



Future Work

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Future Work

As an agency that defines itself as “need responsive”, One in Four seeks to develop services and programmes of work that are informed by the issues presented by women and men accessing the service. This ethos applies in every area of the organisation’s work. This section of our first annual report outlines areas of future work and development for One in Four. It is important to state clearly that whether such development can be achieved successfully depends entirely upon the resources available to the organisation, both in financial and human resource terms. This vision is aspirational while also in our view essential. The work outlined represents real and current need. Such needs are not static; our understanding of them may change and develop as the work is undertaken. Our approach to organisational development demands that we be dynamic, innovative, focused, holistic and always open to deeper awareness and understanding in the work.

Psychotherapy

With the exception of the Clinical Director’s post, the Therapy Programme at One in Four does not receive any State funding and is therefore dependent on contributions, donations and fundraising if we are to meet the demands on the service in providing one-to-one therapy and group therapy. The programme employs a team of seven psychotherapists and two student placement psychotherapists. It is a substantial programme that delivers a professional service while operating within very tight financial constraints. The future development of the programme is therefore dependent upon resources and funding.

Extending the Service:

We currently offer one-to-one therapy and group therapy during the week days, Monday to Friday from 09:00 – 21:00. We plan to extend the service to Saturdays, thus meeting the needs of many clients who contact the organisation and who wish to engage in therapy but because of personal circumstance can only attend on a Saturday. The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre have been offering this invaluable and flexible option to clients for many years and it is with this kind of vision that One in Four approaches this particular phase in the development of the Therapy Programme.

Group Therapy

One in Four is looking to develop this area of the Therapy Programme both as a response to service users but also to explore creative alternatives in working with women and men who have experienced sexual abuse and/or sexual violence. We are exploring the possibility of introducing an on-going Art Therapy Group, Eating Disorders/Self-Harm Group and a Play Therapy Group.

Two Day Workshop

A two day workshop will be offered to Counsellors, Psychotherapists, Counselling Psychologists, Social Workers and to Student Trainees in any of these areas, who are either currently working, or who may be interested in exploring and developing their skills working with the issues of sexual abuse and/or sexual violence.

The aim of the workshop is to offer an opportunity for professionals to come together, to discuss, to explore and to experience aspects of their work which they may wish to develop. It will also offer a forum where questions are welcomed and in the spirit of collaboration are responded to by colleagues and peers.

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Consultation and Training

There is a great deal of expertise in the Clinical Team and One in Four is committed to exploring new and diverse ways in which this expertise can be utilized. Over the coming year we will be offering consultation to individuals and teams within schools, colleges, residential homes, the Gardaí and the probation service. We can offer support, clinical supervision, opportunities to explore aspects of case management, education and training appropriate to the professional context. Professionals working in any of these areas are likely to have to deal with either young people or adults who disclose an experience of sexual abuse and/or sexual violence and often these professionals feel un-skilled to do so. In consultation with One in Four, individuals and teams can explore their particular needs in a confidential, supportive and reflective way.

Open Nights

The open nights have been a crucial part of the organisation's service and have offered women and men a space where they can meet others who have experienced sexual abuse and/or sexual violence. The feedback from the users has been positive and suggestions as to how these open nights could be further developed have been appreciated. Over the coming year One in Four will have an Open Night on the third Thursday of every month and each evening will have a particular theme where other professionals will offer their time and expertise to discuss and explore a wide range of issues: for example, the legal framework, self-care, eating disorders and self-harm, suicide, addiction etc.

Advocacy Programme

In all areas of One in Four's work, demands upon the service have heavily outweighed available resources. This has been especially apparent within the Advocacy Programme. The availability of further resources is not only essential for the future development of the programme but for its continued ability to deliver service.

Staffing

One of the primary goals for the Advocacy Programme in 2004 will be to secure funding in order to recruit additional staff. As has been stated previously in the report, the advocacy programme is staffed by one individual. In 2003, the service could neither meet demand nor develop further. As demand upon the service is expected to increase, further staff will be essential.

Continued Client Support

One in Four will continue to provide appropriate support to women and men seeking information, advice and support through the Advocacy Programme either by telephone, meetings, e-mail or letter.

