noteworthy.

It's a concern to Dignity4Patients that the Irish Medical Council guidelines does not include adequate information on Sexual Boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship. Many international medical boards introduced such guidelines when they examined cases of doctor's sexual abuse of patients, for example, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. To date the Irish Medical Council have not included such information despite hearing a number of serious cases of sexual abuse of patients.

We believe The Nursing and Midwifery Board should also consider introducing such guidelines.

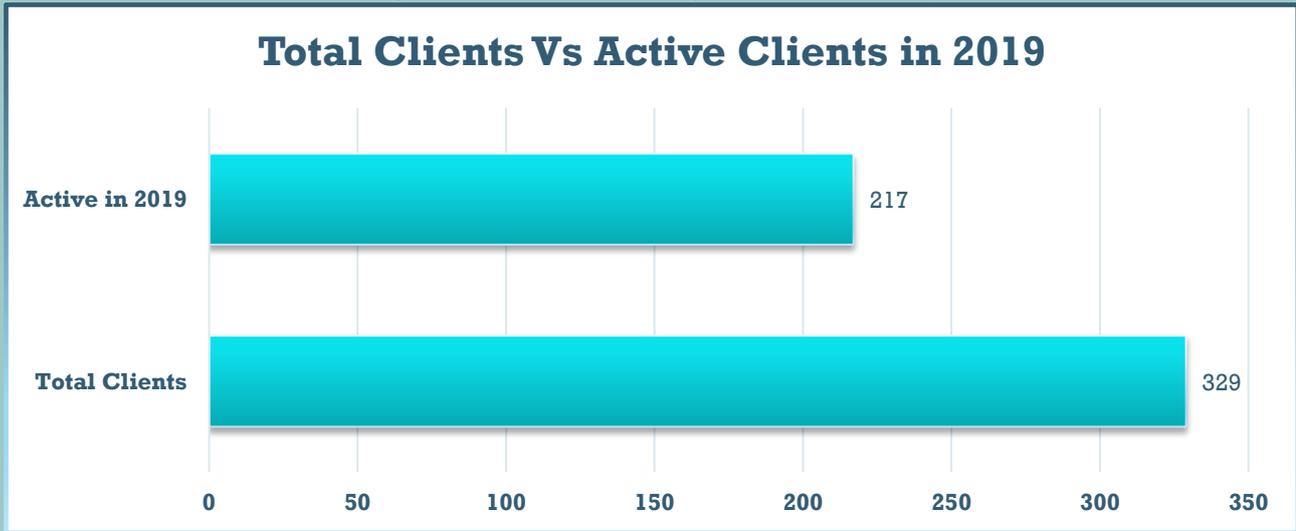
Medical Records

Dignity4Patients assist clients in accessing Medical Records from Hospitals, GP Practices and Private Consulting Rooms. This is another area where healthcare knowledge and expertise has proved invaluable to clients particularly where there has been difficulty in accessing medical records. Nursing knowledge assisted in identifying areas where a record maybe held when medical record was not initially available. Obtaining Medical Records is very important to the client personally but is also vital to criminal, civil and other investigations.

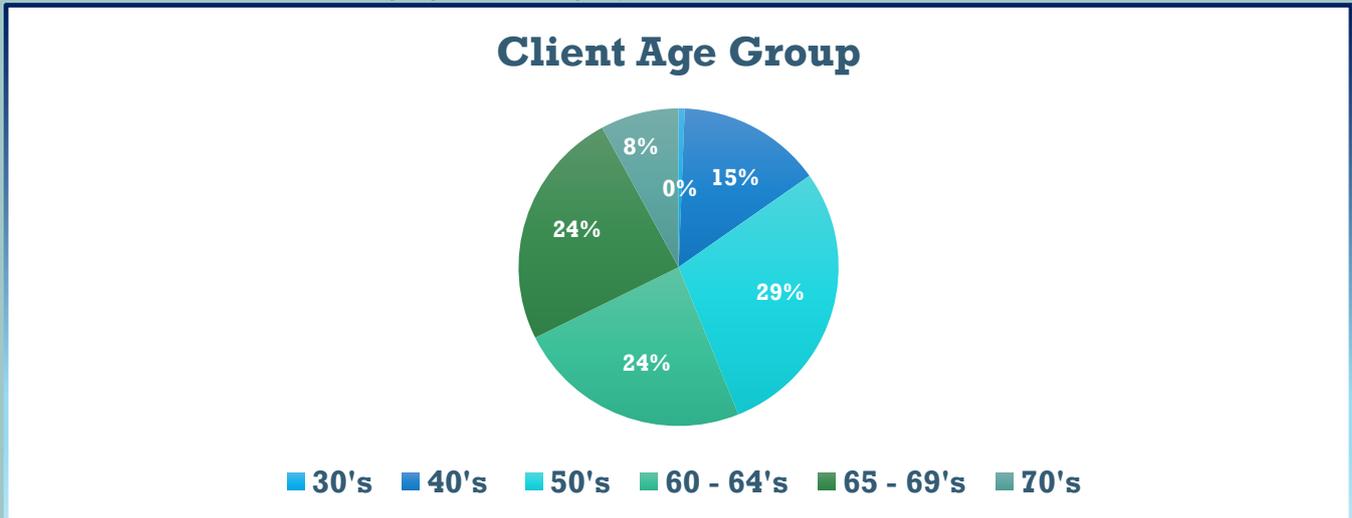
“Nursing knowledge was key when reviewing medical records. (Dignity4Patients) removed ambiguity, and brought clarity which went a long way to my recovery.”

