



Annual Report 2025

Irish
Foster Care
Association

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Chairperson's Statement



A Chairde,

It is my pleasure, in my first year as Chair of the organisation, to present this Annual Report on behalf of the Board of the Irish Foster Care Association.

Reflecting on the past year, I am impressed by our community's resilience, dedication, and impact. Fostering provides children with safety, stability, and a foundation to thrive. This year, our focus remained on supporting foster families, advocating for systemic improvements, making fostering a more sustainable choice for Irish families, and ensuring every child receives exceptional care.

This year, IFCA began implementation of our new multi-year strategic plan, following wide consultation with foster carers, IFCA staff, representatives from Tusla, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and the Ombudsman for Children. This framework focuses on three key pillars: expanding localised support services, intensifying national advocacy campaigns, and strengthening our internal governance.

The current landscape presents significant challenges for the alternative care sector in Ireland. Chief among these is the critical shortage of foster carers. Economic pressures, housing limitations, and changing work patterns make recruitment difficult, while retention remains equally complex. Families need robust support systems to sustain their vital work. Throughout the year, IFCA engaged directly with Tusla, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and politicians to address these urgent issues. We consistently advocated for increased allowances, better therapeutic resources, and structured supports to prevent placement breakdowns

Amidst these structural challenges, IFCA continued to meet the needs of the fostering community. Our National Helpline Service offered immediate, practical guidance to hundreds of families navigating complex situations. We brought carers together to share experiences and combat isolation, through our peer support networks. Our learning and development programmes delivered high-quality, trauma-informed training across Ireland. These sessions equipped carers with the

specialised skills needed to support children dealing with early life adversity. We saw the welcome return of our annual conference, where foster carers and children came together to learn, to share, to renew friendships and to make new connections.

Collaboration remains the cornerstone of our success. We strengthened our strategic partnerships with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies, and academic institutions. By keeping the voice of the foster carer central to policy discussions, we ensured that systemic changes reflect reality on the ground.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to my fellow Board members for their strategic guidance and governance. I would particularly like to thank our outgoing Chair, Raymond Nolan, our outgoing vice-chair, Sandra Duffy, and Board member Aidan Waterstone who ended their time on the Board. Thank you to Corinne Hasson, who served as Chief Executive Officer during 2025, for her leadership, vision, and commitment throughout her tenure. Her support and dedication were deeply valued by staff and the wider fostering community, and her contribution is sincerely appreciated. Thank you also to our national office staff, and dedicated volunteers for their tireless work behind the scenes. Most importantly, I want to thank our foster carers and their families. Your warmth, patience, and unconditional care transform young lives every single day.

As we look to the future, challenges remain, but our shared commitment is unwavering. Together, we will continue to build a society where every foster family has the supports they need to enable every child in care reach their full potential.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Irish Foster Care Association.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Irene Browne". The script is cursive and fluid.

Irene Browne

Chief Executive Review



This Annual Report reflects 2025 as a year of significant achievement for the Association and for the wider fostering community. It tells the story of an organisation that has continued to advocate with purpose, strengthen its services and remain a trusted source of independent support for foster carers across Ireland. It is also a reminder that, while much has been accomplished, there remains considerable work to do to ensure foster care receives the investment it deserves.

As I write this introduction, I do so conscious that the achievements detailed throughout these pages are the result of the commitment and hard work of many people over the course of 2025. In particular, I want to acknowledge my predecessor, Corrinne Hasson, whose leadership during the year was instrumental in shaping many of the initiatives, partnerships and achievements outlined in this report. Under Corrinne’s stewardship, IFCA strengthened its national voice, launched an ambitious Strategic Plan for 2025–2027 and continued to champion foster carers with energy, integrity and determination.

Throughout 2025, IFCA continued to deliver a broad range of services that make a tangible difference to foster carers and, ultimately, to the children and young people they care for. Our National Helpline, Advocacy Service, Counselling Service and Learning and Development Programme provided practical assistance, independent guidance and emotional support to hundreds of foster families. These services are much more than individual programmes; together they represent our commitment to ensuring that foster carers never feel they are navigating the complexities of fostering alone.

Alongside this direct support, IFCA continued to influence national policy and practice. Through engagement with Government, the Oireachtas, Tusla and other key stakeholders, we consistently highlighted the challenges facing foster care and advocated for practical solutions that improve outcomes for children and young people. Whether contributing to the development of national guidance, responding to policy consultations or presenting our Pre-Budget Submission, our focus remained clear: ensuring that the experiences and expertise of foster carers inform decisions that affect them.

The publication of our Strategic Plan 2025–2027 marked an important milestone for the Association. Developed through one of the most extensive consultations in IFCA’s history, it reaffirmed our vision of a society in which fostering is recognised, valued and supported.

As this report demonstrates, foster care continues to evolve. Children entering care often present with increasingly complex needs, requiring therapeutic, educational and practical supports that extend beyond the commitment of foster carers alone. Foster carers continue to demonstrate extraordinary resilience, compassion and professionalism, yet they cannot – and should not – carry these responsibilities without appropriate support. Investment in foster care is not simply an investment in a service; it is an investment in children’s futures, stronger families and healthier communities.

Reading through these pages, I am struck by the dedication of everyone who contributes to IFCA’s work. I extend my sincere thanks to our staff team, whose professionalism and compassion underpin everything we do; to our Board of Directors for their governance and strategic leadership; to our volunteers, whose generosity strengthens our services; and to our funders, partners and stakeholders for their continued confidence in our work.

Above all, I want to acknowledge foster carers. Every statistic within this report represents lives changed because someone chose to open their home and their heart to a child. Their commitment deserves not only our gratitude but our continued determination to ensure strategic investment in a core pillar of the infrastructure that underpins Ireland’s alternative care system.

This Annual Report celebrates what has been achieved during 2025 while also reminding us that our work is far from complete. Together, we will continue to advocate for an alternative care system that recognises the pivotal role of foster care and thus ensures that every child in care has the opportunity to thrive.

Have your best day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, belonging to Catherine Egan Morley.

Catherine Egan Morley

2025 in Numbers



National Advocacy



Strategic Plan 2025–2027

2025 marked a significant milestone for the Irish Foster Care Association with the launch of our Strategic Plan 2025–2027, setting out a clear vision and direction for the organisation over the next three years. Developed through an extensive consultation process, the strategy reflects the collective voice of the fostering community and reinforces IFCA's commitment to ensuring that fostering is recognised, valued and supported.

Our Vision

Fostering is recognised, valued and supported.

Our Mission

IFCA is the voice for foster care in Ireland. We promote and strengthen foster care through the provision of supports and by advocating for the progressive reform of policy and practice.

