

ONE FAMILY

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017



Cherish Founder Maura O'Dea Richards pictured at our 45th anniversary celebration.



One Family believes in an Ireland where every family is cherished equally, and is enabled to enjoy the social, financial and legal equality to create their own positive futures.

Our Vision

One Family believes in an Ireland where every family is cherished equally, and is enabled to enjoy the social, financial and legal equality to create their own positive futures.

Our Mission

One Family is working to ensure a positive and equal future for people parenting alone, sharing parenting and separating – changing attitudes, policies, services and lives. Together with these one-parent families, we are committed to achieving equality and respect for all families.

In addition to striving for fundamental attitudinal and structural change in our society, our services support individual families through times of change and difficulty, as well as those experiencing a crisis pregnancy. We know that every family is unique, and so we work in a family-centred way to bring about better lives for parents and children.

Our Values

Respect, compassion for and acceptance of the parents, children and organisations that we come in contact with are at the heart of what we do. We connect with others in a relationship of equals and are completely non-judgmental. We believe that we can hold the hope for the families we work with, especially when they are unable to. We achieve this through innovation, excellence, accountability and our family-centred approach.

Since being founded as Cherish in 1972, One Family has been an organisation of determination, passion and courage, working with integrity towards achieving equality for all families in Ireland.

What Next

From our new home in Smithfield, One Family will continue to work to challenge stereotypes and change societal attitudes towards one-parent families. Our annual Family Day Festival supports these aims by providing a day of celebration for all children irrespective of their

family form. As a child-centred organisation, we will continue to work with policy makers and other stakeholders, particularly in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, on measures that combat child poverty. Working from our current 2016-2018 strategy, which is available on our website, we will incrementally grow and enhance our services to provide greater supports and services to the families and clients we work with.

Thank You

To all our volunteers, individual donors, corporate partners and government funders for helping us deliver all the services and campaigns that we do. We thank you for believing in our work and for playing your part in making Ireland a better place for children in one-parent families.

Donate

To donate, visit www.onefamily.ie and click on the donate button or call our office on 01 662 9212 if you wish to set up a Direct Debit. Alternatively you can donate by cheque, postal order, or in person to us at the address below, or donate directly to:

Bank of Ireland

Account No: 17 19 19 23
Sort Code: 90-00-17

We, One Family, commit to comply with the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

Accounts

Our full audited accounts are available on www.onefamily.ie



One Family 8 Coke Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7.
Tel 01 662 9212 Fax 01 662 9096
askonefamily Lo-Call 1890 66 22 12
Email info@onefamily.ie Website www.onefamily.ie
Company No. 45364 Charity No. 6525



DR ANNE-MARIE McGAURAN

CHAIR'S REPORT

2017 was another tumultuous year for Irish society as the Tuam Mother & Baby Home scandal broke reminding us of what a cruel place Ireland had been for single mothers in the past, and why One Family was established as Cherish in 1972.

A litany of excellent reports on the plight facing people who parent alone and their children piled up in 2017 including the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection's *Report on the Position of Lone Parents in Ireland: the Indecon Independent Review of the Amendments to the One-Parent Family Payment since January 2012* published by Government in October on the eve of Budget 2018; and *An Independent Review to Identify the Supports and Barriers for Lone Parents in Accessing Higher Education and to Examine Measures to Increase Participation by Maynooth University*.

There are extremely clear recommendations for Government to follow in these various research reports and clear pathways for how to support one-parent families. Our role now is to ensure that this is done.

Whilst there were some improvements to welcome in Budget 2018 for vulnerable lone parents, we would like to see more done to decrease the very high rates of child poverty, as well as a greater strategic response to the Indecon report.

The disproportionately high rates of child poverty in one-parent families continues to be an issue of major concern for us and we again focussed much of our policy and advocacy work in this area. We worked, through our membership of the *National Advisory Council on Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*¹ on a joint position paper with

partner organisations that laid out a roadmap for how Government can reach their child poverty targets.

We work hard to represent the issues affecting people parenting alone, sharing parenting, and separating as we learn from the families who use our services. We do this with extremely limited resources and we have found partnerships an effective way to have our voice heard.

2017 was a year of contradictions for One Family in many ways as we experienced the profound loss of Sherie de Burgh, our former Director of Counselling; and we celebrated 45 years with an amazing event with all our founders and former President Mary Robinson. We said goodbye to Cherish House which the founders had bought back in the 1970s, and were delighted to move into our fit-for-purpose premises north of the Liffey. We welcomed new staff and Board members whilst managing a lot of transitions at Board level.

I was delighted to become Chair for the last year of my Board tenure so that I could build on the excellent governance that we have in place ensuring that One Family will always be a trusted and effective organisation. I will also oversee the development of our next 3-year Strategic Plan for 2019-2021.

As always, our staff and volunteers deliver a committed and professional service, and this was achieved in 2017 under the pressure of many changes and transitions.

