SARCOMA CANCER IRELAND CLG

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

EMPOWERING SARCOMA PATIENTS AND FAMILIES





Prepared by
Carol Haslam,
Company Secretary

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Vision

A future where every person affected by sarcoma in Ireland feels supported, informed, and never alone.

Mission

Sarcoma Cancer Ireland is dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by sarcoma through emotional, practical, and financial support while raising awareness and advocating for improved care and earlier diagnosis.

Charity Information

Charity Name: Sarcoma Cancer Ireland CLG
Company Number: 753363
Charity Registered Number: 20206638
CHY Number: 23130
Legal Form: Company Limited by Guarantee and Registered Charity
Registered Office: Station Road, Sutton, Dublin, D13 A2P3
Website: www.sarcoma.ie
Email: info@sarcoma.ie



CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

As Chairperson of Sarcoma Cancer Ireland CLG, I am proud to introduce our Annual Report for 2025 — a year defined by growth, strengthened community, and meaningful progress for everyone affected by sarcoma in Ireland.

Throughout the year, we expanded our support services, increased access to counselling, launched monthly peer groups, and developed dedicated programmes for AYA patients. Our national GP Education Initiative reached practices across the country, helping to improve early detection and referral. We continued to represent Irish patients on the global stage through participation in patient advocacy conferences and advanced key advocacy projects with the Irish Cancer Society, whilst continuing to collaborate with the Irish Sarcoma Group to ensure the patient voice and experience remain central to the clinical conversation in Ireland.

The generosity of our community remained extraordinary. From marathons and mountain climbs to concerts and fashion shows, supporters across Ireland fuelled our mission. The Sarcoma Cancer Ireland 2026 wall calendar and Christmas cards reached supporters, friends and family throughout the country – whether you sold them for us or simply purchased your own copy – thank you for your support. As a young organisation, we also invested deeply in governance, welcoming new Board expertise and strengthening our committees to ensure transparency, sustainability, and long-term impact.

Early in the year, we were deeply saddened at the passing our founding Trustee Deirdre Lawlor. Deirdre brought huge experience, insight and fun to our fledging organisation, and it was our privilege to work alongside her to form Sarcoma Cancer Ireland in recent years. We were delighted to be joined by members of Deirdre's family to help award a Spirit of Sarcoma Award named in her honour at our Sunflower Ball in October – an event which once again represented solidarity and celebration, reflecting the strength and spirit of the sarcoma community.

Looking ahead, 2026 will bring further expansion of our support programmes, new awareness initiatives, and continued investment in volunteer and peer supporter training.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank my Board of Trustee colleagues for their time, dedication and professionalism to support the mission of the charity, and to our small but mighty group of volunteers who assist us in the delivery of services, initiatives and events throughout 2025 - it would not be possible without you.

Our commitment remains clear: to ensure that every person facing sarcoma in Ireland feels informed, supported, and never alone.



REBECCA GUILFOYLE
CHAIRPERSON
Sarcoma Cancer Ireland CLG

BOARD MEMBERS 2025



Rebecca Guilfoyle

CHAIRPERSON



Carol Haslam

COMPANY SECRETARY & OPERATIONS LEAD



Kelli Appezzato

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION LEAD



David Sneed

FINANCE DIRECTOR



Angela Wallace

DIRECTOR



Christopher Paul Lund

TREASURER & FINANCE COMMITTEE LEAD



Catherine Leith

SUPPORT COMMITTEE LEAD



John Ruddy

RISK & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE LEAD

IMPACT AT A GLANCE 2025

- 68 Financial Grants Awarded
- €38,500 Distributed in Financial Assistance
- 148 Counselling Sessions Delivered
- 29 Support Groups Delivered
- 12 Online Support Groups
- 12 Online Bereavement Groups
- 5 In-Person Support Groups
- 1,700+ GP Clinics Reached
- 1 Million+ Social Media Views
- Expanded AYA Support Programme

BOARD AND KEY STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



Rebecca Guilfoyle

Chairperson

Rebecca brings over 15 years of leadership experience and a background in project management within regulated environments. She oversees strategic planning for the board.
Rebecca is a founding Board member and was nominated to become Board Chair in 2023. Introduced to sarcoma when her stepfather was diagnosed in 2019, she is committed to building a solid and sustainable organisation to meet the vision and strategic goals of Sarcoma Cancer Ireland.
She is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and gained her undergraduate degree from UCC and has completed numerous post-graduate qualifications.
Rebecca lives in Cork with her husband and young children.