Our Values

Solidarity

Acting in unity and consensus as the voice of foster care in Ireland.

Respect

Respect for and inclusion of all members of the fostering community is core to our work.

Collaboration

We work in collaboration with all our stakeholders to achieve our shared goals of recognising, valuing and supporting foster care.

Integrity

We act with integrity, communicating honestly and being accountable as the voice of foster care in Ireland.

Listening to the Foster Care Community

The Strategic Plan was shaped through one of the most comprehensive consultation processes ever undertaken by IFCA, engaging almost 600 people from across the fostering community. This included 550 respondents to surveys, together with IFCA staff, Board members, representatives from Tusla, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Foster Care Subgroup and other key stakeholders.

The consultation provided invaluable insight into the experiences of foster carers and the wider foster care community, ensuring that the strategy is firmly rooted in the issues that matter most to those involved in fostering.

Strategic Priorities 2025–2027

The consultation findings informed three strategic priorities that will guide IFCA’s work over the next three years:

1. Influence

Advocating for improvements in policy and practice to ensure fostering is recognised, valued and supported. This includes strengthening IFCA’s advocacy agenda through greater engagement with foster carers, influencing national policy, building strategic partnerships and promoting research to improve outcomes for children and young people in foster care.

2. Supports & Services

Providing responsive, solution-focused and independent supports for foster carers through the National Advocacy Service, the National Helpline Service, learning and development opportunities, information services and signposting. This priority also focuses on improving access to services across the country and growing IFCA’s membership so that more foster carers benefit from independent support.

3. Organisational Capacity

Strengthening IFCA’s governance, sustainability and organisational resilience by investing in staff, securing diverse funding streams, enhancing communications and maintaining the highest standards of governance and accountability. This will ensure IFCA is well positioned to continue delivering high-quality services and effective advocacy on behalf of the fostering community.

The Strategic Plan ensures that the voices and experiences of foster carers remain at the heart of the organisation’s advocacy, services and future development, while continuing to work towards better outcomes for children and young people in foster care across Ireland.

Budget 2026

IFCA’s Pre-Budget Submission 2026 reflected the lived experiences of the fostering community and called for targeted investment to improve outcomes for children and young people while recognising and supporting the vital role of foster carers.

Our submission focused on five key priorities:

- **Improving access to therapeutic supports** by investing in timely, trauma-informed services so that children and young people in care can access the support they need without unnecessary delays.
- **Increasing the Aftercare Allowance** to better reflect the real cost of living and provide greater financial stability for young people as they transition to independent living.
- **Securing pension recognition for foster carers** through the development of a fair and sustainable pathway to pension entitlements for those who have dedicated their lives to providing full-time care.
- **Index-linking the Foster Care Allowance** to ensure it keeps pace with inflation and rising household costs, helping foster families continue to meet the needs of the children in their care.
- **Extending the Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance** to all children in State care by removing the current means-testing criteria that excludes many foster families.

These priorities reflect the issues most frequently raised by foster carers and the wider fostering community throughout the year.

Throughout the budget process, IFCA engaged with government ministers, elected representatives and key policymakers to highlight these priorities and advocate for meaningful investment in foster care. We were disheartened that Budget 2026 contained no new provisions or financial supports for foster carers. We will continue to advocate for foster care with key stakeholders and policy makers, ensuring the voices of the foster care community are heard at the highest levels.





Irish Foster Care Association
Pre-Budget Submission 2026

Fostering a Better Future

Committee on Social Protection, Rural and Community Development

A significant milestone in our advocacy work during the year was the opportunity to present to the Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection. Representing IFCA, Corrinne Hasson, CEO, and Andrew Murphy, Advocacy Co-ordinator, presented the Association’s Pre-Budget Submission 2026. They were joined by foster carers who generously shared their lived experiences and responded to questions from Committee members, providing powerful first-hand insight into the realities of fostering in Ireland.

The hearing provided an important opportunity to highlight the financial challenges facing foster families and to advocate for measures that would strengthen supports for children and young people in care. IFCA emphasised the need for increased investment in therapeutic services, fair financial supports for foster carers, improved aftercare provision, pension recognition, and measures to ensure that foster care remains a sustainable option for families.



Corrinne Hasson, CEO, Anne Meade, Foster Carer & Andrew Murphy, Advocacy Co-ordinator, IFCA.

Engagement with the Committee represented an important step in ensuring that the experiences and voices of foster carers were heard directly by policymakers. It also reinforced IFCA’s role as the independent national voice for foster care, advocating for policies that recognise, value and support foster carers while improving outcomes for children and young people in care.

Bringing the Voice of Foster Care to Leinster House

IFCA brought the voice of foster care directly into Leinster House. In a powerful presentation in the AV Room, we spoke to TDs, Senators, and public representatives.

Corrinne Hasson, CEO, shared the urgent need for greater supports, both therapeutic and financial, for foster carers. Andrew Murphy, IFCA’s National Advocacy Service Co-ordinator, spoke passionately about his experiences working alongside foster families. Foster carers Sinead O’Donnell and Anne Meade also shared their personal journeys, offering heartfelt insights into the realities and rewards of fostering. The room was full, and every person present was deeply moved by their stories and the strength of their voices.



Sinead O’Donnell, Foster Carer, Anne Meade, Foster Carer, Andrew Murphy, IFCA, Claire Kerrane, TD, Corrinne Hasson, IFCA.

Consultation on New Alternative Care Policy Framework

IFCA submitted a comprehensive response to the Department of Children, Disability and Equality’s consultation on the new Alternative Care Policy Framework, highlighting the central role of foster care in delivering positive outcomes for children. The submission called for a stronger focus on recruiting and retaining foster carers, improved financial and practical supports, enhanced training and recognition for carers, greater access to specialist services for children and families, and consistent national standards. It also emphasised the importance of meaningful consultation with foster carers and children, timely decision-making, and a policy framework that prioritises stability, child-centred practice, and partnership with foster families.

Partnerships

IFCA was delighted to be part of the Care Experienced Programme Stakeholder Advisory Group. The Care Experienced Programme is led by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality. It is a research and data programme examining the lives of children in care, and adults who were in care as children. IFCA’s ongoing participation in the Group has been informative and provided a space for IFCA to contribute to the work of the Programme.

IFCA welcomed the opportunity to join the Stakeholder Advisory Group for a research project initiated in 2025 under the Care Experienced Programme. Conducted by Childhood Matters, the study explores the factors influencing foster carer retention and attrition in Ireland, drawing on the experiences of foster carers and practitioners from across the country. The findings are expected to be published in 2026.

