

ONE FAMILY

ANNUAL REVIEW 2016

Family Day Festival –
Celebrating Family Diversity.



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 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

One Family will continue to work towards changing attitudes and challenging stereotypes about one-parent families, and to highlight one-parent family role models. Our annual Family Day Festival supports these aims by providing a day of celebration for all children irrespective of their family form. We are working from our current Strategy 2016-2018 which is available on our website. Children remain at the centre of our services and in 2017 we will continue to engage with policy makers, particularly in the Department of Social Protection, focusing our message on ending child poverty. In 2017, we will celebrate our 45th year. We will also move to new headquarters so that we can provide services to even more parents and children in our purpose-designed building in Smithfield, Dublin 7.

Support Our Work

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

Thank You

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



One Family Cherish House, 2 Lower Pembroke St, Dublin 2
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



JOHN O'CONNELL
CHAIR'S REPORT

2016 was a year in which child poverty rates increased and we saw more lone parents leave employment as the investments required to make the social welfare reforms work effectively did not materialise from government. Some of the more severe changes were rolled back due to the advocacy efforts of One Family, as well as other organisations and individual parents. But we are concerned that it is all too little, too late for the one in five children living in one-parent families in Ireland, many of whom are growing up in poverty.

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.

We are proud to continue to serve on the National Advisory Council on *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020* where we collaborated with a number of NGO partners on the development of an action plan to achieve the child poverty reduction target. We also worked directly with relevant government departments particularly the Department of Social Protection on how the target on the reduction of child poverty can be reached. This innovative partnership model yielded good engagement from all participants and should be a useful model in the future.

We are also a member of the Department of Social Protection's Migrant Consultative Forum; the European Anti-Poverty Network Policy Group; and we again ran our own Policy Panel with 18 parents who contributed to our policy work.

Whilst our overall policy work has been focussed on the issue of rising child poverty rates, we also worked on the new Affordable Childcare Scheme to ensure that it will work to support lone parents into education and employment; we launched our Pre-Budget Submission for 2017; made a submission to the Department of Education & Skills Statement of Strategy 2016-2018; contributed to Eurochild on the European-wide Families & Societies key research outputs; and we presented on the urgent need for Child Contact Centres to the Joint Oireachtas Committee for Children & Youth Affairs.

Whilst I stepped down from the Board of Directors in late 2016 due to good governance requirements relating to Director tenure being no more than seven years in One Family, I know I have left a legacy of good stewardship in place that will ensure that One Family will always be a trustworthy and transparent organisation. However, an issue of challenge, though positive, is that the financial and governance requirements from funders continue to increase and whilst One Family welcomes and adheres to all requirements for transparency and accountability, it comes at a cost in terms of staff time and expertise. The additional time, expertise and resources necessary are not being covered by funding; this is a growing challenge that I believe many organisations in our sector will continue to face into the future.

As always, our staff and volunteers deliver a committed and professional service, but I would like to particularly acknowledge their contribution in 2016 as they achieved a massive amount of work under the pressures of various personal and family illnesses and challenges.

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



KAREN KIERNAN
CEO REPORT

2016 was an important year for One Family as we launched our Strategy 2016-2018. It will ensure that our work remains relevant and effective in the years ahead.

Delivering more of our specialist family support services to people in local communities continues to be a priority for us. In 2016, One Family parenting services were delivered in six settings around Ireland. Our overall service figures were similar to 2015 as we provided 4,500 services to 548 parents and children in person and 1,379 on our national helpline.

Knowledge transfer to other professionals is an important aspect of our work too, and in 2016 we developed new specialist half-day workshops on topics including *Parenting after Separation* and *Conflict*. These workshops, and our three-day trainings, were attended by 156 professionals in locations around the country.

We increased media placements and our total social media subscribers, and ran a very successful #NoMoreStereotypes social media campaign. 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.

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. We made 15 policy submissions and over 60 representations in 2016. A key piece of research we undertook in late 2016 was Ireland's first *National Survey on Shared Parenting*, and we were delighted that over 1,000 parents took the time to complete this survey and share thousands of insights with us about what works and what is challenging when sharing parenting in Ireland today.

We were pleased to welcome four new staff members in 2016; though it was also a challenging year for us as our colleague and friend, Director of Counselling, Sherie de Burgh, retired due to ill-health.

For many years we have been seeking ways to find more suitable accommodation for One Family's work as the organisation has long outgrown Cherish House in Dublin's Pembroke Street. This narrow five storey Georgian building has served us well, and we thank the foresight of our founders who purchased it over 40 years ago. Late in 2016, we found more suitable premises that are larger and more accessible in Dublin's Smithfield area and we will say farewell to Cherish House in the year ahead. We also look forward to celebrating our 45th anniversary in 2017.

I look forward to continuing the great work of One Family in our new home in 2017 in partnership with other organisations; our staff, volunteers and Board teams; and of course the parents and families who place their trust in us.