“Nursing knowledge was key when reviewing medical records. Confirmed that 'examination' was not recorded in medical records. I was unable to understand medical terminology and you made sense of medical records for me. This was really helpful.”

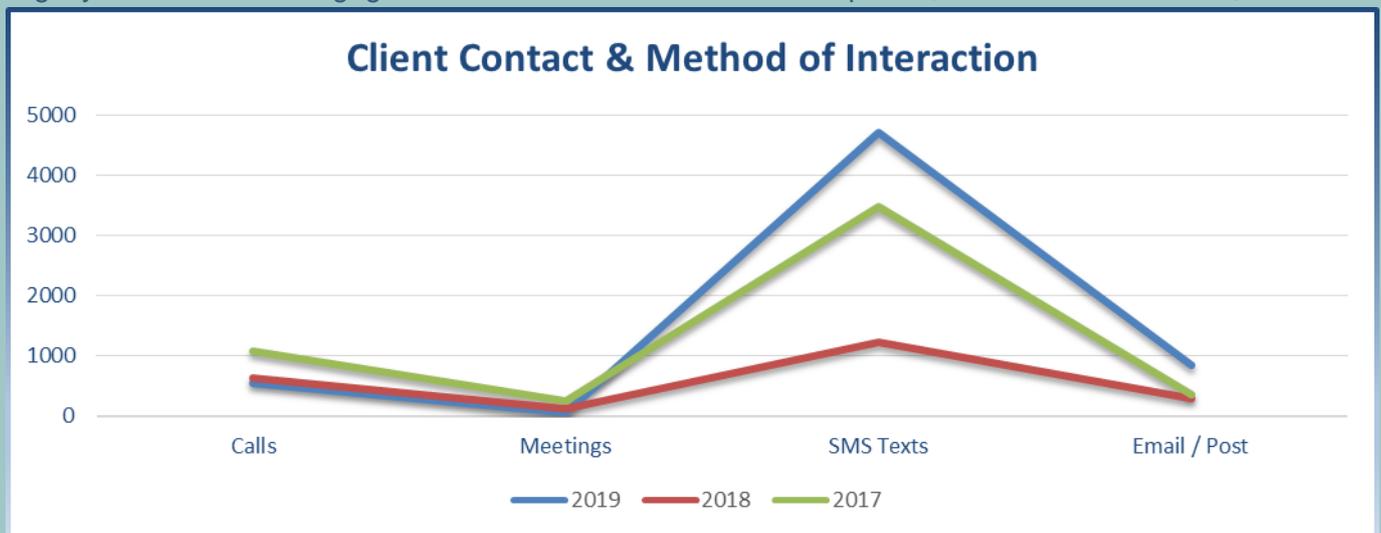
Of the 329 active clients of Dignity4Patients 217 sought advocacy, support or information in 2019



A breakdown of the current age group of Dignity4Patients clients;



Dignity4Patients main engagement with our clients is via our telephone, email and text service;



Funding & Fundraising

HSE Engagement & Grant Aid Agreement Funding

Dignity4Patients once again benefited from the allocation of €100,000 of HSE Funding. This was again greatly appreciated but falls far below the funding required to provide the level of frontline service required by our 329 clients together with costs of service management and administration.