Tusla – A Guide to Allegations

IFCA was invited by Tusla to contribute to the development of new national guidelines for managing allegations made against foster carers. This collaborative project brought together a range of stakeholders, including foster carers and representatives from private foster care agencies. Together we worked to create a clear pathway outlining the responsibilities, processes, considerations and practical steps involved when an allegation arises. The resulting guidelines acknowledge the complexities involved and impact allegations can have on foster carers and highlights the importance of safety for children and those caring for them.

Services Overview



National Helpline Service

Here to Support, Here to Listen

IFCA's National Helpline Service provides a vital source of support, information and guidance for foster carers and the wider fostering community. Delivered by a dedicated team of staff and trained volunteers with certified counselling skills, the confidential helpline offers support via telephone, webchat and email. Whether responding to queries, providing emotional support or signposting to appropriate services, the Helpline ensures that foster carers have someone to listen when they need it most.

Beyond providing direct support, the National Helpline plays an important role in informing IFCA's national advocacy work. The issues and concerns raised by callers provide valuable insight into the experiences of foster carers across the country, helping to identify emerging trends and highlight the challenges facing fostering families.

The Helpline also serves as an important gateway to the National Advocacy and Counselling Services, ensuring that those requiring more specialised or ongoing support can access the appropriate assistance.

A look at the numbers in 2025



Who Contacted Us?

Foster Carers

Social Workers

Family Support Workers

Young People

Care Leavers

Teachers

Birth Families

Citizens Information

Students

General Public

Top 10 Reasons for Contacting the Helpline

1. Financial Queries (Allowances, Funding, Policies etc)

2. Allegations

3. Access

4. Communication Issues with Social Work Team

5. Membership Queries

6. General Information on Fostering

7. Advocacy Support

8. Insurance Queries

9. Placement Endings

10. Carer Emotional Support

Top 5 Counties

1. Dublin

2. Cork

3. Meath

4. Louth

5. Kildare

“I got some very informative feedback and advice, which has helped me on the right path for the child in my care”

Emerging Themes in 2025

Throughout 2025, the Helpline identified several recurring themes arising from enquiries received from foster carers and professionals.

- **Travel and International Documentation:** Increased enquiries relating to obtaining passports for children in care, as well as navigating visa requirements and international travel processes.
- **Data Protection:** Requests for clarification regarding data protection legislation and its application to foster carers and foster care practice.
- **Respite Provision:** Continued concerns regarding the availability of respite services and the need for greater access to planned respite supports for foster families.
- **Foster Carer Wellbeing:** An increasing demand for emotional support, counselling services, peer support groups, and other wellbeing initiatives for foster carers.
- **Financial Supports:** Ongoing enquiries regarding financial assistance for children in care, including the availability of additional funding for exceptional expenses such as dental treatment and other healthcare needs.
- **Foster Carer Pensions:** Continued concerns regarding pension provision for foster carers.
- **Guardian *ad litem* Services:** Enquiries relating to the regulation and oversight of Guardian *ad litem* services.
- **Back to School Allowance:** Enquiries regarding foster carers' eligibility for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance and related financial supports.

Volunteer Helpline Recruitment and Training

A successful recruitment drive in 2025 resulted in two new volunteers joining the Helpline team. Both completed Helpline training and achieved ICHAS certification in counselling skills, strengthening the organisation's capacity to provide high-quality support.

Helpline Information Sessions

The Helpline team actively engaged in a range of information sessions and events to raise awareness of IFCA services, strengthen partnerships, and provide valuable information to foster carers and professionals.

- **Tusla RAFT Team Information Session:** The Helpline team co-hosted an overview of IFCA's services, with a particular focus on the Helpline, to members of Tusla's RAFT team.
- **FASD Conference:** The Helpline team supported an information stand at the FASD Conference, providing attendees with information on IFCA's range of services and engaging with foster carers, practitioners, and other stakeholders.
- **Finances in Foster Care Workshop:** The Helpline team delivered a Finances in Foster Care workshop for foster carers and practitioners. The session provided an overview of the latest foster care financial payments, budget announcements, and relevant updates, supporting attendees to better understand their current financial entitlements.

National Advocacy Service

The National Advocacy Service continued to provide support, guidance and representation to foster carers as they navigated the complexities of the fostering landscape. While each enquiry reflected the unique circumstances of individual children and families, many of the issues presented to the service echoed concerns and experiences that have persisted over successive years. The service accepted 100 new referrals and carried 52 ongoing cases from 2024.

Allegations and Policy Change

Allegations against foster carers remained one of the most significant and distressing issues brought to the service. The impact of allegations extends far beyond the investigative process itself. Foster carers frequently described feelings of uncertainty, isolation and anxiety as they attempted to understand procedures, safeguard their own wellbeing and continue to prioritise the needs of the children in their care and their families during this time. The Advocacy Service supported foster carers to navigate these processes, understand their rights and responsibilities, and engage constructively with the various professionals involved.

In September 2025 Tusla introduced Foster Carers: A Guide to Allegations. This guidance document set out the approach and practice steps involved when allegations are made in foster care. Assessing and managing the identified risk is the primary aim, directing attention towards safety planning and support for everyone involved. The Advocacy Service supported a small number of foster carers to navigate through this new process, offering support to understand the change in approach, to represent themselves in the assessment and to seek clarifications and information when required.

This document did not replace Tusla's Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP) entirely, CASP may still apply in some fostering circumstances.

Contact and Access

Contact and access arrangements for children also continued to generate concern for some. Foster carers often found themselves balancing the practical realities of facilitating contact with the emotional needs of children whose experiences of family relationships can be complex and challenging. Difficulties relating to the planning, coordination and review of contact arrangements frequently highlighted the need for clear communication, consistency and a child-centred approach involving all parties.

Communication with Professionals

Communication with professionals remained a recurring theme throughout the year. Foster carers repeatedly emphasised the importance of timely information-sharing, engagement based on mutual respect and a recognition of the valuable insights they bring through their day-to-day knowledge of the children in their care. Where communication breaks down, misunderstandings can arise, trust can be eroded, and decision-making and follow through can become more difficult. The Advocacy Service was often involved in assisting carers to articulate their concerns, seek clarification, and promote collaborative working relationships that focused on the best interests of the child.

Placement Instability and Placement Disruptions

Behind each placement disruption lies a complex combination of factors affecting children, foster carers and the wider professional network. Foster carers frequently sought support as they attempted to access appropriate interventions, advocate for additional resources and sustain placements during periods of heightened difficulty. The emotional impact of placement breakdowns on foster carers, families, professionals and children alike should not be underestimated. The Advocacy Service worked to support foster carers to identify day to day solutions, support them at meetings, or simply listen and emotionally support the challenges involved when considering ending a placement or experiencing an abrupt placement ending.