Carol Haslam

Operations Lead & Company Secretary

Carol is a founding board member of Sarcoma Cancer Ireland, diagnosed with sarcoma in 2017 which led to the amputation of her arm. She co-founded the charity during the COVID-19 pandemic and now oversees operations, fundraising, and governance, driven by her personal experience and background in small business management. Carol lives in County Meath with her family, balancing her role with support for patients and families.



Kelli Appezzato

Advocacy & Education Lead

When her husband was diagnosed with leiomyosarcoma in 2016, Kelli couldn't find support in Ireland. She helped lead a grassroots campaign to appoint a sarcoma specialist, which evolved into Sarcoma Cancer Ireland. Today, she chairs the Advocacy & Education Committee, focusing on raising public and professional awareness. Kelli has a professional background in marketing. She is also a mother of four and grandmother of two, and lives in rural Kilkenny.



David Smeed

Finance Director

David brings over 25 years financial experience as a regulated QFA and board finance committee member. He ensures robust financial oversight, drawing on international hedge fund and impact investing expertise. A Dublin native whose father battled sarcoma, David is committed to stewarding resources for patient support and sustainability.



Angela Wallace

Founding Board Member

Angela is a founding board member and retired from a 30+ year career in the forestry sector, specialising in environmental protection and biodiversity. After her son Lee passed from pelvic sarcoma, she helped establish SCI to ensure better support and information for sarcoma patients and families. Angela enjoys fundraising, gardening, and time with family as a devoted grandmother.



Paul Lund

Finance Director & Treasurer

Paul began volunteering with SCI in early 2024 and joined the board later that year. Inspired by his mother's cancer diagnosis, Paul supports SCI's mission. He is an Indirect Tax Manager with Deloitte Australia and a Chartered Accountant with broad experience in tax advisory. Paul is a Galway native, currently living in Sydney with his partner, where he continues to fulfill his Board responsibilities remotely.



Catherine Leith

Board Member & Support Lead

Catherine has volunteered with SCI since 2022 and joined the board in June 2024. A synovial sarcoma survivor, she brings lived experience and advocacy to design and deliver support services. In her role as Support Lead, she oversees patient grants and counselling coordination, ensuring our programmes meet real patient needs. Catherine lives in County Antrim with her husband and is a proud mum of two, and believes deeply in community and compassion.



John Ruddy

Risk & Administration Lead

John joined the board in June 2024 and brings over 20 years experience in software development, digital strategy, and project management. Originally from Achill Island and now based in Kildare, he holds a Masters in IT Enabled Innovation from Maynooth University. Inspired by family members battles with cancer, John champions systems improvements and data protection to strengthen the charity's operations.

COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATORS



Ann P. Butler

Accredited Psychotherapist

Ann established SCI's counselling and support group services, delivering compassionate therapy sessions and facilitating group support. With over 10 years experience in psychotherapy, she brings expertise in grief counselling and trauma-informed care.
Ann is contracted to deliver SCI's one-to-one counselling service and generously volunteers her time to facilitate monthly support groups for patients and families living with sarcoma.



Peter Mulvihill

Accredited Psychotherapist

Peter joined SCI in 2024 to help expand our counselling services. He provides one-to-one therapy for individuals affected by sarcoma and facilitates group support sessions.
Peter is contracted to deliver SCI's one-to-one counselling service and kindly volunteers his time to lead our monthly bereavement support group for those who have lost a loved one to sarcoma.

SUPPORT LINE TEAM



Mary McDonnell

Mary is a mum to three, one adult child & two teenagers. She lost her first husband, John, to Synovial Sarcoma in January 2004 after an arduous fought battle & amputation which began in 1999. Mary joined the Sarcoma Cancer Ireland helpline team in April of 2026, hoping that by lending a caring ear might make a difference to even one person on their cancer journey.



Louise Whitehead

Louise is a retired nurse, mother of 2 and grandmother to 1 beautiful grandson. She joined Sarcoma Cancer Ireland because she has treated people through illnesses, battled an illness herself and understands how lonely and terrifying it can be to feel alone sometime. Some days just a sympathetic ear, a gentle voice or supportive word can make a huge impact. She currently has a close family member going through the sarcoma journey and has witnessed what a little support can do on their darkest of days.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2025

Patient Support

Supporting people affected by sarcoma remains at the heart of everything we do.

During 2025, Sarcoma Cancer Ireland provided 68 non-means tested financial assistance grants of €500 and 5 discretionary grants, distributing €38,500 in direct financial assistance to patients and families experiencing a sarcoma diagnosis.

