



## Longfields Opens Its Doors

New Emergency Accommodation

**After months of hard work and preparation we were delighted to open our new emergency accommodation, just in time for Christmas.** The new service is another positive step in changing the lives of people who have been traumatised by losing the safety of a home. Longfields is a 30 bed Supported Temporary Accommodation Unit, provided by Simon in partnership with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive. The building, which had been previously operating as a hotel, was completely refurbished to provide a positive and inspiring space to support clients in changing their lives.



Service Manager, Yoey McCarthy, describes the support services that are provided for people living in Longfields:

"Each resident has a keyworker, working with them to overcome any barriers to moving on from homelessness. There is a nurse on site, support workers, cooking facilities and a kitchen with three meals provided a day.

"We also provide in-house programmes towards seeking employment and education courses. It is such a high quality building and the environment makes all the difference to our clients' wellbeing."

## Kevin's Story

"I am a resident of Dublin Simon Longfields. How lucky am I? No more concrete and looking at the sky.

"I have been in hostels all over Dublin and Longfields has impressed me. You have your own toilet and shower facilities, and a chef who cooks you three meals a day.

"The building is always clean, the staff are so helpful and always have a smile on their face.

"I share a room with my partner and we waited a long time for a bit of comfort like this, because the streets are not nice.

"I would like to personally thank staff at Longfields and Dublin Simon."

## Welcome from Sam



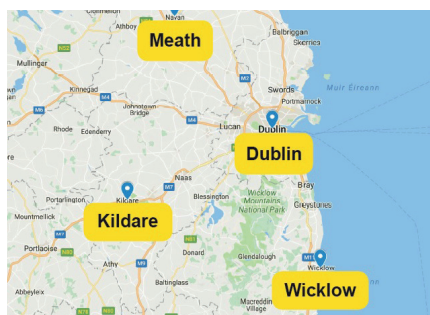
We were pleased to welcome the planning approval for the expansion of our 39 bed residential medical treatment centre. This will

allow us to deliver a total of 70 health specific beds and wraparound supports to people who are homeless or at risk. We will be in touch with you in autumn to update you on our progress. Thank you again for your kindness.

*Sam*

Sam McGuinness  
Dublin Simon Community CEO

## Prevention Services - Can We Help in Your Area?



As well as the housing services we provide in each county, across **Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath** we also have dedicated teams in your community who work with people who may be at risk of becoming homeless.

Our teams can provide visiting support and advice in areas such as:

- Risk of loss of home
- Rent arrears
- Accommodation standards
- Unsuitable living arrangements
- Difficulties managing the home
- Housing rights

If you or anyone you know may be at risk of becoming homeless please do not hesitate to contact one of our teams. Full contact details can be accessed at the link below:

[www.dubsimon.ie/get-help](http://www.dubsimon.ie/get-help)

\*Kevin's name has been changed to protect his identity

## Recent Service Achievements - How You are Driving Change



### Cold Weather Response

We would like to thank all our Simon supporters for their generosity during the recent cold weather. Our entire community came together to get people out of the bitter cold to safety and warmth. We tripled our Extreme Cold Weather beds in our emergency accommodation to ensure we could get people off the streets. Our residents, staff and volunteers all lent a hand to set up beds and help people feel welcome.

The energy involved and generosity of spirit in ensuring that we were all looking out for each other is what makes our community such a powerful agent for change. Thank you for being a part of this and making it possible.



### Health and Wellbeing Award

Our Health and Wellbeing service is making life changing differences and deservedly won Sporting Innovation of the Year at this year's Sports Industry Awards. The award recognised our Wellbeing Room, which provides our clients with a gym space where they can focus on their physical and mental health. The room has been such a huge success so far that we have opened it up to external homeless services.

Last year we were delighted to see one of our clients play for Ireland in the Homeless World Cup. It is only because of your support that these life changing services can be provided to our clients, giving them a vital social outlet and a welcoming space to improve their health, wellbeing and fitness.



### Food for Simon

Cost-saving initiatives like Food for Simon, where companies sponsor food and other items, ensure that we are able to direct your donations to where they are needed most. We were recently supported by Tesco Ireland through their "No Time for Waste" campaign and were delighted to receive a refrigerated van, driven by our volunteer driver Paul. This enables us to transfer food from the various Tesco stores around Dublin to our refrigerated storage and on to our services.

In the first month using the new van, we estimated a reduction in meat costs of 20%. These funds can be redirected into providing other much needed supports.

## Donor Appreciation Event

Towards the end of last year we had the pleasure of meeting some of our supporters at our Donor Appreciation event. The Simon Dance Group gave a wonderful performance and some of our clients kindly shared their story. Around the room we also displayed the thoughtful messages people like you had sent to our clients.

We hope to meet more of you at the next event so please contact Anita at [anitagormley@dubsimon.ie](mailto:anitagormley@dubsimon.ie) if you would like to attend. It is a great opportunity to bring us together and show you first hand the difference your support is making.



## Be an Agent for Change



Over the coming weeks you may see our Agent for Change campaign. As a Simon supporter you are already a part of this vital change that we are making in people's lives.

You can continue to help us spread awareness by sharing our video with your friends, family and followers and help us continue to highlight what people are facing and how we are supporting them.

Visit [dubsimon.ie](http://dubsimon.ie) to find out more.

## Building Homes. Rebuilding Lives.



### Stay In Touch with Simon

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