Finally, sincere thanks to the funders, supporters and policy makers who trust in us to do our best on behalf of one-parent families in Ireland.



KAREN KIERNAN

CEO REPORT

2017 was a hugely emotional year for One Family as we celebrated our 45th anniversary moving from Dublin 2 to our refurbished new home in Smithfield, Dublin 7.



Our celebrations were tinged with sadness as we lost our dear friend and colleague, Sherie de Burgh, who passed away in February. Sherie led our Counselling Service for many years, she trained hundreds of other counsellors and

professionals in how to work in the complex area of crisis pregnancy as well as supporting many hundreds of women and men in one-parent families.

We moved building in July and saw our first client two days later. We are delighted to have settled into our new neighbourhood so well and as our services have expanded we are working with more families than ever.

We were busier than ever in 2017 despite moving building, as we provided 4,627 services to 589 parents and children in person and 1,622 on our national helpline. These overall figures represent a 15% increase in services offered and accessed when compared to 2016. Our family support services were delivered in twelve settings around Ireland and our Services Team grew with additional staff members.

Knowledge transfer to other professionals is an important aspect of our work too, and in 2017 we delivered specialist half-day workshops and 3-day parenting programme training to 126 professionals in locations around Ireland. We were hosted for these trainings by the ISPPC, Tusla and CYPSC² in Limerick. We accredited

an additional three new trainers in 2017. We provided two Master Classes on aspects of abortion to 40 counsellors and other family support practitioners in Maynooth University and we provided the specialist module on abortion in the university's certificate course for 16 crisis pregnancy counsellors.

The issues arising from our practice work with families is captured in our policy work; we hear what families tell us and act on it. In 2017 we made 16 submissions to Government and statutory agencies on a range of topics and we held 72 meetings and representations on policy issues. We represent the issues affecting one-parent families on 20 different Boards and committees.

In January, we launched Ireland's first survey on Shared Parenting at an event in Dublin's Mansion House drawing attention to the challenges and lack of support for people sharing parenting of their children.

Our Communications Service plays a pivotal role in promoting our family support services and ensuring the issues affecting the families we work with are understood by the general public and key stakeholders. This work, combined with our annual Family Day celebration, helps to ensure that we continue to represent the diversity and interests of one-parent families in Ireland today.

I look forward to continuing the important work with children and parents we undertake on a daily basis and again thank the parents and families who place their trust in us. It is always a privilege to work with such an amazing team of staff and volunteers as well as a Board committed to excellent governance and oversight.

¹ *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children & young people 2014 – 2020.* https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/cypp_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf

² CYPSC is the Children & Young People's Services Committee <http://www.cypsc.ie/>



ATTITUDINAL CHANGE & COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY



OUR FAMILY DAY FESTIVAL MOVED TO SMITHFIELD SQUARE

75,000 VISITORS ACCESSED INFORMATION ON WWW.ONEFAMILY.IE



ISSUED **19** PRESS RELEASES



62 MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND MENTIONS



POLICY & LEGAL CHANGE STRATEGY



16 POLICY SUBMISSIONS OVER 72 REPRESENTATIONS

Policy papers and submissions included:

- One Family NGO Report: United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Joint Committee on Social Protection January 2017: Supporting Lone Parents into Work or Education
- Courts Service Strategic Plan 2017–2020
- Committee on Children and Youth Affairs on the Affordable Childcare Scheme
- DCYA & Joint Oireachtas Committee on Affordable Childcare Scheme Heads of Bill and General Scheme
- Law Reform Commission on the Preparation of the Fifth Programme for Law Reform
- Department of Social Protection on the Proposed Working Family Payment
- Department of Justice & Equality on the Regulation of the Practices of 'Child's Views' Experts
- Pre-Budget submission 2018



FUNDING STRATEGY

INCOME	EXPENDITURE
€780,072	€767,547
UP FROM	UP FROM
€683,220	€675,835



SYSTEMS & PERSONNEL STRATEGY

- One Family is compliant with The Governance Code: a code of practice for the community, voluntary and charitable Sector in Ireland.



- One Family is fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

CONTINUED TO REACH A WIDE AUDIENCE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING ALL FAMILIES:

- 13% INCREASE IN SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS
- 100,000 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

We continue to engage directly with policy makers, politicians and other influencers, focusing our message through joint campaigns on ending child poverty and ensuring the new Affordable Childcare Scheme supports lone parents into education or work.

We welcome the partial restoration of the income disregard levels of Jobseeker's Transition Allowance and One-Family Payment which were increased to €110 per week as a result of our advocacy efforts.

We launched the results of our Shared Parenting Survey where over 1,000 parents who share, or have attempted to share, parenting of their children after separation, responded. Documenting their sometimes harrowing, yet often positive, personal experiences we compiled the information into the Shared Parenting Survey report.



OUR WORK, AND THE FAMILIES WE WORK WITH AND FOR

One Family works under **Strategy 2016-2018** which is available on www.onefamily.ie. Annual work plans are devised for each service of the organisation based on the strategy and all staff members are monitored accordingly.