Financial Concerns

Financial concerns also remained prominent. Foster carers raised issues relating to allowances, access to supports and the financial pressures associated with meeting the diverse and often complex needs of children in care. These concerns reflected the broader reality that fostering requires not only commitment and sacrifice, but also essential practical supports that enable foster carers to provide stable and nurturing homes.

Taken together, these themes illustrate the increasingly complex systems that foster carers are required to navigate. Foster carers are required to work alongside multiple services and professionals, respond to changing circumstances, manage significant emotional demands and advocate continuously for the children in their care. The experiences they have shared with the Advocacy Service demonstrate both the resilience of foster carers and the need for independent systems of support that are transparent, rights based, responsive and grounded in partnership.

Influencing Policy and Practice

The role of the Advocacy Service is not only to support carers through difficult circumstances but also to ensure that their voices inform the systems and structures within which they work. Their experiences provide invaluable insight into what is working well, where improvements are needed and how services can evolve to better meet the needs of children and families. In addition to providing direct advocacy support, the service continued to contribute to the development of policy and practice at both local and national levels.

“We were extremely pleased with the service provided by the team throughout the entire process. The professionalism, knowledge and experience were evident and the guidance we received proved invaluable at every stage.”

A Guide to Allegations

A significant area of work during 2025 was contributing to the development of Tusla’s new guidance on managing allegations concerning foster carers. The process involved consultation and collaboration with a range of stakeholders. Drawing on the experiences of foster carers supported by the Advocacy Service, we worked to ensure their perspectives were reflected in the guidance and that it promotes fairness, transparency and clear procedures.

Guardian ad litem National Service

The Advocacy Service also engaged with the newly established Guardian *ad litem* National Service. Through ongoing communication and consultation, we highlighted lived experiences, perspectives and expectations of foster carers, advocating for these to inform the development of the new service from its earliest stages. Foster carers play a vital role in the lives of children in care, and it is essential that their knowledge and experience are recognised within multidisciplinary processes and at policy decision-making level.

Case Study Greg, Claire, Imelda & Tom

This case study involves a foster family who had become increasingly anxious about their interactions with professionals involved in their foster child’s access plan. Greg and Claire felt that their concerns and observations were not being fully understood. Their experience of access had become filled with dread and anxiety. On the other side, the child’s social worker Imelda worried that Greg and Claire were overly anxious and were not committed to family access. Communication had become difficult and important messages were being lost. As tensions increased, there was a risk that the focus was shifting from the child’s experience of access to the frustrations being experienced by the adults involved.

With the support of the Advocacy Service, a structured meeting was convened with Greg, Claire, Imelda, and their fostering link worker, Tom. After a nervous start everyone had the opportunity to express their concerns openly and respectfully. The presence of an independent advocate helped to establish a safe space for discussion, ensuring that Greg and Claire understood the purpose of the conversation and had an opportunity to contribute. Through this process, assumptions were challenged, misunderstandings were clarified and greater appreciation developed for the roles and responsibilities held by both the foster carers and the professionals involved.

Most importantly, the discussion returned to the shared objective: achieving the best possible outcomes for the child. By identifying common goals and agreeing clearer ways of working together, relationships improved, communication became more effective and tensions were reduced. This experience reflected what we observe repeatedly through our work: when foster carers are recognised as valued partners in the professional network surrounding a child, and when respectful collaboration is prioritised, better outcomes are possible for children and young people.

National Counselling Service

Throughout 2025, IFCA remained dedicated to promoting the emotional wellbeing of foster carers through the continued delivery of our National Counselling Service. Foster care can be both rewarding and demanding, and this service provides foster carers with an opportunity to focus on their own mental health and emotional resilience while continuing to provide care for children and young people.

IFCA's National Counselling Service offers foster carers access to professional, confidential counselling in a supportive and understanding environment. The service is designed to help foster carers manage the personal and practical challenges that arise in their fostering journey.

As part of their membership benefits, foster carers are entitled to avail of up to six counselling sessions free of charge. This ensures that foster carers can access timely support without the added concern of financial cost.

During 2025, the service provided 173 counselling sessions. Referrals covered a broad range of issues, including stress management, family relationships, grief and loss, placement-related challenges, self-care, and emotional wellbeing. The service continued to play an important role in helping foster carers maintain balance and resilience in their lives.

Outcomes and Foster Carer Experiences

Feedback received throughout the year demonstrates the positive impact counselling continues to have on foster families. Foster carers reported feeling better equipped to manage challenges and reassured by having access to a professional who understands the unique nature of foster care. Counselling

highlights the importance of providing accessible emotional support to foster carers, whose wellbeing is central to the stability and success of foster placements.

Funding and Support

IFCA is extremely grateful to Pobal for its ongoing financial support of the Counselling Service. This funding enables us to continue providing an essential resource for foster carers nationwide and reflects a shared commitment to supporting those who care for some of Ireland's most vulnerable children and young people.

The continuation of this funding has allowed the service to remain accessible, responsive, and effective in meeting the needs of our members.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2025, it is clear that the National Counselling Service remains a valued and important component of the supports available to IFCA members. The positive engagement with the service throughout the year reinforces the need for continued investment in the emotional wellbeing of foster carers.

We remain committed to ensuring that foster carers receive the support they need to continue providing safe, nurturing, and stable homes for children and young people across Ireland.

Learning & Development

A busy programme of learning and development continued throughout 2025, providing foster carers with access to a range of high-quality training and support. During the year, IFCA delivered 150 learning and development sessions, including 60 online and 90 in-person sessions, engaging a total of 2,146 participants. This strong level of participation reflects the continued commitment of foster carers to developing their knowledge and skills to provide the best possible care for children and young people.

Unlocking Potential: Supporting Children in Care and their Carers in Education

A panel of speakers shared their experience of supporting, caring for, and working with, children and young people in care as they negotiate the challenges of taking part in learning and school life. The webinar was attended by over 200 foster carers, fostering and allied practitioners, teachers and education welfare officers.

The panel included:

- Tara Ciric, Research Ireland Scholar for Childhood Disadvantage, completing her PhD at Maynooth University's Department of Education.
- Sarah Lloyd, Consultant Occupational Therapist and author of the BUSS® Model.
- Maria O'Connell, DEIS Primary School Principal, St. Finnian's National School.
- Anne McCluskey, trainer in Attachment and Trauma Aware schools, registered facilitator for the Circle of Security parenting programme, retired primary school principal and former foster carer.
- Tara Madden, Education Project Manager, EPIC.

