



2023

**TRANSFORMING LIVES
THROUGH ADVENTURE**



www.activeconnections.ie

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Over the past 4 years in particular we, in Active Connections, have embraced incredible growth. In 2022 we grew by a massive 43%.

In 2023 we focused on reflecting on the impact we have had and how we ensure that we sustain ourselves as an organisation into our future.

This focus has helped us refocus on our teams, our processes, and very importantly we spent great effort on ensuring that we were keeping our participants at the centre of our approaches.

We also took the time to engage with more community partners this year. We re-established our outdoor education and wellbeing programme, through this we engage with the ETB as new funding stakeholders and a number of new organisations of whom we hope to continue to work with.

We also experienced some unexpected difficulties with some of our funders pulling significant levels of support on very short notice.

In 2023 taking into account the above we grew our impact by 13% - 3% above our targeted growth, what a fantastic team we have.

Thank you to all our supporters and partners for your continued belief



CEO and founder
Raymond Burke

About Active Connections

Our Vision, is that activity based therapeutic support be available to all people experiencing emotional and/or behavioural difficulties across Ireland.

Founded in 2012 Active Connections CLG is a not for profit company working with young people with behavioural difficulties. Active Connections is leading the charge of introducing adventure based interventions to Ireland.

Since our beginning we have worked in partnership with statutory and non-statutory agencies, delivering programmes to over 3000 young people and their families in Munster and Leinster

Our Mission, is to *Transform Lives Through Adventure*. We do this by engaging our participants in meaningful outdoor guided experiences.



Our Impact

Here is a snapshot of our
impact in 2023

600

Individuals Supported

25831

TOTAL IMPACT HOURS



The Problem

Young people that grow up in the care system are more likely to experience homelessness, incarceration, higher rate of mental illness and health difficulties.

Many of these people will be referred to counselling but struggle to engage with traditional services.



Our Solution

In 2012 we established the 'New Trails' service.

Our focus was to introduce an activity based intervention service. Working 1:1 in the outdoors the programme supports participants to change what they can and strengthen what they had.



New Trails Testimonial

"I don't know exactly what to say but I know I'd like to thank Active Connections especially my key worker for honestly helping me through a rough patch over the past year. Thank you for all the experiences and memories, thank you for turning on the light when I was lost in the dark, just thanks you for everything"
- Darren*

*Name changed to maintain confidentiality

Our Impact - New Trails

Impact Hours

13807.95 hrs

Impact hours are the actual hours our staff spent with young people who experience emotional and behavioural difficulties

146

Number of young people supported



Case Study New Trails

Young Person 1 was referred in August 2022 due to high levels of concerns around his welfare and that of his siblings. At the time we began to support DG a residential placement was being sought.

YP1 presented as violent and abusive within the home. YP1 was removed from the home by the garda on a number of occasions.

YP1 also presented with self harm, poor ability to socialise with other peers. YP1 was a victim of ongoing bullying, which led to school breakdown.

In 2023 Active Connections offered 22 New trails sessions, 19 Respond sessions and 2 overnights. Throughout the crisis, AC has been a consistent in YP1 life, supplying support and opportunities to develop

YP1 has maintained his place at home, he is restoring relationships and returning to school YP1's family continue to show strong levels of resilience.

Case Study- New Trails



Referrer Testimonials

'Active Connections are very effective and their staff are well trained and willing to work with challenging young people. A fantastic service'
Social Worker - WaWx

'They [Active Connections] reduce tensions in the placement. They help maintain a day as some kids are refusing school. They do help maintain placements.'
Social Worker - WaWx





Our Impact - Connect Programme

Connect Programme is our outdoor education programme which supports groups with additional needs

In 2024 we will grow this impact by 100%

63

Number of young people supported



The Problem

Some people with disabilities get home support to help the family. Unfortunately this system is broken.