Our counselling programme expanded significantly during the year, with 148 one-to-one counselling sessions delivered by accredited psychotherapists. These sessions provided emotional support for patients, family members, and those navigating bereavement.

We delivered 24 online support groups and 5 in-person support groups across Cork, Dublin and Limerick, creating opportunities for connection, shared experience, and peer support.

Our Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) support programme expanded to Dublin and Cork, providing food and coffee vouchers to young patients undergoing extended hospital stays.

Advocacy and Education

Patient advocacy and raising awareness of sarcoma with healthcare professionals was a central focus of ours in 2025.

Working alongside the Sarcoma Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) at St Vincent's University Hospital, we developed and launched a GP Awareness Toolkit to improve recognition of sarcoma symptoms and support timely referral pathways.

The GP toolkit was distributed to more than 1,700 GP clinics across the Republic of Ireland in July 2025.

Additional awareness articles were published in Forum Journal, helping educate healthcare professionals about sarcoma and the importance of early diagnosis.

Our annual Patient Information Day brought together patients, carers, healthcare professionals and support providers from across Ireland.

Representatives from Sarcoma Cancer Ireland attended 2 international conferences (ESMO & SPAGN), ensuring that Irish patients were represented at a global level.





AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Sarcoma Awareness Month and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month formed key pillars of our awareness activity during 2025.
Throughout these campaigns we shared patient stories, survivor experiences, memorial tributes, educational content, symptom awareness information and details of support services.
These campaigns generated more than one million views across our social media platforms, helping increase awareness and understanding of sarcoma nationally.



SCI FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS EVENTS

The Sunflower Ball 2025

Held at the Newgrange Hotel, Navan, the Sunflower Ball brought together patients, families, healthcare professionals and supporters for an evening of remembrance, celebration and fundraising.
The event raised €14,258.10 to support counselling services, financial grants, advocacy work and support programmes.

Big Yellow Picnic

During the month of July, supporters across Ireland hosted picnics in gardens, parks and community spaces, helping raise awareness and funds while celebrating community connection.

Step It Up for Sarcoma

Participants committed to walking or rolling one mile per day throughout September, helping raise awareness and support for sarcoma patients and families.

COMMUNITY-LED FUNDRAISING

The generosity of our supporters continued to inspire us throughout 2025.
Highlights included:

- Liz's Garden of Giving
- Butterfly Guard Documentary Screening
- VHI Women's Mini Marathon participation
- Curls for Sarcoma
- Cork City Mini Marathon fundraising
- Workplace sporting events
- Marathon challenges
- Community and family fundraising initiatives nationwide













COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

At the Sunflower Ball, we were honoured to present the Sarcoma Spirit Awards, recognising individuals who have made a meaningful difference to the sarcoma community.

Deirdre Lawlor Award presented to Aoife Owens



Deirdre Lawlor

The Deirdre Lawlor Award recognises individuals who embody compassion, kindness and commitment to the sarcoma community. This year, the award was presented to Aoife Owens, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to our organisation and to patients and families affected by sarcoma.

Aoife worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help strengthen our financial and governance systems, giving her time and expertise to put important finance and governance documentation in place. Alongside this, Aoife has also been a tremendous source of support to patients. Drawing on her own family experience, she has made herself available to patients whose diagnosis is the same subtype as her brother's, offering advice and information around treatment options, including accessing treatment abroad.

We are incredibly grateful for Aoife's generosity, commitment and willingness to support both our organisation and the sarcoma community.





Margaret Cavanagh Award presented to Aisling Murphy



Margaret Cavanagh

The Margaret Cavanagh Award recognises healthcare professionals who demonstrate exceptional care and support for sarcoma patients and families.

This year, we were delighted to present the award to Aisling Murphy from St Vincent's Private Hospital, recognising her dedication and contribution to the care and support of sarcoma patients and their families. Her kindness, availability and willingness to do that little bit extra have made a real difference to patients and their families.

Aisling's commitment to patients reflects the compassion and care that the Margaret Cavanagh Award represents, and we were delighted to celebrate her contribution at the Sunflower Ball.

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Sarcoma Cancer Ireland remains committed to the highest standards of governance, accountability and transparency.

The Board of Directors held quarterly Board meetings throughout 2025 to oversee strategic planning, financial management, risk management and organisational development.

Committee structures continued to support effective governance through dedicated oversight of Finance, Support Services, Advocacy & Education, and Risk & Administration. A volunteer engagement session was held in-person in April to ensure that committee volunteers and Board members had the opportunity to connect and prioritise activities for the organisation - inclusive of training provided by Stuart Gartland of Volunteer Ireland.