Pathways to Third Level Education and Supports for Students with Care Experience

This webinar with Betty Attwood, Educational Support Worker for Care Experienced Students, and the Access Centre Outreach Team at the University of Galway, explored various Pathways to Third Level, detailing the different entry routes available, such as Access Courses, Further Education and Training (FET), Central Applications Office (CAO), and the HEAR and DARE entry schemes. The session also provided valuable insights into preparing for student life and highlighted the range of supports available to students including academic and financial assistance, a dedicated contact for students with care experience, and advice on fostering a sense of community.

Rupture and Repair: Responding to Disruption and Loss in Fostering

The Rupture and Repair learning and support programme helps foster carers and fostering practitioners understand and respond to the challenges that can arise during a fostering journey. These challenges can lead to disruptions or "ruptures" in placements and relationships. The programme focuses on building the skills and confidence needed to repair relationships and support positive outcomes for children

and young people. A key feature of the programme is that foster carers and practitioners learn alongside one another, sharing experiences, knowledge and practical approaches. The programme is designed for:

- Foster carers who are around one year into their fostering journey, have completed their pre-approval training, and have welcomed at least one child into their home.
- Foster carers supporting children as they transition into adolescence or who are already teenagers.
- Foster carers who have experienced a placement disruption, including placement endings or situations where an allegation or complaint has been made.

The programme was facilitated through a partnership between IFCA, St. Bernard's Children's Services, Karuna Counselling and Nurturing in Nature, combining expertise to provide meaningful learning and support for everyone involved.

**Minding Yourself in Uncertainty:
A Compassionate Space for Foster Carers**

These monthly sessions continued in 2025 and are facilitated by Marianne Dwyer, Psychotherapist. These online sessions are available for foster carers to drop-in and avail of a supportive, self-care time and space with Marianne and other foster carers.

New courses added to the IFCA curriculum

- The Teenage Brain, Social and Emotional Development, Phones and Social Media: How Parents/Carers Can Have an Impact;
- Responding to Disclosures and Allegations by Children and Strategies for Coping and Self-Care;

- Enhancing Carer-child Attunement to Support a Child's Recovery from Social and Emotional Neglect and Trauma (2-part course);
- Reconnecting with a Sense of Self: A Support and Development Course for Foster Carers (8-week course).

BUSS® Model Training

The BUSS® (Building Underdeveloped Sensorimotor Systems) Model Team facilitated two distinct training opportunities. An 'Introduction to the BUSS® Model' training day was delivered by Sarah Lloyd and the team, with 51 foster carers and practitioners participating from around the country. Separately, BUSS® Level One in-person training took place at Rockfield House, with 28 foster carers and practitioners in attendance.

BUSS LEAPlets® Project

The BUSS® Pilot Project was completed in 2025. The project was funded by the RTE Toy Show Appeal through Community Foundation Ireland. Over the course of the project, 15 BUSS LEAPlets groups took place in Tallaght, Kells, Castleblayney, Clonmel, Bagenalstown and Kilkenny with 65 children, aged 3 to 7 years, taking part alongside 54 foster carers. The LEAPlets groups were facilitated by practitioners trained in BUSS® and in some cases groups were also supported by BUSS® trained foster carers who had been through the LEAPlets groupwork programme with their own children.

The project is being evaluated by researchers in the School of Social Work and Social Policy in TCD partnered by TUS Shannon, with positive preliminary findings including:

1. Positive developmental change in foster children - foster carers reported meaningful improvements in children's body awareness,

balance, coordination, confidence, and sensory integration. Progress was gradual and individualised but was consistently described as significant in supporting children's readiness for learning and daily functioning.

2. Improved emotional regulation and relational connection - participation in the programme supported children's ability to regulate emotions and recover from distress. Shared sensory and movement-based activities promoted co-regulation and strengthened emotional bonds between foster children and their carers.
3. Increased engagement and social participation - children demonstrated greater willingness to engage socially and emotionally, both within the group and in wider contexts such as home and school. Physical gains were closely linked to emotional and relational growth, adding to holistic developmental progress.
4. Enhanced foster carer understanding and confidence - foster carers developed a deeper understanding of the body-behaviour connection, shifting from behavioural interpretations to a developmental perspective. Hands-on participation and facilitator modelling increased foster carer's confidence and competence in supporting their children's needs.
5. The group environment as a key change mechanism - predictable routines, a sensory-friendly environment, skilled facilitation, and peer support created a safe and containing space for learning and connection. The group functioned as both a therapeutic and educational setting for foster children and foster carers.

The research report will be finalised and presented in 2026.

My Fostering Journey

The voices of children who foster have too often gone unheard, despite the enormous contribution they make every day. The My Fostering Journey programme was shaped by children and young people for children and young people involved in fostering. It reflects their lived experiences, wisdom and generosity.

My Fostering Journey is a support and learning programme designed to help children and young people who foster prepare for, and manage, their journey through fostering. The programme addresses key areas of information and age-appropriate understanding that children and young people need to help them in fostering.

The programme is developed by IFCA and Tusla Fostering in collaboration with children and young people who foster and their parents (the foster carers). A pilot of the programme took place in Kilkenny in October. As part of the development of the programme, children and young people who foster took part in 'Try Out and Test' days in Dublin and Clonmel. They were joined by their parents and fostering practitioners. Together they explored the programme content, tried out some of the activities and gave feedback on what they thought worked, what didn't and anything else that needed to be included.

A National Day of Celebration took place to mark the contribution that children and young people who foster make to fostering. Children and young people involved in the programme attended Croke Park for lunch and a tour. Thank you cards and gift vouchers were later sent by Tusla to each child and young person who fosters as part of this celebration.

The My Fostering Journey programme will be launched nationally in 2026.

