

# ONE FAMILY

## ANNUAL REVIEW 2014



One Family's Family Day Festival 2014



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### Our Vision

One Family believes in an Ireland where every family is cherished equally and enjoys 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 all members of all one-parent families in Ireland – changing attitudes, services, policies and lives. Together with one-parent families, people sharing parenting and those working with them, we are committed to achieving equality and respect for all families.

In addition to striving for fundamental structural change, we support individual families as they parent through times of family, work and life change, and those experiencing a crisis pregnancy. We know that every family is unique, and so we work in a family-centered way to bring about better lives for parents and children.

### Our Values

In One Family we work from a place of **respect** and **acceptance** of the parents, children and organisations that we come in contact with. We work with **compassion**, which means that we connect with others in a relationship of equals and we 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, determination** and our **client-centered approach**.

One Family is an organisation of **great courage** as it has been from its foundation in 1972. We continue to work with **integrity** to ensure **equality** for all families in Ireland.



### What Next

In 2015, One Family will continue to oppose the current reform of the One-Parent Family Payment, including the abolishment of the One-Parent Family Tax Credit, which is failing our families. We will work with whomever we can to progress our *10 Solutions* campaign to create positive change that reflects the lived reality of the families we work with. Our aim to achieve Constitutional equality for all families will remain central to our work, and we will seek new collaborators to promote celebration of family diversity in Ireland on Family Day. We will continue to develop partnerships with third level institutions, launch *i-Open*, and further expand our suite of services for families around the country. Our current three-year Strategy ends, so our new Strategy will be developed in consultation with our members to inform our work in the years ahead.

### 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. Thank you for believing in our work and for playing your part in making Ireland a better place for a child in a one-parent family to grow up.

### Donate

To donate, visit [www.onefamily.ie](http://www.onefamily.ie) and click on the donate button or call our office at 01 662 9212 if you wish to set up a Direct Debit. Alternatively you can donate by mail, deliver cash or mail cheque donations 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](http://www.onefamily.ie)


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**JOHN O'CONNELL**  
ONE FAMILY CHAIR



**KAREN KIERNAN**  
ONE FAMILY CEO

2014 was another very difficult year for the families we work with and represent. As the reforms of the One-Parent Family Payment continued, this was very obvious in the increased demand for our services. However, working with our *Budget Panel* of parents from around the country, we successfully lobbied for the level of the income disregard for One-Parent Family Payment recipients not to be reduced again.

We also worked extensively on the development of the Children & Family Relationships Bill, appearing before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence & Equality. We were delighted to be able to bring our learning from working with so many parents and children to various committees including the Commission for Energy Regulation; the Advisory Council on *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*; and the Parenting Working Group of Tusla, the Children and Family Agency.

Our international work continued with our continued engagement with Families and Societies EU as a key member of the stakeholder advisory group; we were successful in our Erasmus + bid with our partners in the Czech Republic, Scotland and Italy; and we gave one of the keynote addresses at the Family and Society Conference of the Institute of Advanced Family Studies, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya.

Good governance and strong financial management continues to be a priority for the voluntary Board of Directors of One Family and I would like to thank our funders, donors, supporters, volunteers, employees and everyone who contributes so positively to our work as Ireland's organisation for one-parent families.

We provided more family support and parenting services in 2014 than ever before to people parenting alone, sharing parenting and separating. Our national **askonefamily** helpline had a 30% call increase in 2014 due, in part, to the reforms of the One-Parent Family Payment. We have seen that most parents using our Parenting Service are sharing parenting of their children following separation and there has been a significant increase in the amount of Dads accessing parenting supports, which we welcome.

Hon Mr Justice Michael White of the High Court and Chair of the Courts Family Law Committee launched the evaluation our pilot Child Contact Centre services and our policy recommendations at a seminar we hosted in April. While the services had to close due the cessation of funding, we will continue to advocate for necessary policy and practice changes to ensure safety for children. In May, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of UN International Day of the Family with another successful Family Day. In June, we were honoured to be invited to the President's Family Day Garden Party, and attended with clients and their children. In National Parent's Week in October, we launched our updated *Positive Parenting for Changing Families* manual at our seminar in Dublin Castle. More professional volunteers joined us to deliver parent mentoring and play therapy services in Dublin and around the country and we will continue to build on this model to reach more parents who need support.

The volunteers, employees and Board of One Family are incredibly committed, passionate professionals and I would like to sincerely thank them. As always, it is a huge privilege to work with and on behalf of one-parent families in Ireland as they are the people from whom we learn everything we know.