Dignity4Patients needs to recruit experienced staff from suitably skilled backgrounds. Increased funding is needed for the recruitment of an experienced and qualified Nurse Counsellor/ Patient Advocate. We look forward to a review of this funding level in 2020.

Department of Justice Funding(Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime)

An increase in Department of Justice funding would be most welcome considering the number of criminal cases, court hearings, criminal trials, court appeals and Supreme Court hearings our clients are subjected to in their quest for justice. Dignity4Patients clients through reporting crimes of sexual violence to criminal authorities, are assisting the state in bringing sex offenders in the health service to justice and helping remove this risk to patients. Patient Victims endure the difficulties of the criminal justice system in pursuit of personal justice and to protect other patients. Support during this process is essential. Current funding levels do not allow for provision of support required by the volume of clients whose cases are currently in the criminal justice system. We will continue to seek improved funding from the Department of Justice to assist us in supporting these clients.

Fundraising

Previously Dignity4Patients engaged in a number of fundraising events such as flag days, church gate collections, participations in annual fundraising events like the Boyne 10K runs. Vital funds raised assisted in providing services to our clients at the same time raising awareness. In 2019 due to the funding and staffing crisis we were unable to carry out any fundraising activities. This resulted in a significant loss of income for Dignity4Patients.

Governance & Policy Development

Board of Management Development

The Executive Director, together with the Finance and Administration Officer, assisted the Board with policy development and implementation of improved governance systems. Dignity4Patients wishes to acknowledge the time and commitment of its board members in their oversight of our service. Volunteering their expertise and assistance proves invaluable support to our service. During 2019 Dignity4Patients began a board development and recruitment process. It is planned to increase Board numbers to assist in the growing demand for governance in the not-for-profit sector. Continuous review and compliance development were addressed by the Board of Management in 2019.

Governance & Policy Development

Considerable work was undertaken in 2019 to meet compliance requirements of the incoming Charities Governance Code. A full review of our policies and governance documents was undertaken to ensure compliance with the CRA recommendations. While this work was laborious the outcome provides clear guidance to both Management and the Board of Management of Dignity4patients and is a most welcome development in the charity sector in Ireland. However, additional funding to support this work would have been most helpful in view of our limited staffing complement. Additional unpaid working hours by management was required to complete this work.

Board of Management

Paul Murphy – Acting Chairperson (July 2019)
 Paul Farrell – Treasurer
 Gemma Byrne – Director (Leave of Absence)
 Áine McDonough – Director
 Peter O Toole – Director (Sept 2019)

Retired Board Members

Brendan Kerin – Chairperson (Resigned July 2019)
 Grainne Rafferty – Director (Resigned May 2019)

Management Team & Staff

Bernadette Sullivan – *Executive Director*
 Bernadette Sullivan – *Director of Services*
 Philip O'Donoghue – *Finance & Administration*
 Catherine Smith – Helpline Assistant (Sept 2019)

CE Placement Staff

Magdalena Gauza – (Ended July 2019)
 Catherine Smith – (Ended May 2019)

Patient Safety & Prevention

Engagement with State Bodies

To date Dignity4Patients under the supervision of a voluntary board has endeavoured to highlight the issue of Patient Sexual abuse to the relevant state bodies. However, the engagement and acknowledgement of the issue of sexual abuse of patients within the Irish Health Care system remains under the radar. Public awareness, education and prevention needs to be improved

It is our wish that at the start of a new decade in 2020 that Dignity4Patients is granted resources and opportunities to strengthen our engagement with Health and Justice Authorities and other allied agencies, to ensure adequate care for patients who have suffered sexual abuse and implementation of strong preventative measures.

There have been improvements in the safeguarding of vulnerable patients from abuse. It is our belief that all patients are vulnerable to sexual abuse because of patient dynamics and the nature of medical treatments and examinations. There have also been very welcome improvements for victims involved in criminal justice processes although it remains a very difficult process.

What is most needed is improved prevention measures together improved care for patient victims both in the acute aftermath of suffering sexual abuse as a patient and in their long-term journey to recovery.

