



*“if an offending lifestyle for some offers **purpose, inclusion, belonging,** how do we dismantle this and provide credible alternatives” (Weaver 2013)*



*“I’m 31 and originally from the Northside ...grew up in a dysfunctional family. My mother and father were alcoholics and **there was a lot of abuse in the home,** do ya know what I mean? **Physical abuse and fuckin violence** and so basically it went from there to ehm I was 8 years of age when I was **put into state residential care,** so I was in there from the age of 8 til 18. **As a young fella I didn’t feel I was wanted or loved,** ya know? But for me, **my comfort blanket and my safety thing in a kind of a way was drugs.** I fell into drugs at a very young age, my first ever roll up believe it or not was hash so it just kind of went from there”*

(CleanSlateCork.com 2022)



*“Because like to us... with us...when we go into court and all that, the Judge and **all them**, the Gardaí and that, **is looking at you and saying sure they've no feelings for no one**, they're not humans at all, do you get what I saying to you. **But deep down we have feeling... but deep down we have feelings, it's like you're putting up a wall do you get what I'm saying?**” (Connolly, 2013)*

“There isn't a day that goes by that I don't regret what I did. I am so sorry and remorseful.”

*“I can tell her stuff I wouldn't even tell my own family... That's the level of **trust** you have here, ...and that's very important... to be able to open up and say things you wouldn't normally tell no one, stuff you keep bottled up... I think that's very important” (Seaman & Lynch, 2016)*



*“when I was talking with one of the staff from the Alliance, I asked her **what was there for me when I get out?** I said to her when I get out, I am going straight to the bookies, and what money is left I will go and get some drink, she said to call into the office when I get out. So, I got a couple of weeks TR, got two bottles of cider, went to the bookies and got drunk, next day I picked up the phone, and said **I am going back to the same way as before I went in.** They told me to come straight in. **From that day on, I have not looked back, because I took full advantage of the services that they were giving me**”. (Cambridge, 2019)*

**The Desistance Journey
Into Recovery and Out of Chaos**
Cambridge, G., Lynch, O., & Windle, J. (2022)
Palgrave Macmillan/Springer Nature Switzerland AG

*“They help me with everything - **especially the things that I need to learn to do for myself.***

*It’s **a place of hope and support,** to help me stay on the straight and narrow.*

*It helps me to **see the real side of life and take responsibility** and not hide away.*

It helps me to have respect for people and see their good sides, and to earn an honest living for myself.

The counselling helps get a better understanding of myself and others and to cope better.”