## ATTITUDINAL CHANGE & COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY



OVER **5000** HAPPY PEOPLE ATTENDED FAMILY DAY FESTIVAL



**191** MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND MENTIONS



**35%** INCREASE IN SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



**85,000** VISITORS ACCESSED INFORMATION ON WWW.ONEFAMILY.IE



HOSTED **11** EVENTS



PRODUCED **20** PUBLICATIONS



## POLICY & LEGAL CHANGE STRATEGY



**24** POLICY SUBMISSIONS  
**33%** INCREASE FROM 2013

### Policy papers and submissions included:

- Household Energy Costs
- Water Charges
- Financial Inclusion
- Review of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Census
- Terms of reference into the investigation of the Mother & Baby Homes
- Budget 2015



## FUNDING STRATEGY

2013

2014

INCOME **€684,688**  
DOWN FROM **€756,358**

2013

2014

EXPENDITURE **€674,769**  
DOWN FROM **€719,862**

## CELEBRATED AND POSITIVELY PROMOTED FAMILY DIVERSITY WITH:

- FAMILY DAY 2014 VIDEO
- ALL FAMILIES MATTER CAMPAIGN VIDEO

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL VIEWS + 412%**

ONE FAMILY SUCCESSFULLY LOBBIED FOR THE RETENTION OF THE INCOME DISREGARD LEVEL SO THAT IT WAS NOT FURTHER REDUCED FOR OFP RECIPIENTS, AS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY PLANNED BY GOVERNMENT. WE ALSO CONTINUED TO PUT FORWARD OUR "10 SOLUTIONS".

IMPACTS OF THE CURRENT PROCESS OF OFP REFORM AND ACTIVATION BECAME CLEARER AS MORE FAMILIES WERE TRANSITIONED. OUR ANALYSIS PROVIDED EVIDENCE OF THE FAILURES OF THIS PROCESS. WE CONTINUED TO LOBBY AND MEET WITH INDIVIDUAL TDs AND SENATORS TO VOICE OUR CONCERNS AND OPPOSITION TO THE REFORM.



## OUR WORK, AND THE FAMILIES WE WORK WITH AND FOR

One Family works under **Strategy 2013–2015** which is available on [www.onefamily.ie](http://www.onefamily.ie). Annual workplans 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 will have achieved 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 2014

- 1 in 4 families with children in Ireland is a one-parent family; over half a million people.
- One-parent families can form through separation, divorce, desertion or bereavement; and as a result of domestic violence, addiction, abuse or other difficulties.
- The majority (58%) of lone parents are in the labour market and 43% are employed.
- 69,884 families are receiving the One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) at December 2014; down from 95,000 when the current reform was first announced.
- 17,000 OFP recipients have been transitioned as a result of current reform and activation measures meaning that their OFP ended when their youngest child reached the age of 7; including 5,000 families who lost their OFP on 2 July 2014.
- Of these families, many who were already working part-time are now financially worse off and in danger of experiencing even greater levels of deprivation, while child poverty continues to rise.
- Almost 63% of one-parent households experience deprivation. These families are at greater risk of poverty and of living in consistent poverty than the rest of the population (SILC 2013).
- 12% of children (aged 0-17) lived in consistent poverty last year (SILC 2013). Living in consistent poverty can mean being hungry or cold.
- Another 40,000 one-parent families will be moved off the OFP in 2015.



## SYSTEMS & PERSONNEL STRATEGY

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

**ASKONEFAMILY**  
HELPLINE CALLS  
**+30%**

**NEW ONE FAMILY**  
PARENT MENTORING  
AND MEDIATION  
SERVICES INTRODUCED

**INCREASED NUMBER OF**  
SEPARATING PARENTS  
**SHARING PARENTING**  
ACCESSING SERVICES



**394** ADULTS AND  
CHILDREN ACCESSED  
SERVICES IN  
CHERISH HOUSE



## PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

- Represents interests of one-parent families on **15** boards and committees.
- Active service and policy partnerships with over **40** organisations in Ireland and across Europe.
- Provides expert parenting inputs on Túsla, the Child & Family Agency's Parenting Working Group and on the all-Ireland Special Interest Group on Supporting Parents.
- Representative on Advisory Council on *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures*.



## ONE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES IN 2014

### askonefamily helpline

- One to one phone and in-person information sessions to members of one-parent families.
- Group information sessions on social welfare and back to work/education options.
- Email support and information.
- Social media engagement with client queries and live weekly Facebook Q&As.
- Website information hub.
- Social group.

### Parenting & Childcare

- Childcare service and parent coaching.
- Parenting courses including *Positive Parenting for Changing Families* and *Family Communications*.
- *Parenting Post-Separation* course.
- Parent Mentoring and Mediation services.

### Counselling

- Crisis pregnancy 3-option counselling.
- Post-abortion counselling.
- Pregnancy and parenting support service for young people in care or aftercare.
- Solution-focused counselling.
- General counselling for adults and adolescents.
- Play and art therapy for children.

### Welfare to Work

- *New Futures: Personal and Career Planning* programme.
- Career Clinics.
- One to one Career Advice and Mentoring.
- Development of *i-Open* with partners across Europe: an innovative online learning programme.

2013

2014

**4,284** INDIVIDUAL SERVICE OFFERINGS  
**18.6%** INCREASE FROM 2013

2013

2014

**2,810** IN-PERSON SERVICE INTERACTIONS  
**13.5%** INCREASE FROM 2013



OUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE LAUNCHED OUR UPDATED "POSITIVE PARENTING FOR CHANGING FAMILIES" MANUAL.