We organise our strategy into three ambitious objectives because by 2020 One Family would like Ireland to achieve the following:

- The Constitution and legislature will have recognised and afforded respect to all family forms and structures including one-parent families;
- Poverty rates for one-parent families will be significantly lowered and will be comparable to that of the general population; and
- One-parent families will be widely recognised, understood and celebrated as positive family forms.



IRELAND IN 2017

- There were 218,817 family units with children (of any age) headed by a lone parent (Census 2016).
- 1 in 4 families with children in Ireland is a one-parent family.
- 1 in 5 people in Ireland live in a one-parent family (Census 2016).
- 356,203 children lived in one-parent families, representing more than one in five or 21.2% of all children in family units.

Of the approximately 40,317 lone parents in receipt of the One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) or Job Seekers Transition Allowance (JST), 22,400 are not engaged in employment and so remain below the income poverty threshold.

There are more than 14,000 OFP recipients in employment, and of 14,500 JST recipients, 5,000 of them work. Working Family Payment (formerly Family Income Supplement) is also an important support for working parents with approximately 27,000 lone parents in receipt of the payment.

The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) revealed that one-parent family households experience the most deprivation in Ireland. Almost 60% of lone parent households experience more than one form of deprivation.

Children living in one-parent families had the highest consistent poverty rate at 26.3%. This is compared to a consistent poverty rate of 8.3% for two-parent households. This means that children living in these households are almost four times more likely to be experiencing consistent poverty on a daily basis (SILC 2016).

One-parent families continue to have the lowest disposable income of all households with children in the state (SILC 2016).

Two thirds of homeless families living in emergency accommodation are one-parent families, at any time.

OVER 4,100 QUERIES RECEIVED BY **ASKONEFAMILY**

1 IN 5 CALLERS WERE SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE **ONE-PARENT FAMILY PAYMENT**.

25% OF CONTACTS HAD **LEGAL QUERIES**. MOSTLY ABOUT **ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE**.

1 IN 3 CALLS WERE FOR **LISTENING SUPPORT** AND LASTED BETWEEN 30 MINUTES TO ONE HOUR.

20% OF CALLS WERE FROM **DADS**.



WE CELEBRATED 45 YEARS OF ONE FAMILY AND SAID GOODBYE TO OUR PREMISES ON PEMBROKE STREET WITH AN EVENT ATTENDED BY OUR FORMER PRESIDENT MARY ROBINSON ALONG WITH ALL OUR FOUNDERS, FUNDERS AND MANY SUPPORTERS.



PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

- We represent the interests of one-parent families on 20 boards and committees.
- We have active service and policy partnerships with over 40 organisations in Ireland and across Europe.
- We provide expert parenting policy inputs to TUSLA Parenting Working Group; the TUSLA Parenting 24/7 Working Group and The Parenting Network.
- We are members of the HSE's Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme's Advisory Group.
- We are a member of the Migrant Consultative Forum, chaired by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.
- We are a member of the European Anti-Poverty Network Policy Group.
- We are a member of the National Advisory Council on Better Outcomes: Brighter Futures and the sub-group on child poverty.
- We are members of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs's Affordable Childcare Scheme Business & Systems Consultative Group.



OUR FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES IN 2017

askonefamily helpline

- Extensive information provision on a wide range of issues and listening support for callers.
- Website information hub/social media contact and email support and information.

Parenting & Childcare

- Early Years Intervention Unit for parents accessing our service.
- Specialist parenting courses for parents parenting alone and sharing parenting after separation, including *Positive Parenting for Changing Families*; *Family Communications - Sharing Parenting*; *Family Communications - Parenting Teens*; *Self Care & Personal Growth when Parenting and Parenting Through Stressful Times*.
- Parent mentoring in Dublin, Cork and Galway.
- Mediation service to support shared parenting after separation.
- Social group offering family activity programme during school holidays.
- Online parenting courses throughout the year.

Counselling

- Non directive 3-option crisis and unplanned pregnancy counselling.
- Post-abortion counselling.
- Pregnancy and parenting support service for young people in care and in independent living.
- Ongoing parenting supports following unplanned or crisis pregnancy.
- Play and creative therapies for children and young people.
- General counselling for those parenting alone or sharing parenting.
- Play therapy for children.
- Solution-focused counselling.

Personal & Career Development Programmes

- One to one career advice & keyworking.
- *New Futures* programme supported by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning.
- Options training programme with Ballsbridge College of Further Education.
- Stronger Parents, Stronger Families Erasmus+ project with partners in Scotland, Czech Republic and Italy.
- Achieving Work Family Balance for Single Parents Erasmus+ project with partners in Scotland, Czech Republic, Italy and Germany.
- Opening Doors personal development programme in partnership with Meath Partnership.

3,701 INTENSIVE IN-PERSON SUPPORTS

2.7% INCREASE ON 2016

4,627 INDIVIDUAL SERVICE OFFERINGS