Learning Events

January

- Being Review Ready: Understanding and Engaging in Foster Carer Reviews, Part 1 (National)
- Helping Children and Teenagers to Develop an Ability to Understand, Express and Regulate their Anger in Ways that Support their Emotional Wellbeing (National)
- Pathways to Third Level Education and Supports for Students with Care Experience: Webinar (National)
- Suicide and Self-Harm: Understanding and Helping Children and Adolescents who Experience Suicidal Ideation and who Use Self-harm to Cope with Difficult Feelings and Experiences (Midlands and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary)
- Developmental Trauma Recovery: Caring for Children who have Experienced Trauma and Attachment Disruption through Neglect, Abuse and Separation (Limerick/Clare/North Tipperary)

February

- Supporting the Development of Mentalisation in Children and Adolescents (National)
- Being Review Ready: Understanding and Engaging in Foster Carer Reviews, Part 2 (National)
- Minding Yourself in Uncertainty: A Compassionate Space for Foster Carers (National)
- Reconnecting with a Sense of Self: A Support and Development Course for Foster Carers (8-week course) (National)
- Introduction to the BUSS® Model Training Day (National)
- Understanding and Supporting Children who have Sexualised Behaviour (Midlands and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary)
- Blocked Care and Self-Care: Supporting Carers to Stay Resilient in the Face of Challenge (Limerick/Clare/North Tipperary)

March

- Reconnecting with a Sense of Self: A Support and Development Course for Foster Carers (8-week course) (National)
- Minding Yourself in Uncertainty: A Compassionate Space for Foster Carers (National)
- Supporting the Development of Self-esteem and Resilience in Traumatized Children (National)

April

- Minding Yourself in Uncertainty: A Compassionate Space for Foster Carers (National)
- Reconnecting with a Sense of Self: A Support and Development Course for Foster Carers (8-week course) (National)
- IFCA Online Information Webinar x 2 (National)

May

- Minding Yourself in Uncertainty: A Compassionate Space for Foster Carers (National)
- Reconnecting with a Sense of Self: A Support and Development Course for Foster Carers (8-week course) (National)
- Blocked Care and Self-Care (Cavan/ Monaghan)

June

- Minding Yourself in Uncertainty: A Compassionate Space for Foster Carers (National)
- Circle of Security Parenting Programme Refresher Session (National)

September

- Minding Yourself in Uncertainty: A Compassionate Space for Foster Carers (National)
- Unlocking Potential: Supporting Children in Care and their Carers in Education: Webinar (National)
- Trauma and the Science of Sleep: Supporting Replenishing Sleep in Traumatized Children (National)

October

- Minding Yourself in Uncertainty: A Compassionate Space for Foster Carers (National)
- Developmental Trauma Recovery: Caring for Children and Adolescents who have Experienced Trauma through Neglect, Abuse and Separation (Cavan/ Monaghan)
- Using a Developmental Approach in Parenting Traumatised Children (National)
- Circle of Security Parenting Programme (8-week course) (National)
- Behaviour as Communication: Supporting Traumatised Children and Adolescents to Learn to Regulate their own Emotions and Behaviour (Sligo)
- Behaviour as Communication: Supporting Traumatised Children and Adolescents to Learn to Regulate their own Emotions and Behaviour (Leitrim)
- Legal Information Webinar - Assisted Decision Making Service (National)

November

- Understanding Financial Supports in Fostering (National)
- Minding Yourself in Uncertainty: A Compassionate Space for Foster Carers (National)
- Eating Problems and Trauma (National)
- Parenting with a Child's Nervous System in Mind (National)
- Rupture and Repair: Responding to Disruption and Loss in Fostering (a course of 7 learning modules, 6 reflective practice sessions and 6 sessions on coping with loss in fostering) (Waterford/ Wexford)
- Blocked Care and Self-Care: Supporting Carers to Stay Resilient in the Face of Challenge (Sligo)
- Blocked Care and Self-Care: Supporting Carers to Stay Resilient in the Face of Challenge (Leitrim)
- Enhancing Carer-child Attunement to Support a Child's Recovery from Social and Emotional Neglect and Trauma, 2-part course (National)
- Circle of Security Parenting Programme (8-week course) (National)
- Responding to Lying and Stealing (National)

- The Teenage Brain, Social and Emotional Development, Phones and Social Media: How Parents/Carers Can Have an Impact (National)
- Education Rights and School Exclusion (National)

December

- Supporting Sibling Relationships (National)
- Social Skills Development (National)
- Circle of Security Parenting Programme (8-week course) (National)
- Minding Yourself in Uncertainty: A Compassionate Space for Foster Carers (National)
- Social Skills Development in Traumatised Children (National)
- Responding to Disclosures and Allegations by Children and Strategies for Coping and Self-Care (Cavan/ Monaghan)
- BUSS® LEVEL 1 Training (National)

“Christina was so knowledgeable and engaging. Thank you so much for sharing this with us. I look forward to learning more from you.”

“I think this was one of the best trainings I've had in a long time, such an important topic. Thank you so very much.”

“The webinar was very good and we received a lot of information that we didn't know about. The speakers were excellent with their presentations.”

Annual National Conference

The theme of the 2025 Annual National Conference, Nurturing Foster Care, reflected the importance of creating supportive environments where children, young people and foster families can thrive.

The conference welcomed 56 adults and 51 children and young people, all of whom enjoyed a day of learning, fun and connection in a relaxed, family-friendly setting. With a strong focus on outdoor activities and shared experiences, the event provided opportunities for families to build relationships, exchange experiences and enjoy quality time together while participating in a varied programme designed to engage attendees of all ages.

Held at Rockfield House, County Meath, the conference introduced a new outdoor, family-centred format. The venue’s beautiful natural surroundings enabled parallel programmes for adults and children, allowing foster carers to participate fully while children enjoyed a wide range of supervised activities nearby. This innovative approach proved to be a resounding success, creating a relaxed, inclusive atmosphere that encouraged learning, connection and shared experiences.



The morning plenary session opened with a keynote address by Ombudsman for Children, Dr Niall Muldoon. The voices of those with lived experience were at the heart of the conference, with foster carer Mike Walsh and care leaver Shaunagh Cunningham sharing powerful personal perspectives. They were joined by Dr Muldoon and Jacqui Smyth of Tusla for a panel discussion exploring the challenges, opportunities and future of foster care in Ireland.

The afternoon programme offered a diverse range of workshops covering topics including Aftercare, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), Autism, the Guardian *ad Litem* Service, IFCA’s Advocacy Service and EPIC’s supports for young people.



One of the highlights of the conference was the opportunity to bring carers and children together for joint workshops for the first time. Taking advantage of the venue’s contained setting, families participated in activities including drumming, aromatherapy and planting, family yoga, and BUSS®. These sessions reinforced the conference theme by promoting connection, wellbeing and learning.

Feedback from participants highlighted the positive impact of the event:

“Thanks very much for a really good conference, the children were very well looked after, they had a fabulous time.”

“The children had a fantastic time, so we didn’t need to worry about them. Everything was amazing, well organised and perfectly timed. A fantastic conference overall.”

Fostering in Focus Webinars

During the year, IFCA launched its Fostering in Focus webinar series, which quickly attracted strong interest from members. Held at lunchtime on weekdays, the webinars provided attendees with timely information and updates on policies, legislation and practice developments relevant to fostering.