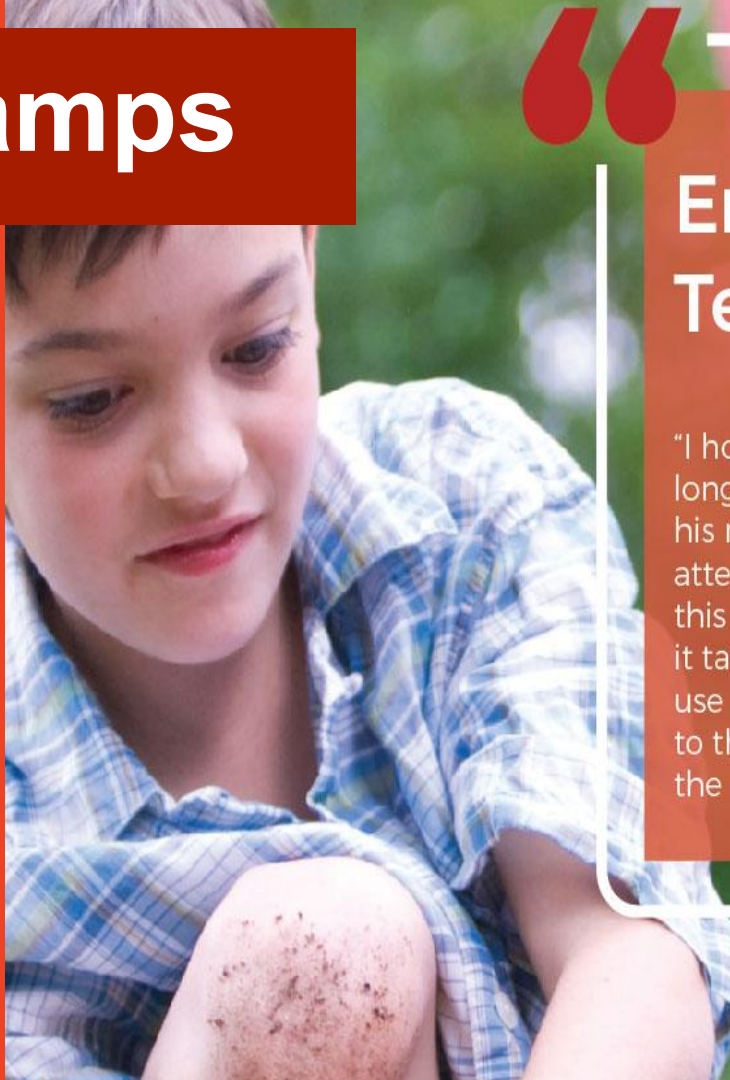
Families face long waiting lists, a constant turnover of support staff, and often can't leave their young person with their support worker 1:1 due to legislation. The family doesn't get respite

Ember Camps

Ember Camps are an alternative to home respite.

The Ember Camps are a weekend support to young people with disabilities.

They are a fun, social space in which young people can grow and thrive.



Embers Camp Testimonial

“I hope he can access this service long into the future as it met all of his needs and he was so happy attending every day, he vocalised this and he is minimally verbal so it takes a big motivator for him to use language. This is a testament to the great service provided for the past 3 weeks...”



Our Impact - 2023 Ember Camps

Impact Hours

12023.5 hrs

Impact hours are the actual hours our staff spent with young people experience emotional and behavioural difficulties

390

Number of young
people supported



Ember Camps Case Study

Young Person 3; when we first meet, YP3 was struggling, their home placement was at acute risk of breakdown and school was a no go area.

YP3 started to attend the Ember Camps which gave the family some down time where they could do the basics. YP3 connected with a number of staff. We increased the support hours to include mid week session.

Slowly but surely behaviours reduced, stress reduced. YP3 became happier in himself and in his ability to cope.

Things at home improved so much that residential care was off the table and he would return to school.



Our Goals 2024

10-13% Growth

28000 Contact Hours

**130K in Fundraising
to support our
development**

1.6 million in Income

Financial Oversight

The measures taken by the Directors to secure compliance with the Companies Act 2014 regarding the keeping of accounting records include the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function.

The accounting records of the company are located at:

Company Accountant: Chalmers Accounting and Consultancy, Unit P5, Marina Commercial Park, Cork.

Auditor: DK Accountancy, 39 Woodview, Fionn Laoi, Ballincollig, Cork. P31XH22

Internal Finance Committee oversee the financial functioning of the organisation

Directors Information and Compliance Statement

The Board of Trustees acknowledge that they have a responsibility to ensure that the organisation is fully compliant with their obligations under the Companies Act 2014.

To this end, the Corporate Governance Subgroup review the internal controls in place on an annual basis.

Current Board

Richard Nolan HR and Strategy - Chairperson

Mary Vesser McKay - Company Secretary

Brian O'Donovan - Company Treasurer

Jani Smyth

John Palmer

Scott Ellis

Michael O'Connor

Alan McGettigan

Administration Information

Charity number Revenue (CHY) 22534

Charity Number CRA 20201356

CRO Company Number 563671

Business address Ballinlough, Killeagh, Cork, P35FT26

**Accountants contact Chalmers Accounting and Consultancy, Unit P5, Marina Commercial Park, Cork.
Auditor contact DK Accountancy, 39 Woodview, Fionn Laoi, Ballincollig, Cork. P31XH22**

**Bank Details : Bank of Ireland, 97 Main Street, Midleton, Co. Cork, P25 N723
AIB N Main St, Youghal-Lands, Youghal, Co. Cork**

Leadership Team CEO: Raymond Burke

Service supervisors: Anna O'Toole, Emma Hennessy, Ciaran Walters & Colin Patton

Statement of Administration

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations. Irish Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year-end date and of the net income and expenditure of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements. The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain, and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and net income or expenditure of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors' report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the company's assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

Audited Report

[Click here to access the AFS](#)