



Dublin
Simon
Community

Serving Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Meath, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan.



REBUILDING LIVES

Annual Impact Report 2017



6,285

People and Families were supported across our services in 2017, a **22%** increase since the previous year.

612



Adults and Children were housed through our independent housing by the end of 2017.

205



People lived in our permanent supported housing, receiving assistance with health and welfare, education and training.

729



Households were supported in moving out of homelessness into their own homes by our resettlement services.

576



Households were supported to prevent them from homelessness through advice clinics and visiting support.



1,042

People accessed our Medical Residential Treatment and Recovery and our Sure Steps Counselling services.

2,250



Hours of 1:1 counselling and mental health support were received by clients accessing Sure Steps Counselling.

1,533



People were provided with housing assistance, harm reduction and medical services by our Rough Sleeper Team.

665



GP Consultations took place at the Mobile Health Unit, in partnership with Safetynet Primary Care.

906



People accessed our emergency accommodation with care plans focusing on health, life skills and education.

6,192



Food Parcels were distributed by Outreach, Resettlement and Food for Simon Teams.



354,490

Meals were provided across our residential services with our kitchens providing nourishing food to improve wellbeing.



482

People expanded and developed their skills and education.

60

People came through our employability initiatives.



GEOFF'S STORY

“A lot of people say to me, how are you so happy? I've found myself I try to tell them, I've got me back.”

Geoff experienced homelessness for seven years after he could no longer afford his rent. Today, Geoff has received vital support from our treatment services and is looking forward to getting back to work.

“I was literally just rock bottom. I was seven years out on the streets. When I went into Simon's treatment services I was nervous but I knew in my own heart and soul that I wanted to do this. I'm still in Recovery now. It is a lovely house. I had a great key worker, Eleanor, going through treatment. She got me in touch with a counsellor, Blathnaid from Sure Steps. The three of us worked together.

“I could feel myself changing. I was really starting to like myself again.

“I don't know how many times I tried to give up drink and I don't know how many times I went for counselling, none of them worked out. When I came into the Simon Community everything they put in place for me worked. I wanted it and I knew that from day one.

“I linked in with the Community Employment (CE) Scheme through my key worker and I've been doing it just over a year now. I recently switched over to maintenance and that's going fantastic. You just keep saying to yourself it can't get better.

“This morning I woke up, the minute I got up out of the bed I was singing, just totally full of joy. It's great to be alive I was saying to myself. There's no way I'm going back. That's how I just keep going forward and forward.

“The person I see when I'm looking in the mirror now is the person I always wanted to be.”

Geoff, Recovery Client

SAM'S WELCOME



One of the most crucial aspects of our services is that they work together, providing individualised care plans based on a clients' specific needs. When someone experiencing homelessness arrives at our services they are often at their lowest point, feeling frightened and alone, having lost touch with family or friends. The homeless crisis has tragically escalated to almost 7,000 adults and children trapped in homelessness in the greater Dublin area alone. The dedication and commitment of our staff, volunteers, donors, funders and partners ensure we can continue to expand and adapt where we are needed.

Looking back on 2017, we saw a year of rapid change and development. In line with our organisational strategy, we focused on acquiring housing to turn into homes, to move people off the streets and out of unstable, temporary accommodation. Our homelessness prevention and resettlement teams worked tirelessly with 1,305 households to keep them in their homes. We have plans for further housing acquisition, construction, rental and leasing to provide more homes across Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath. We also expanded our homelessness prevention services into the counties of Cavan and Louth, working with their Local Authorities to stop more people from becoming homeless.

After months of intense work and preparation we opened our additional 30 bed emergency accommodation at Longfields in December, in time to give people comfort for Christmas. Storm Ophelia saw a co-ordinated effort from the homeless sector to protect those with limited access to accommodation, ensuring nobody was left to weather the storm alone. Our Outreach and Emergency teams worked across services to ensure no-one was left behind. We are grateful for the support we received from the public in helping our teams identify people needing help.

We continue to be innovative in our solutions to tackling the housing and homeless crisis. Our Medical Residential Treatment and Recovery Facility at Ushers Island is the only one in the country working with people who are homeless to address their addiction and health issues related to their mental and physical health. In 2018 we were relieved to secure planning approval for the expansion of Ushers Island, which will allow us to deliver the first 70 of 100 health specific beds with wraparound supports for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

We also increased our Recovery and Aftercare services to reduce the number of people who graduate from treatment and could be left with no other option but to re-enter the revolving door of emergency accommodation. Our Sure Steps Counselling service provided 2,250 Hours of 1:1 counselling and mental health support. We expanded our employability courses, continuing to provide opportunities so people are able to get back to work or education, with 60 people participating in back to work schemes and Community Employment.

None of this would be possible without our Simon Community of supporters and funders, staff and volunteers, partners, clients and residents. Our journey cannot stop there! In the times to come we must ensure we are ready to respond and ultimately give people who have faced the strife and trauma of homelessness back a sense of hope, stability and warmth. Each and every Simon supporter is a vital part of this. Your kindness continues to save lives.

Thank You.

Sam

Sam McGuinness
Dublin Simon Community CEO



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health



An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimircé Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection



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