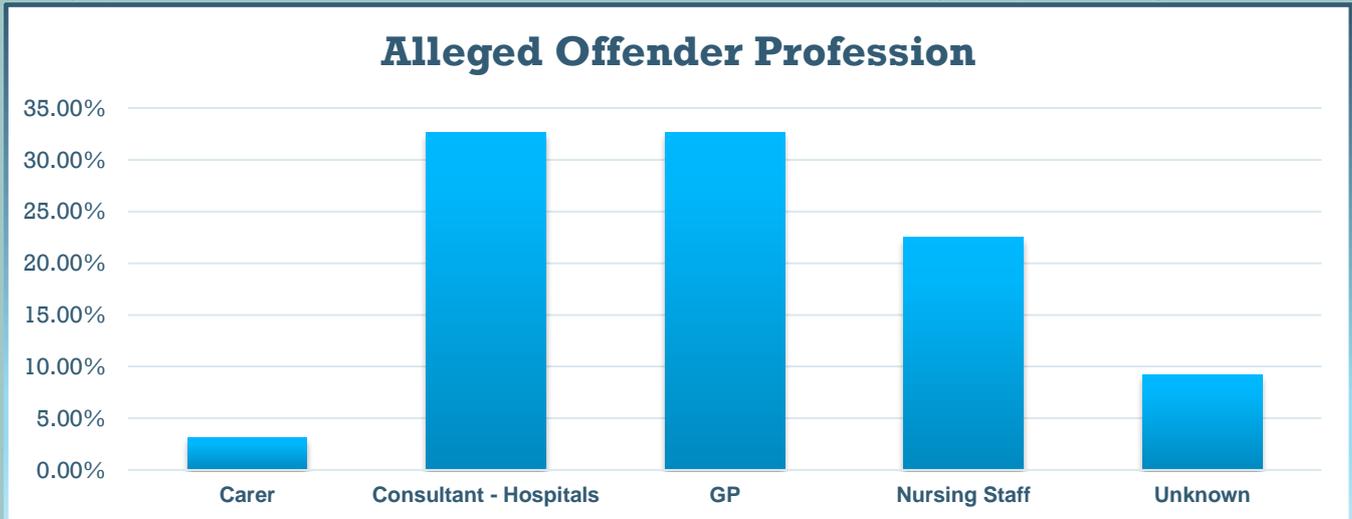
Patient Safety Concerns

In Dignity4Patients we continue to be concerned that the restrictive terms and conditions of Dignity4Patients/HSE Grant Aid Agreement are negatively impacting on some of our clients, patient victims outside this funding agreement and general patient protection from sexual violence. We are also concerned that these conditions are having a 'divide and conquer' impact on the issue of addressing sexual abuse of patients in Ireland. We are prohibited from providing ongoing services to patients who contact us asking for help, in cases outside the limited number of cases identified under HSE Grant Aid Agreement. Although Department of Justice funding does not impose the same restrictions it is also limited in other areas and amount. In some cases callers to our service have suffered recent acts of sexual violence. This gives rise to concerns for the wellbeing of that caller and the safety of other patients under the care of that particular health professional. Most complaints received by Dignity4Patients to date concern male doctors but we have also received complaints against individuals in almost all health professions. Most perpetrators are male and most patient victims are female outside of one case where there are a very high number of male victims.

Patient Trust

Patient Trust is central to the Health professional /patient relationship and in the Health service. It is really important not to undermine this trust when highlighting the issue of patient sexual abuse. Addressing this issue protects both the patient, Healthcare professions and services. It is our belief it is a minority of Healthcare professionals who harm their patients through sexual abuse. However, we do believe that sexual abuse of patients is more prevalent than is commonly known. In our experience in the case of serial sex offenders in Health Services the number of offenders maybe small but the number of patients that one offender has access to abuse is great. There are also non serial offenders who offend at a lower scale. Sexual abuse of patients can be both overt and covert which can be very confusing for patients. Our findings are reflected internationally

The graph below illustrates a breakdown of offender professions relating to reports to Dignity4Patients:



Location of Dignity4Patients clients.

Louth	Meath	Dublin	Rest of Ireland	International
52.1%	15.5%	11.7%	15.9%	4.8%

Client Quote:

“before Dignity4Patients support the issue was never discussed, now it has been brought into the open and has been beneficial to all the family”

Client Testimonials

Service Benefits

“The ease of talking to Dignity4Patients has been a weight off my shoulders that has sat there for years”

“Now I am less embarrassed in talking about this personal and intimate issue, disclosing to a nurse made all the difference”

“The benefit of my contact with Dignity4Patients has been immense to me”

“I appreciate what Dignity4Patients do but without Dignity4Patients help I sometimes can’t see a light at the end of the tunnel.”