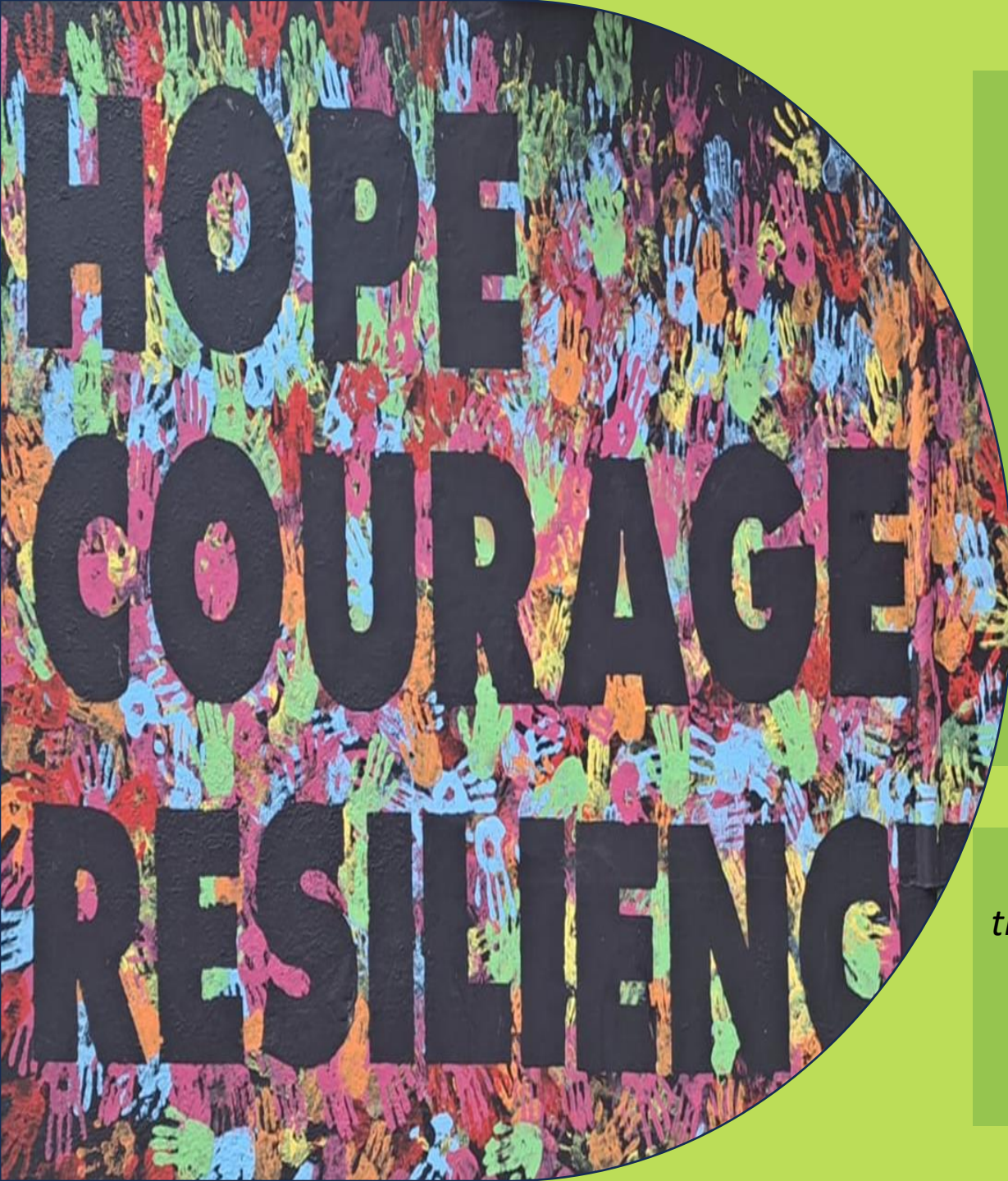
*“It's **probably the way families should be.** Maybe that's why I linked it with family because maybe that's the way I wish family were with me like, accepting and em... glad to see you“ (Seaman & Lynch, 2016)*

*“Cork Alliance **never closed the door on me ...they got me to get to know myself again, and to find myself... I was lost and broken”***



'When I picked up the phone to see if I could link back in... I was in a place in my life where I was feeling lost, alone and very unsure on how I could move from a life of addiction into recovery and trying to better myself. I'll never forget that first meeting... trying to explain... that I really wanted to go back to education and try to start doing some work on myself through therapy... when she smiled and said we can help you... and showed confidence in me... It honestly felt like a warm hug – that I didn't have to walk this road on my own. I'm now a few months down the road and everything we spoke of in that first meeting I have received and so much more.'

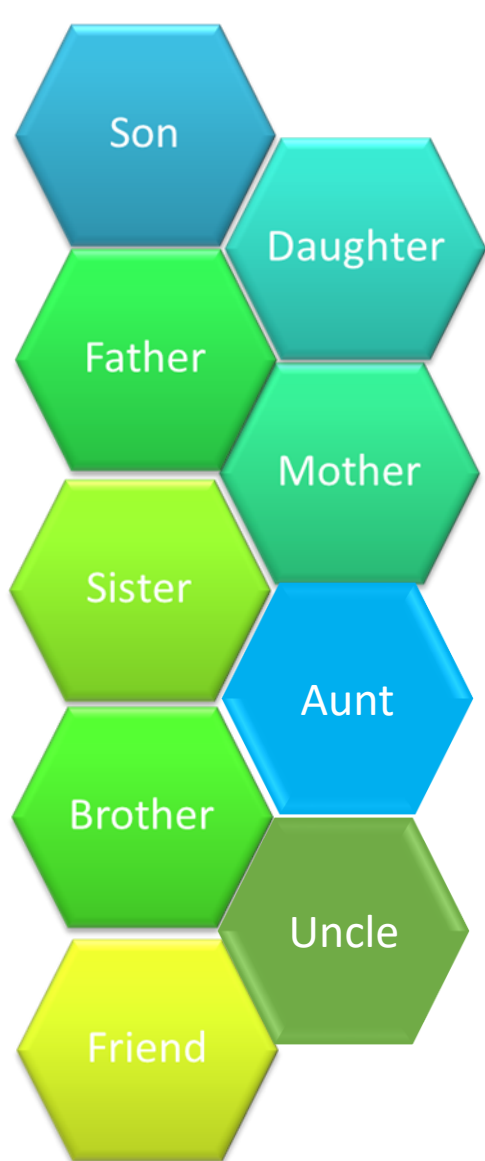




*"Even though there's no guards on the door or security, I just knew that even people when they did come in here, like **the attitude was gone**. Like d'ya know when you're on the streets and stuff like that you're full of like toughness and stuff like that, but I felt like, I seen it myself in here like, people that I would have known on the streets but then I **seen a different side of them when we were all in here**. Because I suppose there is a different side to everyone like, and on the streets, you have to be a different person, then when you're in Cork Alliance it's like... I dunno... **it's just so relaxing and at peace I suppose**" (Seaman & Lynch, 2016)*

*When I was in prison, I had a **sense of safety** and this was because there was a routine every day and when I was **in the outside world**, I was always in chaos from my trauma, my addiction and from **running from my issues....**In prison I was able to hold down a job and felt like I had a purpose. (CleanSlateCork.com, 2022)*

The people behind the statistics



The Role of the Cork Alliance



“...a safe place to be able to explore who I am, in this new scary world I find myself in”

Our Responsibility is to form a collaborative partnership where

Connect

we have the responsibility to stay connected and nurture healthy relationships that are safe, accepting and caring, **while not accepting harms done or colluding with destructive behaviour.**

Accept

we have the responsibility of accepting people where they are at and working at their pace – slips, falls and all – **while not pushing or pulling them as ‘we know best’.**

Someone of worth

we have the responsibility of letting people show and explore their inherent goodness and that they are someone of worth, with the power and responsibility to make good choices and to cope peacefully with frustration and conflict, **while leaving responsibility, power and autonomy with the individual.**

Consistent

we have the responsibility of consistently being there to enable and support change **while leaving the responsibility, power and autonomy to make it happen with the individual**

A word cloud featuring various terms in green and blue. The largest word is 'hope' in green. Other prominent words include 'trust' (green), 'peace of mind' (green), 'kindness' (blue), 'support' (blue), 'family' (green), and 'understanding' (blue). Smaller words include 'opportunities', 'grow', 'purpose', 'change', 'believe', 'empowered', 'recovery', 'worth', 'change', 'safety', 'gratitude', 'connection', 'repair', 'confidence', 'open up', 'learn', 'honesty', 'happiness', 'move forward', and 'awareness'.

*“a restorative milieu — an environment that **consistently fosters awareness, empathy and responsibility** in a way that is likely to prove far **more effective in achieving social discipline** than our current reliance on punishment and sanctions”*

Ted Wachtel (2013)



“The task of transformation, is a task that is one that involves more than those in prison”

“this work is critical, and the benefit of your work cannot be overestimated, and it will not just last for a day, it is something that will endure, and it is a crucial contribution, a building block, towards building the ethical society in which we all want to share, in all our imperfections and the versions of our wounded selves.”

President Michael D. Higgins, (2016)