Criminal Justice System

Throughout 2003 issues surrounding the criminal justice system emerged. In particular, the length of time it takes for criminal proceedings to be completed, a perceived lack of consistency in the sentencing of convicted perpetrators, and the high levels of attrition in cases of historical sexual violence against children and adults. It is our hope to develop greater understanding of the issues and concerns in relation to the criminal justice system by further monitoring and detailing statistical and anecdotal evidence of peoples experience in this regard. Such data is essential for on-going research that seeks to inform and promote government policy development.

Ferns Inquiry – submission and victim support

The Advocacy Programme in One in Four will continue to support additional people who choose to give evidence to the Ferns Inquiry in 2004. In 2003, One in Four undertook in-depth documentary research in order to compile a submission to the Inquiry. We hope to finalise and submit this submission in 2004. The organisation will seek to support and assist individuals who have participated in the Inquiry up to and beyond the publication of its final report. We will also seek to play a constructive and innovative part in the examination of the report and the implementation of any recommendations.

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Dublin Arch Diocese Inquiry

Minister McDowell has indicated that he hopes that the statutory Inquiry into the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin will commence in 2004. We therefore expect to undertake preparatory work to ensure that individuals wishing to give evidence to the Inquiry will receive support and assistance in the process, similar to the support offered to witnesses in the Ferns Inquiry. This will create a considerable volume of work for the organisation, as the Inquiry will be substantially larger than the Ferns Inquiry and will be statutory.

Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse

We expect that 2004 will be a transformative period for the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse. It is our intention to play an appropriate part in that process by providing support to those witnesses before the Commission who are engaged with services at One in Four. It will be our primary aim that those individuals receive clear and objective information in relation to the Commission and any proposals forthcoming. We will also seek to engage with all interested parties in an effort to ensure that any future development or changes to the Commission reflect the needs of the women and men we support.

Redress Board

In 2003 the Advocacy Programme provided support and information to a number of individuals making applications to the Residential Institutions Redress Board. We will continue in this work in 2004 and anticipate greater need as the application process comes to an end. Such support will be essential as some cases may be called to hearing, thus requiring ongoing assistance that informs an understanding of the process.

Information Leaflets

One of the main learning points in 2003, was the absolute need for clear objective information in accessing services, while also ensuring that clients are fully informed of their rights and entitlements. We therefore intend to compile information leaflets on the criminal justice process, the civil process and the rights of all individuals involved in such processes.

Further Organisational Development

Best Practice

One in Four is committed to best practice in all aspects of the organisations work. In this regard the continued development and implementation of internal practices and policies will be central to our work in 2004.

Fundraising

The coming year presents significant challenges for One in Four in our efforts to properly resource the organisation. We will seek to put in place a dynamic fundraising programme that works to create greater public awareness of the service whilst also raising funds. One in Four will also develop income and funding streams that are service based.

Voluntary Service

Over the past year many women and men have contacted the service wishing to offer their support in practical ways. From the time of its inception, One in Four has considered the establishment of a voluntary service to extend both the Therapy and the Advocacy Programmes. It is a very exciting prospect for the organisation and we envisage its establishment over a three year period. This time frame allows us to research, explore options and training needs and to identify resources.



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Outreach

One in Four will seek to develop an outreach programme that ensures there is both an awareness of the service and a means to engage with the organisation. This programme will need to focus not simply on the provision of high quality information leaflets etc, but also upon ensuring that agencies and professionals are aware of the service, fully understand its approach and ethos and know how to refer clients.

One in Four will also seek to develop relationship with other services and agencies internationally involved in similar work.

Monitoring and Evaluation

One in Four will develop an in-house database to track and record client contact which will assist in the development and monitoring of services and the gathering of statistical data. Such data will be vital for the future evaluation of services at One in Four.

It is our intention to source or develop evaluation tools and apply them across the service with particular emphasis on psychotherapy and advocacy.

Board Development

In 2004, we will work towards the development and expansion of the Board of One in Four. Particular emphasis will be placed upon recruiting individual board members with skills in the academic, legal, arts, mental health, social care and financial arenas.



One in Four On-line

One in Four will continue to develop and refine its online presence; www.oneinfour.org. The community message boards on the site will be updated and re-developed. The existing message boards have proven unreliable and we intend to develop boards that we can host on our own server space.

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On-line polls will be added to the site, creating further opportunities for feedback and comment. The News Section will be expanded and a separate International News Section added. It is also hoped that we can further develop the News Archives. Further external links will be added for appropriate agencies both in Ireland and abroad. We will seek to make the site more accessible; exploring access for those using WAP enabled mobile phones and handheld PDAs.

