



Annual Report

2016

DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place



Service user at Depaul's Orchid House Service

Welcome

The story of Depaul began 15 years ago when the need for a service to support young people with complex needs was identified. Since then, we have continued to adapt to the ever-changing needs of a growing homeless population.

In 2016, Depaul worked tirelessly to make sure the needs of the most marginalised in society were met as we continued on our mission of ending homelessness and changing the lives of those affected by it.

Homelessness continued to be a reality for large numbers of people in urban areas in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. The gravity of this problem is recognised by voluntary bodies, statutory funders and the wider public. Depaul continued to exert our best efforts, in partnership with statutory and other voluntary agencies, to provide temporary accommodation to homeless people and to support them in finding long-term accommodation. We also worked to support people in the community who may be at risk of homelessness.

We have maintained our focus on supporting people with acute needs such as addiction, mental health problems and experience of institutional care.

As homelessness continues to be one of the biggest challenges facing society today, Depaul responded through our values putting our words into action for the benefit of those who came to us for help.

We will continue to dedicate ourselves to working to end homelessness in the hope that one day, there will be no need for our services. It has and always will be a privilege to work with people and support them on to more positive and independent futures.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry Anthony".

Kerry Anthony MBE
CEO, Depaul

Our Story

Depaul is a dedicated cross-border charity helping people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. First established in 2002, we support some of the most marginalised of the homeless population across 4 key areas:

- Our work with families
- Our work with addiction
- Our work preventing homelessness
- Our work in criminal justice

Our accommodation services offer hundreds of men, women and families a safe, warm and comfortable place to live during a period of transition in their lives.

We advocate to help them secure long-term stable housing and support them to ensure they leave us with the skills they need to live happy and independent lives. Our community services ensure that people who have left homelessness behind or those at risk of becoming homeless are given the tools they need to prevent them from entering or re-entering the cycle of homelessness.

In 2016 alone, across the organisation we provided support to 3,620 single people, couples and families with children in our services. The total for the Republic of Ireland amounted to 2,705 and 915 in Northern Ireland.

Our Vision is of a society in which everyone has a place to call home and a stake in their community.

Our Mission is to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it.

Our Values;

- We celebrate the potential of people;
- We put our words into action;
- We aim to take a wider role in civil society;
- We believe in rights and responsibilities.



*Depaul worked with over 500 children during 2016.
Alternative image used to protect their identity.*

Our Work



3,109

men and women experiencing homelessness were welcomed through our doors in 2016



511

children were given the support they needed through their time in homelessness



12,122

one-to-one support sessions were had across our services in 2016



497

warm beds were provided every single night to people who needed them most



569

volunteers dedicated their time, energy and skills to support people who are homeless



403

professionally trained staff worked to support those most in need during 2016

Adapting

At Depaul, we continue to grow and respond to the needs of those who are most marginalised within society. In 2016, we recognised that an emergency situation called for an emergency response, and so we worked with our statutory partners to open new hostels and provide more warm and safe beds for those who needed them most.

We were pleased to work with Dublin City Council to open a new facility in Dublin in December 2016 to provide quality accommodation for people who might otherwise be sleeping rough. Depaul's 'assertive engagement' staff work with service users in this facility to address some of the underlying issues that contributed to their homelessness and support them to move into more stable accommodation. This approach is an effective response to the current emergency but is also intended to reduce the risk of long-term homelessness for service users.

Additionally, our projects responded to the needs of people who are at risk of

homelessness as a direct consequence of the lack of supply in the housing market but we maintained our focus on supporting people with acute needs such as addiction, mental health problems and experience of institutional care.

The need to provide additional emergency accommodation during the current housing crisis does not undermine the policy emphasis on Housing First, which has been adopted by statutory bodies in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. Depaul remains fully committed to this approach and we have increased resources dedicated to working with people in the community.

During 2016, Depaul established a separate entity to apply for Approved Housing Body status, focussing on providing additional long-term accommodation. Depaul recognises that while there is a large number of existing Approved Housing Bodies in the state, few of these focus on service users with acute needs.



“The only way we’re going to be able to make long term change is through the provision of long term solutions. We continue to call on the Government to provide these long-term solutions through the increased provision of housing. Until then, we’ll make sure homeless people are cared for and supported.”

David Carroll
Director of Services and Development

Chef at Depaul's Backlane service making sandwiches for service users

Our Work



2,188

visits to our in-house nursing team meant vulnerable people got the care they needed when they needed it most



69

hours were given every single day by volunteers, over 25,000 hours in total, giving a listening ear to homeless people



1,972

community link-ins were held to make sure people who have moved on from homelessness were doing OK



480

support sessions were held, through our Assertive Engagement Worker, with people using our emergency services helping them secure longer-term accommodation



203

people successfully moved on from our services to somewhere more suitable. For many, this meant a home of their own



18

new babies were welcomed, with open arms, back home to our services after Mums gave birth



“Homelessness is often just one of the many issues faced by the people we work with. Mental and physical health needs can be substantial and really impact on a person’s ability to live life to the fullest. Our in-house nursing team provide the best care they can, in an environment that is safe and accessible.”

Jess Sears
Clinical Nurse Manager

Depaul staff and service users at our Orchid House Service

15 Years of Service Provision

Our story began in 2002 when the need for a service for young people with complex needs was identified. With the help of our friends in the Vincentian family and our statutory partners, we opened our first service in Dublin that same year. We now provide over 25 specialised homeless services across Dublin and Northern Ireland and going forward we will continue to adapt our services as needed.

In the 15 years that we have been operating, we have faced many challenges as an organisation, as a society and as a group of individuals affected by, or working for, the issue of homelessness.

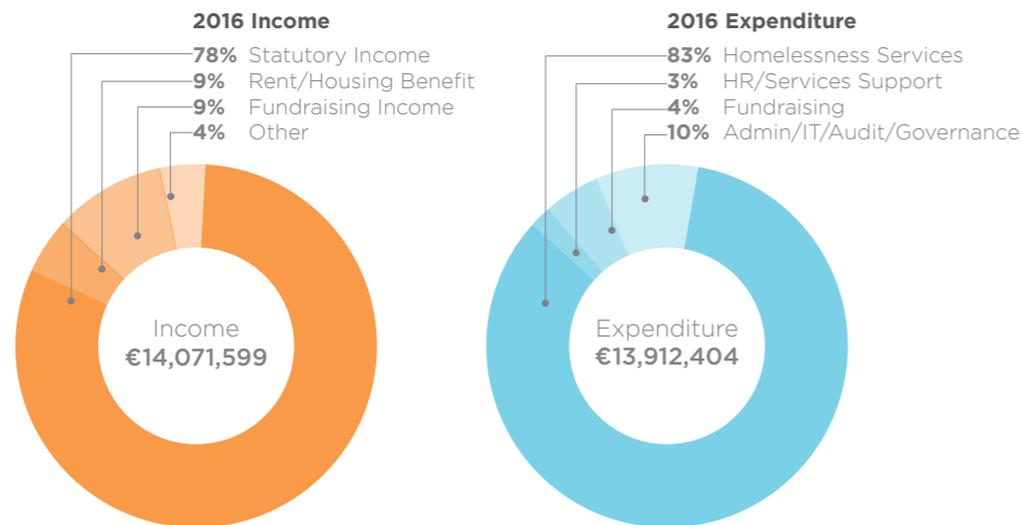
Our recent development as an Approved Housing Body means that we can now acquire properties of our own and, in turn, provide these properties on a long-term basis to homeless people and families. We are also committed to changing the model of homeless accommodation by working to provide housing first, not secondary to temporary accommodation.

Our Housing First service in Northern Ireland is pioneering the way in proving that this model is most effective.

As long as there is homelessness there will be homeless services, and we will continue to hold true to our values as a Vincentian organisation and put our words into action. To do this, we will change and adapt as needed, to ensure those who need us most are cared for and supported.

Above all, we will continue to believe in the potential of all people and know that they will guide us in making the best decisions in providing the right solutions to the issues they face.

Our Finances



86% of every €1/£1 donated goes directly towards supporting our work in our homeless services.

Financial Report

Our main funders in the Republic of Ireland include the Health Service Executive, Dublin City Council, the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive [75%] and the Probation Service [6%].

In Northern Ireland, our main funders include the Northern Ireland Homeless Executive [66%], the Public Health Agency [4%], the Western Health and Social Care Trust [1%] and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership, Derry City and Strabane District Council [1%].

Depaul is committed to the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising in Ireland and the UK Code of Fundraising Practice.

Depaul is also registered on the journey for 'The Governance Code'.

A full copy of our SORP Annual Accounts for 2016 can be found on ie.depaulcharity.org.

Our Supporter Promise

We are committed to maintaining the highest standard of financial probity. We recognise that as a recipient of large amounts of public funds and private donations from organisations and individuals we have a duty to use our financial resources properly and effectively.

We do, and we always will.

If in doubt, always get in touch. We take the issue of transparency and accountability very seriously and are delighted to answer any questions you may have.

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