The first webinar with Jacqui Smyth, Tusla National Lead for Foster Care and Jennifer Hannon, foster carer and Tusla Peer Support Worker focused on Tusla’s Strategic Plan for Foster Care Services for Children and Young People, 2022 – 2025. The second webinar was with Ian Doyle, Aftercare Manager, and William McNamara, National Lead for Aftercare with Tusla. The last webinar was with John Gilbane, Principal Officer of the Alternative Care Policy Unit at the Department of Children, Disability and Equality who shared updates on the new Alternative Care Framework. This was supported by his colleague Evelyn Suttle who conducted a Mentimeter survey to broadly capture foster carers’ views.



Stories from Foster Care

Six podcasts were added to the Stories from Foster Care series in 2025. Andrew Murphy spoke with foster carer Maureen Gannon about her experience of over 150 placements, and her recent role of emergency placement fostering. Niamh Barrett spoke with Elizabeth Ward and Bridget Power of Exchange House Ireland, they highlighted the critical importance of cultural awareness among the settled fostering community, so that Traveller children would not be denied an experience of their cultural identity.

Niamh also spoke with social worker, art psychotherapist and author Katie Wrench. Katie shared so much from her various roles that we released this conversation in two parts. She talked about her formative experiences as a young social worker, her passion for Life Story Work, and her current involvement in training practitioners in the BUSS® model,

Two care-experienced young people were interviewed for the podcast in 2025. Andrew spoke with Kai Brosnan, who spent time in residential care. Kai has completed studies in Social Care and is already a powerful advocate for the care-experienced community. Another inspiring advocate is Andrea Reilly, who shines a light on the misunderstood, under-acknowledged and under-diagnosed condition of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) by speaking from her own lived experience of it.

Stories from Foster Care is kindly sponsored by the Department of Children, Disability & Equality and we are grateful for their continued support to tell unique stories from foster care in Ireland.

Foster 16

Foster Journal Issue 16, published in 2025, was titled ‘Teens in care.’

Children are becoming teenagers in an increasingly complex world. This is even more the case for children in care and for the community of care that surrounds them. This issue of the Journal aimed to provide information to support the nurturing of teenagers in care through the often challenging stages of their human development.

We were pleased to include Dr Angela Palmer, Professor Michelle Norris and Dr Joanne Kelleher’s article based on their major research study: ‘Accelerated adulthood, extended adolescence and the care cliff: Supporting care leavers’ transition from care to independent living.’

Dr Patricia Barber contributed an article on school refusal, we reprinted an article by Psychiatry professor and parenting expert Dr Dan Siegel about understanding the teenage brain, and Katie Wrench took us through how the BUSS® model can be helpful and supportive for teenagers.

To close this issue, Shaunagh Cunningham shared her difficult yet profoundly life-affirming story of her time as a teenager in care.

Branches & Hubs

IFCA’s Branches and Hubs continued to provide valuable opportunities for foster carers and their families to come together, connect with peers, access support, and build lasting relationships within their local communities. Branch and Hub events play an important role in reducing isolation, strengthening support networks, and recognising the vital contribution of foster carers across Ireland.

During the year, IFCA organised 42 Branch and Hub events, with approximately 2,150 people attending nationwide. This included 22 family events held throughout the year, comprising five Easter events, four summer events, a Christmas pantomime outing, and 12 Christmas family events.

In addition, IFCA hosted eight informal “Get Together” meetings with the CEO, providing foster carers with the opportunity to share their experiences, raise issues, and engage directly with the organisation’s leadership. A further 12 coffee mornings and evening gatherings were held, creating welcoming spaces for foster carers to meet, connect, and support one another.

Family Events

Throughout 2025, IFCA organised a range of family events designed to provide foster families with opportunities to spend quality time together, build connections with other fostering families, and create positive shared experiences.

Christmas Events

Tusla funding supported IFCA to deliver 12 Christmas themed regional events for children in foster care, children who foster and foster carers across Ireland. These events took place in:

- Donegal
- Sligo/Mayo
- Galway
- Limerick
- Waterford
- Wexford
- Carlow
- Kildare
- Offaly
- Louth/Meath
- Cavan

As in previous years, these inclusive events provided an opportunity for children to socially connect and enjoy a Christmas meal, entertainment, arts and craft and games with other children in foster care and children who foster. These events provided some children who were living with different foster families come together with their siblings and enjoy a Christmas party and see Santa together.



“Great catching up with foster families and the kids meeting up with friends they’ve made at these events”

“Our family felt very welcomed and looked after by the IFCA team and the hotel, nothing was too much trouble. Our children were completely entertained by the entertainment crew & the Santa visit. Everyone went above and beyond for our wonderful kids.”



Volunteers



IFCA remains deeply grateful to the volunteers across the country who generously give their time and expertise to support the delivery of the National Helpline, local Branches and Hubs, and family events. Their dedication, commitment and willingness to support foster carers are central to IFCA’s work. Many have volunteered with the Association for a number of years, enabling IFCA to maintain a strong local presence, engage directly with foster carers in communities across Ireland, and provide valued peer support both in person and by phone.

During the year, we were pleased to welcome five new volunteers to the team. We also said farewell to a number of longstanding volunteers who stepped down to pursue other commitments. We extend our sincere thanks to each of them for their invaluable contribution to IFCA and for the time, care and commitment they gave in support of foster carers all throughout Ireland.

We are always pleased to hear from people across the country who are interested in volunteering with IFCA in their local area. If you would like to get involved, please contact us at volunteering@ifca.ie.

We Are Here

IFCA launched a new series of animated videos designed to raise awareness of foster care and increase understanding of the supports and services available to foster carers.

The three short animations introduce IFCA as the national voice for foster care and highlight the key services provided to foster carers and the wider fostering community.

The animations form part of IFCA’s ongoing commitment to improving communication, increasing awareness of the supports available to foster carers, and ensuring that foster families know where to turn for independent advice and advocacy when they need it.

The development of these resources was made possible through funding from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality, whose support is gratefully acknowledged.

**We are
here**

**01 4585123
ifca.ie**

Step Up for Foster Care

Throughout May, the Irish Foster Care Association invited foster carers, social workers, supporters, families, and communities to Step Up for Foster Care and show their support by taking a walk in May.

Participation was simple: people walked anytime, anywhere during May, captured a photo from their walk, and shared it on social media using #StepUpForFosterCare.

The campaign encouraged people to come together in support of foster care while promoting connection, wellbeing, and community engagement.

Step Up for Foster Care demonstrated how small actions can make a meaningful difference. By walking together, participants helped make foster care more visible, valued, and supported, reinforcing the importance of fostering and the collective role we all play in supporting children and young people in care.



Christmas Card Art Competition

IFCA’s annual Christmas Card Art Competition once again showcased the incredible creativity and imagination of children and young people from the fostering community. We were delighted to receive a wide range of colourful, thoughtful, and festive entries, making the judging process both enjoyable and challenging. The winning designs were featured across our social media channels throughout December and formed part of our Christmas fundraising campaign as digital Christmas cards.