The Board regularly reviewed organisational objectives, financial performance, emerging risks and compliance obligations. The organisation also enrolled in the NTF Strategic Planning Support Programme with Carmichael Ireland - which provided multiple professionally facilitated strategic planning sessions during the year.

As an organisation funded primarily through public donations and fundraising, responsible stewardship of resources remains a core priority.

Although not required by regulation, the Board decided to engage independent auditors for the first time in 2025 to ensure we had the benefit of professional advice in relation to adherence to Charity regulations and Company law in Ireland.

Throughout 2025, Sarcoma Cancer Ireland maintained transparent financial reporting, fulfilled its regulatory obligations and continued to strengthen its governance framework.

With a strong financial position and clear strategic priorities, the organisation is well placed to continue expanding support for the sarcoma community.





FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and Expenditure Summary

Total Income: €118,031
Total Expenditure: €76,875
Net Surplus: €41,156

Key Spending Areas

Financial Assistance Grants: €38,500
Support Services and Counselling: €13,709
Fundraising Activities: €7,461
Advocacy Activities: €4,663
Finance and Compliance: €4,600

Year-End Position

Cash at Bank: €56,906
Reserves Fund: €179,454
Other Receivables: €2,589
Creditors: (€3,690)

Net Assets: €235,259

The Board remains committed to ensuring that funds are managed responsibly and directed towards supporting patients and families affected by sarcoma.

Commentary on Reserves: On the advice of our auditors, the Board decided to increase the planned funding for advocacy and support initiatives within the 2026 budget plan, while maintaining sufficient reserves to ensure the long-term sustainability of the charity.

PLANS FOR 2026

Building on the progress achieved during 2025, Sarcoma Cancer Ireland will continue to expand and strengthen its services.



Through these initiatives we will continue working towards a future where every person affected by sarcoma feels supported, informed and never alone.

Key priorities for 2026 include:

- Continued delivery of financial grants, counselling and support groups
- Expansion of peer support opportunities
- Development of a dedicated support line for patients and families
- Introduction of play therapy funding for children affected by sarcoma
- Introduction of a funeral support grant programme
- Continued GP awareness and education initiatives
- Expansion of AYA support services
- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Return of the Seeds for Sarcoma campaign
- Camino Walk Fundraiser 2026

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

Sarcoma Cancer Ireland delivers clear and measurable public benefit by:

- **Providing financial assistance grants to sarcoma patients experiencing hardship**
- **Delivering professional counselling services to patients and families**
- **Facilitating online and in-person support groups**
- **Providing peer support and practical guidance**
- **Raising awareness of sarcoma among the public and healthcare professionals**
- **Advocating for earlier diagnosis and improved patient outcomes**
- **Supporting young patients through targeted AYA programmes**
- **Delivering educational campaigns and patient information resources**

These activities improve wellbeing, reduce isolation, increase awareness and strengthen support for individuals and families affected by sarcoma throughout Ireland.





CONTACT

Email: info@sarcoma.ie

Website: www.sarcoma.ie

Facebook: Sarcoma Cancer Ireland

Instagram: @sarcomacancerireland

Reference and Administrative Information
Prepared by:
Carol Haslam, Company Secretary

Approved by:
Board of Directors,
Sarcoma Cancer Ireland

Date: 1st October 2026

Signature (on behalf of the board):

APPENDIX

Financial Statements

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 €	2024 €
Income		
Donations income	115,075	118,932
Expenditure		
Patient support grants	38,500	36,150
Funeral support grant	500	-
Staff and volunteer training	1,352	700
Food vouchers	2,530	500
Fundraising events expenses	7,384	6,542
Subscriptions	496	472
Administration support-virtual assistant costs	3,885	1,680
Printing, postage and stationery	1,579	6,698
Advertising	2,682	5,097
Computer costs	118	111
Vouched travel and engagement costs	3,329	4,045
Legal and professional	43	464
Counselling service	10,582	4,860
Bank charges	127	225
General expenses	78	29
Auditor's remuneration	3,690	3,690
	76,875	71,263
Miscellaneous income		
Income from unlisted investments	2,956	1,498
Net surplus	41,156	49,167

BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 €	2024 €
Fixed Assets			
Investments	7	175,000	125,000
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	7,043	1,750
Cash and cash equivalents		56,906	71,043
		63,949	72,793
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(3,690)	(3,690)
Net Current Assets		60,259	69,103
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		235,259	194,103
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		235,259	194,103
Members' Funds		235,259	194,103