“Dignity4Patients service has been of great assistance to me in accessing help, addressing and reporting my issue.”

“Dignity4Patients support has enabled me to address this issue and seek help for my recovery”

“Nursing knowledge was key when reviewing medical records. (Dignity4Patients) removed ambiguity, and brought clarity which went a long way to my recovery.”

Expert Medical/Nursing Knowledge

“thanks to Dignity4Patients nursing expertise, it’s helped me to finally disclose my sensitive complaint”

“It was a relief talking to Dignity4Patients who showed advanced understanding of my issue and knowledge of hospital procedures”

“I am so appreciative of Dignity4Patients knowledge around relevant patient care”

“(Dignity4Patients) their support and information around hospital systems and medical records has helped me get to a better place”

“Being able to decipher my medical records with Dignity4Patients was very helpful”

Financial Statements

Profit and loss account

financial year ended 31 December 2019

		2019	2018
	Note	€	€
Income	5	<u>121,426</u>	<u>122,076</u>
Gross profit		121,426	122,076
Administrative expenses		<u>(119,112)</u>	<u>(120,015)</u>
Operating profit	6	2,314	2,061
Exceptional Item			
Profit before taxation		2,314	2,061
Tax on profit		=	=
Profit for the financial year		<u>2,314</u>	<u>2,061</u>

Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the financial year, including the directors, was as follows:

	2019	2018
	Number	Number
Administration	2	2
Management	1	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	2019	2018
	€	€
Wages and salaries	72,034	75,907
Social insurance costs	<u>7,605</u>	<u>7,760</u>
	<u>79,639</u>	<u>83,667</u>

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2019

		2019		2018	
	Note	€	€	€	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9	18,805		16,541	
			18,805		16,541
Current assets					
Debtors	10	2,025		1,376	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>46,115</u>		<u>63,854</u>	
		48,140		65,230	
Creditors: amounts falling due					
within one year	11	(3,374)		(11,892)	
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>63,571</u>		<u>69,879</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due					
after more than one year	12		<u>(47,067)</u>		<u>(55,689)</u>
Net assets			16,504		14,190
Profit and loss account			<u>16,504</u>		<u>14,190</u>
Members funds			<u>16,504</u>		<u>14,190</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 13th May 2020 and signed on behalf of the board by **Paul Murphy** and **Paul Farrell**.

Statement of cash flows

Financial year ended 31 December 2019

	2019	2018
	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit for the financial year	2,314	2,061
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible assets	3,908	3,617
Government Grant Income	(111,000)	(111,000)
Gain/Loss on tangible assets	3,458	
Accrued expenses/(income)	(702)	703
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	(649)	991
Trade and other creditors	(16,437)	(5,870)
Cash generated from operations	(119,108)	(109,488)
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	<u>(119,108)</u>	<u>(109,488)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(9,631)	(274)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(9,631)</u>	<u>(274)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(17,739)	1,228
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	<u>63,854</u>	<u>62,626</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<u>46,115</u>	<u>63,854</u>

Acknowledgements

In 2019 Dignity4Patients continued its valuable work in supporting patients victims of sexual abuse in the Irish Health Service. We thank all who have supported us in our work including our board of management, staff and volunteers including volunteer expert advisers.

We thank all our clients who have put their trust in us. We will continue to give you the respect and dignity you deserve and assist you in your recovery and advocate on your behalf.

Our work would not have been possible without the ongoing support of the Department of Health, the HSE and the Department of Justice. We acknowledge and sincerely thank them for their very support. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the numerous agencies who provided assistance to Dignity4Patients and its clients in 2019.

Ways to Help Us

Thank you for reading this annual report. To continue to expand our service and to continue to be available to assist those who have or who will suffer sexual abuse in our Healthcare service, we urgently need financial help.

There are many ways in which **YOU** can support the service we provide:

- Donate via a monthly Standing Order.
- Make a once off donation.
- Leave us a gift in your will.
- Take part in our annual fundraising events.
- Corporate support from your employer's social responsibility fund.

If **YOU** would like to help us continue our services please contact us at:

1st Floor Offices, 29 Park Heights, Grange Rath, Drogheda, Co. Meath, A92 P8FP.

Tel: 041 - 984 5761

Web: www.dignity4patients.org

Email: fundraising@dignity4patients.org

“I could never have come forward to a general sexual abuse service. I needed to talk to somebody with medical knowledge. The service and support I received from Dignity4Patients has been so helpful to me”
