



# Introduction

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This first Annual Report of One in Four Ireland presents the organisation with its first opportunity to explain in detail the nature of its work and to demonstrate its commitment to best practice in both service delivery and governance. It is an opportunity that we welcome.

The name One in Four comes from research that consistently tells us that 25% of adults disclose an experience of childhood sexual abuse. In Ireland this figure is 27%<sup>1</sup>.

One in Four was founded in the UK in 1999, when a group of therapists in private practice found that a significant number of their clients disclosed childhood sexual abuse. While individual therapy was in the main effective and helpful, there were needs that could not appropriately be met through individual psychotherapy. It was decided to establish an organisation that would develop services to address the wider needs of that client group through individual therapy, group therapy, advocacy and support.

Following on from the public and media attention that resulted from the screening of the BBC documentary, “*Suing the Pope*”, One in Four (London) decided to explore the possibility of establishing an office in Ireland. The London office was inundated with calls, letters and e-mails from Ireland and the website [www.oneinfour.org](http://www.oneinfour.org), which was set up to give access to the UK service from Ireland, was recording 2,000 to 3,000 hits per day.

Colm O’Gorman, Director of One in Four (London), approached the Irish Government to discuss how to proceed and was encouraged to put forward a concrete proposal. The Government strongly encouraged the establishment of One in Four Ireland.

This first annual report covers the period from the incorporation of the organisation as a Company limited by guarantee on July 15th 2002, to the end of the financial year 2003. In November 2002, One in Four Ireland received funding to secure and refurbish offices in Holles Street, Dublin and recruit staff. In reading this report it is important to recognise that accounts cover financial dealings from 2002 to 2003, whereas the service information and statistics refer to the period February to December 2003. The provision of core client services, Psychotherapy and Advocacy, commenced in February 2003.

The report that follows sets out in detail the work undertaken by One in Four since its establishment. It also details the approach adopted by the organisation in carrying out this work and the financial accounts that refer to the period. Transparency and accountability are core principles of One in Four, the organisation is funded in part by grant aid from public funds, by donation, through service provision and by fundraising. We therefore believe that we have a responsibility to demonstrate clearly and fully how we use such funds and apply ‘best practice’ principles across our programme of services. For this reason we have adopted a policy of publishing, as part of our Annual Reports, the full text of the Annual Audit carried out by John P. Carlin and Company, independent auditors.

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1. McGee, H. Garavan, R., De Barra, M. Byrne, J and Conroy, R. (2002). *The SAVI Report - Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland*. Dublin: Liffey Press in Association with the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre.