

AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE

AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE was established in 1986 as a co-ordinating group for voluntary organisations working on AIDS. Our constituent groups are:-

AIDS HELPLINE DUBLIN, CAIRDE, GAY HEALTH ACTION, BODY POSITIVE GROUP, WOMEN AND AIDS GROUP, YOUTH ACTION PROJECT BALLYMUN, PRACTICAL AID, WESTERN AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE, CORK AIDS ALLIANCE.

We also receive support from a wide range of affiliated groups (Trade Unions, Professional Associations, Women's Groups etc.).

Our aim has been to identify and meet the needs of our constituent groups and provide central resources and to co-ordinate the work of various groups working in the area of AIDS.

To date we have:-

- 1) Established AIDS HELPLINE DUBLIN - a telephone information line which operates three times per week.
- 2) Compiled comprehensive training programmes for the use of all our constituent groups in the training of volunteers.
- 3). Co-ordinated, presented and participated in many information talks and seminars on AIDS for community groups, youth groups and schools.
- 4). Co-ordinated a series of fundraising events for our constituent groups including major concerts in 1988.

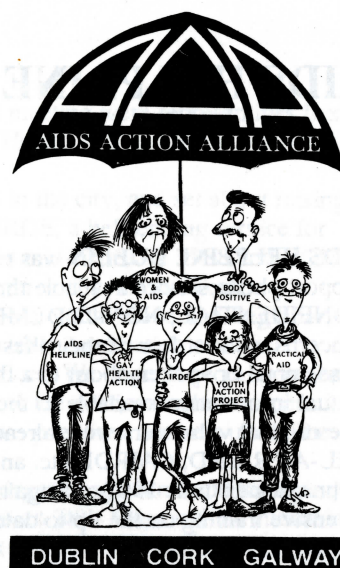
The major service for which we have identified a need among voluntary groups is a resource centre which would provide centrally, the information and co-ordination required by groups working on Aids.

This resource has also been identified as a basic need by frontline workers at a seminar in early November 1987 organised by the Health Education Bureau and the Catholic Bishop's National Task Force.

We have now secured office space in the Community Service Project, 13 Christchurch Place, Dublin 8, which has been provided by Dublin Corporation. We aim to develop this office to provide a number of services to meet shared needs.

- It will provide a base from which the Alliance can work.
- It will provide a central information and reference resource.
- It will provide a meeting place for groups working on AIDS.
- It will provide back-up administrative resources for our constituent groups.

Work on AIDS is difficult and demanding, and it is essential to avoid wasted effort and duplication of services. The Alliance, through its Resource Centre, can help everyone working on AIDS to achieve their common aim: to halt the spread of the virus in Ireland, and to ensure the best help, advice, and rights for those whom the virus has affected. AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE, 13 Christchurch Place, Dublin 8. Telephone 01-531169.



LIST OF ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED TO AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE

CORE GROUPS:-

AIDS HELPLINE DUBLIN
BODY POSITIVE
CAIRDE
GAY HEALTH ACTION
PRACTICAL AID
WOMEN AND AIDS
YOUTH ACTION PROJECT, BALLYMUN
WESTERN AIDS ALLIANCE (GALWAY BRANCH OF AAA)
AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE (CORK)

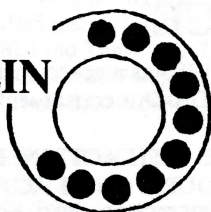
AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS:-

ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT STAFFS (ASTMS)
COMHLAMH - THE RETURNED DEVELOPMENT WORKERS ASSOCIATION
DUBLIN WELL WOMAN CENTRE
IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
IRISH DISTRIBUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRADE UNION (IDATU)
IRISH FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES UNION
MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION
NORTH CITY CENTRE COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT
UNION OF PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL CIVIL SERVANTS (UPTCS)
UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND (USI)

OBSERVER STATUS:-

ANA LIFFEY PROJECT

AIDS HELPLINE DUBLIN



AIDS HELPLINE DUBLIN was established in April 1987 by AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE. It is an information and support phone service available three days a week. The helpline operates on three basic principles: to provide a CONFIDENTIAL, NON-JUDGEMENTAL and NON-DIRECTIVE service. Callers can discuss their worries or concerns without fear of their lifestyles being condemned or spoken about to a third party and the callers always retains their freedom of choice whilst having factual information available to them.

The original volunteers were already trained in other services like WOMEN AND AIDS, GAY HEALTH ACTION, TEL-A-FRIEND, CAIRDE etc. and collectively had years of good, practical experience in non-directive telephone techniques. In June 1987 and again in April 1988 the volunteers were joined by new volunteers who received extensive training on the up to date situation regarding AIDS and HIV infection in Ireland.

As well as the Telephone Support and Information Service, Helpline volunteers have been invited to talk to schools, colleges and to organisations like the Samaritans. The Helpline is very aware of the ever changing situation of AIDS in our society and all its volunteers are kept up to date at regular meetings where we can inform and support each other. The Helpline is an active member of AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE and through the Alliance keeps in touch with the other voluntary groups working with AIDS.

The Helpline receives no Government funding and relies on the public generosity. We are also looking for more volunteers which would enable us to expand our existing service.

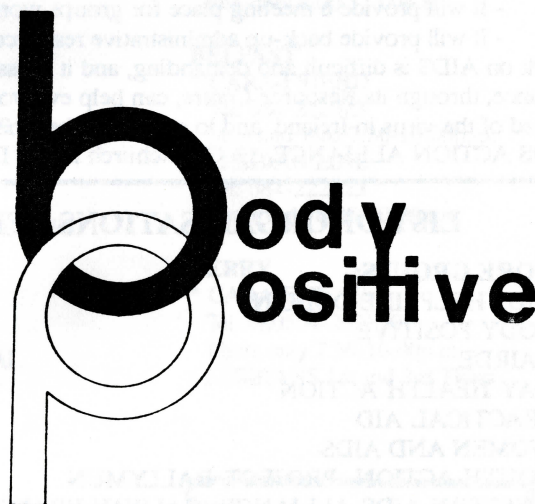
AIDS HELPLINE DUBLIN can be contacted by telephoning 01-307888 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7.00-9.00p.m. and on Saturdays from 3.00-6.00p.m.

or in writing to:

AIDS HELPLINE DUBLIN,

P.O. Box 1884,

Dublin 1.



BODY POSITIVE

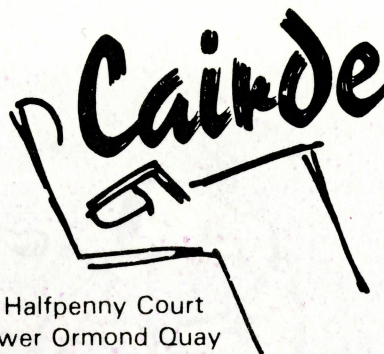
BODY POSITIVE is a support group which is run and organised by people with H.I.V. infection, A.R.C. and AIDS. The group is assisted by a trained facilitator.

BODY POSITIVE is completely non-judgmental and draws its membership from the three high risk groups: I.V. Drug Users, Gay Men and Haemophiliacs.

OUR MEETINGS are strictly confidential, without any risk of disclosure. Everything is discussed from social and personal problems to difficulties at work, or medical and financial dilemmas. Talks are also given by members of BODY POSITIVE to interested groups in schools, colleges, clubs and institutions. Members of the group are also available to visit people who are in hospital, who have just been diagnosed or who are isolated from family and friends.

If you have AIDS, A.R.C. or are H.I.V.+ or have a friend you feel might benefit from contact with BODY POSITIVE, then contact us through our P.O. Box or through any of the AIDS Voluntary Groups listed in this programme. We will arrange a face to face meeting with one of our members to fill in details and answer any outstanding questions.

Contact: BODY POSITIVE, c/o AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 1884, Dublin 1.



Halfpenny Court
36/37 Lower Ormond Quay
Dublin 1
Ph. 733799/730877

CAIRDE

CAIRDE is a Support/Helping group for people affected by AIDS, regardless of race, religion or sexual preference. Started in September 1985, its volunteers come from all walks of life, receive intensive training. This training develops their own life skills and listening abilities in order to sensitize to the needs of a Person with AIDS. While befriending is our principal concern in the support of people affected by AIDS, CAIRDE also becomes involved in other areas such as education and information, provision of transport, home decorating, baby sitting, clothing and other material support.

In March 1987, CAIRDE facilitated the setting up of a Support group for those diagnosed as H.I.V. Positive, CAIRDE maintains close links with this BODY POSITIVE group, providing facilitators. CAIRDE volunteers meet fortnightly in groups for mutual support and ongoing training. The administrative affairs of CAIRDE are managed by an elected committee.

CAIRDE is not in receipt of any state aid, and we are entirely dependent on the goodwill of the population at large for our funds. To maximise the effectiveness of its role, CAIRDE is careful to keep close links with all groups and institutions working in the field of AIDS, the ongoing needs for its services are becoming daily more apparent and CAIRDE is committed to answering and adapting to those needs as they develop.

CAIRDE can be contacted by telephoning 01-733799 or 01-730877 or by writing to: CAIRDE, Halfpenny Court, 36/37 Lr. Ormond Quay, Dublin 1.



GAY HEALTH ACTION

GAY HEALTH ACTION was founded in January 1985. Although our main area of work has inevitably been in the area of AIDS, we aim to work on all the health issues that affect the gay community. A sister group, LESBIAN HEALTH ACTION, has been established to work on health issues in the lesbian community.

GAY HEALTH ACTION was the first voluntary group founded to work on AIDS in Ireland. Our initial effort was to provide comprehensive information and preventative advice on AIDS to the gay community. Since 1985, we have produced over 250,000 leaflets, cards, posters and other items of information. Although aimed at gay men and lesbians, these publications have met a demand for frank and detailed AIDS information among a much wider population. We have also provided a wide range of public information talks to community and social service groups. GAY HEALTH ACTION played a leading role in the establishment of AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE, CAIRDE and AIDS HELPLINE. We are also represented on the Roman Catholic Bishop's NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON AIDS.

GAY HEALTH ACTION sees its future role in developing and re-inforcing the behaviour changes in the gay community that will prevent the spread of HIV infection. We also aim to represent the interests of the gay community in the developing AIDS crisis to make health care workers and planners aware of the issues that AIDS creates for lesbians and gay men and, in particular, to combat the stigmatisation of gay sexuality in the media as the 'cause' of AIDS.

At present GAY HEALTH ACTION is conducting a survey of sexual behaviour and AIDS information in the gay population. We are also running a programme of 'Safer Sex Workshops' to help develop a positive attitude towards safer sex among gay men. GAY HEALTH ACTION will continue to provide a telephone information service, provide speakers for AIDS information talks and maintain our range of AIDS related publication in print.

GAY HEALTH ACTION may be contacted in writing at:

P.O. Box 1890
Dublin 1.
or telephone 01-531165



PRACTICAL AID

PRACTICAL AID helps people with AIDS and AIDS-related problems. We provide transport, household items and some financial assistance. Although we work in close contact with St. James's Hospital STD Clinic, we are entirely voluntary, with no state funding. So far, we've been able to meet the needs of those who have contacted us, but numbers are now growing; we need more volunteers, more help.

WOMEN AND AIDS

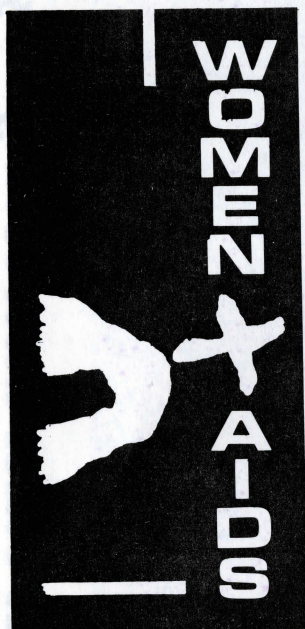
WOMEN AND AIDS was formed at the end of 1986. At that time the public perception of the people thought to be at risk from contracting the virus consisted mostly of Gay Men and I.V. Drug users, who by and large were also perceived as male. This situation meant that women barely surfaced in discussions/education on AIDS. True, babies were occasionally mentioned, but it was almost as if they appeared "Out of the Blue"! Information on the dangers of Body-positive women carrying pregnancy to full term, the necessity of changing the law to legalise the sale of contraceptives, and specifically condoms, to young people under 18, questions of artificial insemination, rape etc. were barely mentioned. Information for Care-givers - i.e. family members, nurses etc. (most of whom are women) was scarce as well. Our group was formed to address these questions as well as giving general information on AIDS.

We have given talks to community groups, women's groups, AnCO Training Workshops for young people etc. all over Dublin and to a small extent outside Dublin as well. We are also active members of AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE and participate on its cross-national activities.

WOMEN AND AIDS is available to give talks and educational. We can be contacted by post to: WOMEN AND AIDS,

P.O. Box 1884,
Dublin 1.

or through AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE, Telephone 01-531169



BALLYMUN YOUTH ACTION PROJECT

This project was founded in 1981 in response to drug abuse in the area.

We believe that addicts can and do recover within the community, and their families do not have to cope alone. Our approach uses the expertise of local people, help from other agencies, thus making the response a more united one.

We aim to provide information/advice/support service, for young people, both addicts and those vulnerable to drug abuse and their families, from a locally based project.

We are open 10-5 Mon to Fri, and 8-10 Mon & Tues nights. Telephone: 428071.

Several support groups have grown out of our efforts to provide an adequate service, they would include: Mon & Tues afternoon - self help for children living with alcoholism where shared problems encourage hope and change within the group. Wed afternoon - drop in with drug free facilities, used as means to contact and build up relationships with clients. Thurs morning: Self help group for over 16s addicts and alcoholics - a caring environment where honesty and clean living are strived for by recovering group. Monday night: is a self development programme for young people at risk and vulnerable to drug abuse. This group has discussions on addiction, sexuality, feelings, family problems and all other areas that effect young people growing up. Tuesday night: drop in for older addicts & alcoholics where they can feel free and comfortable in a relaxed atmosphere.

Our work doesn't end here, we were also instrumental in the setting up and support of an AIDS Resource Group involving local professionals and concerned people.

We would always strive to educate, help, support in the area of drug abuse and all those it touches either directly or otherwise.

CORK AIDS ALLIANCE

CORK AIDS ALLIANCE was founded on 29th July 1987. Present at the inaugural meeting were representatives from the Haemophilia Group, Cork STD Clinic, the Bishop's Task Force on AIDS, Gay Health Action and the Alcohol and Drug Treatment Unit.

Within a few weeks of its launch the group organised an Information Day on AIDS in the city, and set about raising funds to rent and equip an office. Training for volunteers for a Cork Branch of CAIRDE, a befriending service for people affected by AIDS, began shortly afterwards. The Alliance opened its office in mid-February 1988 and CORK AIDS HELPLINE started operation on 29th February of this year, and operates on three days of the week.

We have provided speakers for a wide variety of local organisations, including schools, youth clubs, the Regional Technical College, UCC, Macra Na Feirme, St. John's Ambulance Brigade and the Irish Association of Care Workers. A wide variety of AIDS literature is available free on request from our offices. We hope to produce at least one and possibly two educational films on AIDS aimed at young people by the end of the year, with the co-operation of local school and college students. We have also applied to FAS for funding for two part-time workers under the Social Employment Scheme.

The CAIRDE and Helpline Groups are now well established, Our Outreach Group organise speakers and seminars, and is currently organising another Information Day to be held in a city centre venue on 28th May, and the fundraising group enables us to keep our heads above water, wolves from the door, etc. The Alliance will be holding a Flag Day in the city centre on 4th July. Although there is very long way to go, we feel we have laid a firm foundation for an effective AIDS Prevention Campaign, and support service for people with, or affected by AIDS and HIV in the area.

CORK AIDS ALLIANCE can be contacted by writing to:

22 MacCurtain Street,

Cork.

or telephone 021-507237

CORK AIDS HELPLINE operates on Monday and Thursday 6.00-8.00p.m. and Saturday 2.00-6.00p.m. at 021-507237

CORK AIDS ALLIANCE

AIDS

HELPLINE

507237

MON. & THUR. 6 to 8 - SAT. 2 to 6

INFORMATION ★ SUPPORT ★ ADVICE

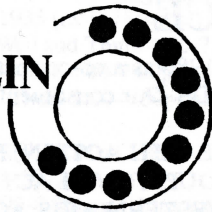
WESTERN AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE

WESTERN AIDS ACTION ALLIANCE was founded in early 1987 by a group of people in Galway. Since then a CAIRDE group has been established and closer links have been made with the AIDS HELPLINE run by the Western Health Board and CAIRDE Galway.

CAIRDE was formed in July 1987. The volunteers were trained by people in CAIRDE Dublin. The Galway group, through run on the same lines and also the same principles is completely separate from Dublin. CAIRDE provides a telephone service on Thursdays 8.00-10.00p.m. at 091-66266. CAIRDE does not receive any state funding. Its address is 20 Upper Dominic Street, Galway.

AIDS HELPLINE GALWAY is run by the Western Health Board on a day to day basis. In April 1988, 8 people attended the Helpline Training Course run by AIDS HELPLINE DUBLIN. These volunteers were in the Alliance and now run the AIDS HELPLINE every Thursday night from 7.30-10.00p.m. at 091-64000. The use of this line helps to establish a sharing of resources by both voluntary and statutory bodies.

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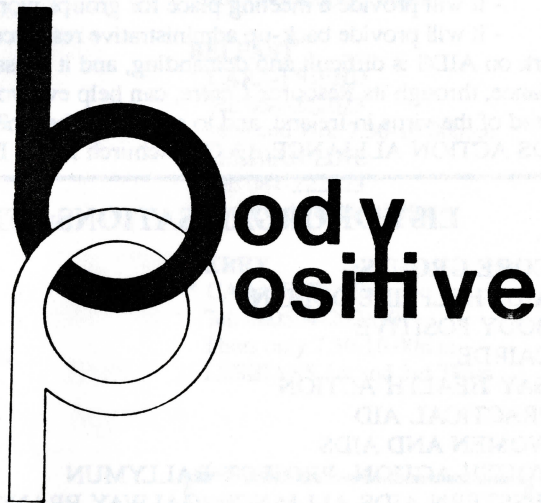
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