We extend our most sincere thanks to every child and young person who took part. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and festive spirit continue to make this annual competition a highlight of the IFCA calendar.



Financial Statements



Where Our Funding Comes From

Tusla

Tusla continues as our key funder and partner in 2025 providing the core funding which enables IFCA to deliver its current range of supports to our members. The Tusla funding amounted to €631k (67%) of our overall income in 2025.

Pobal

We received funding from Pobal through the SSNO (Scheme to Support National Organisations) grant which was provided to enable the development of our national support services. This grant has been extended to 2026. The Pobal funding amounted to €99k (10%) of our overall income in 2025.

Department of Children, Disability & Equality

We were delighted to receive a grant from the Department of Children, Disability & Equality which enabled us to support our National Conference and our popular podcast series. The total grant amounted to €13k (1.4 %) of our overall income in 2025.

Membership Income

Another strand of IFCA's income is generated through its membership fees and legal insurance payments, with €121k (13%) of our overall income coming from our membership base.

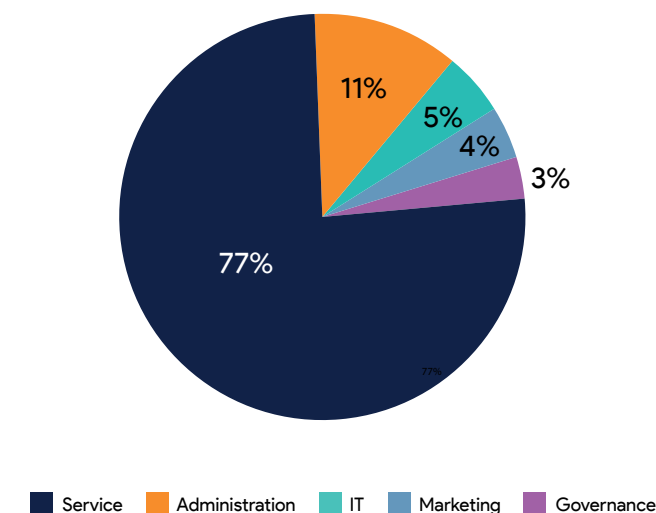
Fundraising, Donations and Conference

A welcome and very appreciated portion of our funding comes from donations and fundraising. These income streams amounted to €47k (5%) of our overall income in 2025.

Grant Funding

Grants awarded are critical to the development and innovation in IFCA's work. Funding awarded through grants such as Toy Show Appeal, Community Fund Foundation and Katharine Howard Foundation allow IFCA to explore and initiate projects that positively impact the fostering community, expand our reach and help us to contribute to the promotion and progression of foster care in Ireland. In 2025 grants awarded accounted for just over €32k (3%) of our funding.

How our funding is used



Income & Expenditure

Irish Foster Care Association CLG (A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account Financial Year ended 31st December 2025

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Income		
Miscellaneous Income	189,911	219,210
Fundraising/Donations	22,626	12,890
Tusla funding	583,423	540,816
Tusla Funding for hubs/branches	47,323	17,094
An Pobal	98,561	90,981
Total Income	941,844	880,991
Expenditure		
Overheads	30,063	38,935
Payroll & Pension costs	579,631	481,963
Telephone & Postage	7,719	6,948
Conference/Seminars/Meetings	21,567	2,008
Learning & Development	15,885	29,352
Equipment/IT/Website costs	52,228	61,866
General Expenses	200,169	223,334
Foster Family social events	51,961	64,271
Depreciation	0	6,910
Total Expenditure	959,223	915,587
Deficit	0	
(Deficit) for the financial year	-17,379	-34,596
Other interest receivable or similar income	164	164
	-17,215	-34,432

Balance Sheet

Irish Foster Care Association CLG (A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

As at 31st December 2025

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Total Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
	0	0
Current assets		
Debtors	10,958	35,659
Cash at bank and in hand:	246,950	298,998
	257,908	334,657
Creditors: amount falling due		
Within one year	176,722	236,256
Net current assets	81,186	98,401
Total assets less current liabilities	81,186	98,401
Net assets	81,186	98,401
Capital and reserves		
General Reserve	98,401	98,401
Members funds	98,401	98,401

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies’ regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 ‘Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.’

Board of Directors 2025 – Attendance at Board Meetings

Directors	Title	Total	Note
Corrinne Hasson	CEO	8 out of 8	
Raymond Nolan	Chairperson	5 out of 5	Resigned - 4/10/25
Sandra Duffy	Vice Chair	5 out of 5	Resigned - 4/10/25
Aaron Vickery	Co. Secretary	6 out of 8	
Brendan Gillen	Treasurer	6 out of 8	
Sinead O'Donnell	Trustee	8 out of 8	
Harold Barber	Trustee	5 out of 8	
Aidan Waterstone	Trustee	2 out of 2	Resigned - 18/3/25
Claire Corridan	Trustee	6 out of 8	Voted Vice Chairperson - 15/10/25
Mary Doyle	Trustee	8 out of 8	
Irene Browne	Trustee	7 out of 8	Voted Chairperson - 15/10/25
Michelle Reynolds	Trustee	4 out of 6	Co-opted to Board - 3/5/25
Amy Rose Harte	Trustee	2 out of 6	Co-opted to Board - 3/5/25
Rachel McGurdy	Trustee	3 out of 4	Co-opted to Board - 4/9/25
Sadie Harpur	Trustee	2 out of 3	Elected at AGM - 4/10/25
Mike Walsh	Trustee	2 out of 3	Elected at AGM - 4/10/25

Thank You

The Irish Foster Care Association extends its sincere thanks to our funders, supporters, volunteers, trustees, staff, members, and everyone who contributes to our work. Your ongoing commitment, generosity, and dedication make it possible for us to continue supporting foster carers, children and young people in care, and the wider fostering community across Ireland.

By working together, we strengthen our collective voice, enhance the supports available to foster families, and continue to advocate for positive change. We are grateful for your continued partnership and support.

IFCA kindly acknowledges the funding we receive from our partners to support our services.



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



government supporting communities



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais
agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality



ciste na
gcuntas díomhaoin
the dormant
accounts fund



CHILDREN'S
PROMISE
GRANTS PROGRAMME



WHAT WORKS
SHARING KNOWLEDGE
Improving Children's Futures



RTÉ
TOY
SHOW
APPEAL
Community
Foundation
Ireland



KHF
KATHARINE
HOWARD
FOUNDATION



Irish Foster Care Association
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CRA No. 20036690

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