ATTITUDINAL CHANGE & COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY



OVER 6,000 HAPPY PEOPLE ATTENDED FAMILY DAY FESTIVAL



75 MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND MENTIONS



77,000 VISITORS ACCESSED INFORMATION ON WWW.ONEFAMILY.IE



ISSUED **13** PRESS RELEASES



POLICY & LEGAL CHANGE STRATEGY



15 POLICY SUBMISSIONS OVER 60 REPRESENTATIONS

Policy papers and submissions included:

- Developed and launched Ireland's First National Shared Parenting Survey
- Contribution to Eurochild on Families & Societies key research outputs
- Submission to Department of Education & Skills
- Statement of Strategy 2016-2018
- Pre-Budget 2017 submission
- Submission to the Department of Children & Youth Affairs on the Affordable Childcare Scheme
- Submission on Actions to Achieve the Child Poverty Reduction Target
- Presentation on Child Contact Centres to Joint Oireachtas Committee for Children & Youth Affairs



FUNDING STRATEGY

2015	2016	2015	2016
INCOME	€693,221	UP FROM	€677,646
EXPENDITURE	€675,833	UP FROM	€669,510



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 VALUING ALL FAMILIES.

- 15% INCREASE IN SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS
- 100,000 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

WE CONTINUED TO ENGAGE WITH POLICY MAKERS, POLITICIANS AND OTHER INFLUENCERS, FOCUSING OUR MESSAGE THROUGH A JOINT CAMPAIGN ON **ENDING CHILD POVERTY** AND ENSURING THE NEW **AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE SCHEME** SUPPORTS LONE PARENTS INTO EDUCATION OR WORK.

EMBRACED THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF OUR LOBBYING FOR CHANGES TO THE **INCOME DISREGARD LEVELS OF JOBSEEKER'S TRANSITION AND OFP** WHICH WERE INCREASED TO **€110** PER WEEK, REDUCING SOME NEGATIVE IMPACTS FOR SOME PARENTS, WHILE CONTINUING TO CALL FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS TO BE PROVIDED TO THOSE IMPACTED BY THE REFORMS.

WE ALSO LAUNCHED IRELAND'S FIRST **NATIONAL SHARED PARENTING SURVEY**, WITH OVER 1,000 PARENTS RESPONDING.



OUR WORK, AND THE FAMILIES WE WORK WITH AND FOR

One Family works under our new **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 and supported accordingly.

We organise our strategy into three ambitious objectives because by 2020 One Family will have worked towards achieving 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 2016

- There are over 215,000 one-parent families in Ireland today – 25.8% of all families with children (Census 2011).
- 1 in 4 families with children in Ireland is a one-parent family – over half a million people.
- The employment rate of lone parents (aged 15-64) whose youngest child was aged 0 to 5 years was 46.0% in Q2 2016 compared to 57.2% where the youngest child was aged 6 to 11 and 56.4% where the youngest child was aged 12 to 17. This indicates that, as children get older, the prohibitive costs of childcare are reduced and lone parents are more likely to engage in work.
- Of the approximately 56,000 lone parents in receipt of One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) or Job Seekers Transition (JST), 34,7000 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 recipients work. 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) 2015, 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 26.2%, an increase from 25% in 2014. This is compared to a consistent poverty rate of 7.7% 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 2015).
- One-parent families continue to have the lowest disposable income of all households with children in the state (SILC 2015).
- Two thirds of homeless families living in emergency accommodation are one-parent families, at any time.

OVER 2,500 QUERIES RECEIVED BY **ASKONEFAMILY**

37% OF HELPLINE QUERIES RELATED TO **INCOME MAXIMISATION**, INCLUDING SOCIAL WELFARE PAYMENTS, TAX AND FINANCES.

OVER 25% OF CALLS WERE FOR **LISTENING SUPPORT** & LASTED 30 MINS - 1 HR

60% INCREASE IN **EMAIL QUERIES**

INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF NEED FROM **NEW COMMUNITIES** AND **HOMELESS FAMILIES**.



111 PEOPLE GRADUATED FROM OUR PARENTING, CAREER DEVELOPMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES IN 2016.



PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

- Represents interests of one-parent families on 23 boards and committees.
- Active service and policy partnerships with over 40 organisations in Ireland and across Europe.
- Provides expert parenting inputs to TUSLA Parenting Working Group; the TUSLA Parenting 24/7 Working Group and The Parenting Network.
- Member of HSE's Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme's Advisory Group and on the course advisory board of Maynooth University's NUI Certificate in Crisis Pregnancy Counselling Skills Course.
- Member of the Migrant Consultative Forum, chaired by the Department of Social Protection.
- Policy Panel developed with 18 parents who parent alone or share parenting, contributing to our policy work.
- Member of the European Anti-Poverty Network Policy Group with other NGOs.
- Member of National Advisory Council on Better Outcomes: Brighter Futures and sub-group on child poverty.



OUR FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES IN 2016

askonefamily helpline

- Information provision and listening support for callers.
- Email support and information.
- Website information hub/social media contact.

Parenting & Childcare

- Childcare service and parent coaching.
- Specialist parenting courses for one-parent families, including *Parenting When Separated*, *Positive Parenting for Changing Families* and *Family Communications* offered nationwide.
- Parent mentoring expanded to more regions across Ireland.
- Mediated parenting plans.
- Social Group offering activity programme for parents and children.
- Online parenting programmes.

Counselling

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

Welfare to Work

- One to one career advice.
- *Career Futures* programme.
- *New Futures* programme in partnership with Longford Women's Link.
- 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.

2015

2016

3,600 INTENSIVE IN-PERSON SUPPORTS
6% INCREASE FROM 2015

4,979 INDIVIDUAL SERVICE OFFERINGS