



2018 was another incredibly busy year for One Family. We established our new Tusla-funded *Separating Well for Children* project which resulted in a massive increase in parents and children accessing mediation, parenting and therapeutic services. Through this project we have found ourselves frequently bridging gaps in services that exist for vulnerable separated parents and their children. This service has shown the depth of demand that exists for people going through the private family system and similar services are required nationwide.

Our participation in the referendum on the provision of abortion services in Ireland was significant as was our successful bid to deliver the MyOptions crisis pregnancy counselling service on behalf of the HSE. We worked extremely hard to develop the policies, staffing and ICT requirements in advance of opening this important service on 1 January 2019.

We enjoyed our first full year in our new premises in Coke Lane, Dublin 7 which greatly enhanced our ability to deliver more services to more people. We were also delighted to welcome many other service providers into our new building on our Open Day.

We had massive growth in our Family Support Services in 2018 with an 82% increase in services offered and accessed when compared to 2017. We provided 8,430 services to 685 parents and children in person or online and 1,685 on our national helpline. We now deliver parenting support services in 12 community settings around Dublin and Ireland depending on local need, requests and resources.

Knowledge transfer is a key part of our strategic approach and we delivered six Master Classes on crisis pregnancy and abortion-related issues in partnership with Maynooth University; as well as our 3-day parenting programme training. We continued to partner with Ballsbridge College of Further Education in the delivery of their Options

programme and our ESF-funded *New Futures* programme goes from strength to strength with a nomination for the prestigious Aontas star awards.

Our governance remains excellent and we managed the financial monitoring requirements of 17 different funders. Compliance with GDPR was a significant and worthwhile piece of work for the organisation with all staff trained in the new policies and procedures. In order to strengthen our accountability, we commenced the process of transferring all our service evaluation and monitoring data to a new streamlined system.

Our Communications Service promotes One Family across a broad spectrum of traditional and new media. In 2018, as part of our participation in the referendum on the provision of abortion services, the service actively participated in the Together for Yes coalition of civic organisations. It also delivered events such as Family Day, our graduation and the Erasmus dissemination event. The service issued 16 press releases resulting in 49 interviews and placements across print, radio and television. There were 53,439 visits to the onefamily.ie website and on social media our followers on Facebook and Twitter increased by 20%.

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.



I was honoured to be appointed as Chair of One Family in 2018 and oversee the development of our new Strategic Plan 2019-2021. The ambitious plan sets out our three strategic goals: 1) to support families by providing specialist family support services that improve the lives of children and their parents. 2) To represent, champion and celebrate the realities and needs of one-parent families to Government, policy makers, media and wider society. 3) To maintain a strong, sustainable organisation by continuing our excellent governance standards. I believe this strategy defines a clear path forward and will make a real difference to the lives of one-parent families.

For the families we work with, 2018 was a tough year with spiralling homelessness and deprivation rates for children and parents living in one-parent families. Our new service *Separating Well for Children* was overwhelmed with requests for support from parents who were struggling to share parenting or who were experiencing conflict while separating.

On a positive note, our advocacy campaign to provide targeted support to one-parent families bore fruit in Budget 2019 with Government taking positive steps with changes to the Working Family Payment and Qualified Child Increase. We were also pleased to take part in the Together For Yes coalition of civic organisations advocating for the removal of the damaging 8th Amendment of the Constitution relating to abortion.

We maintained our focus on ensuring the work from our services was translated into policy as we made 11 submissions to Government and statutory agencies on a range of topics and held 65 meetings and representations. We continued to press Government on its commitment to reduce child poverty rates through our participation in the National Advisory Council on *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*¹ and our CEO now chairs the Council's sub-group on this critical issue. Family law continues to be another major issue of concern to us and we now represent courts users on the Board of the Courts Service and on their

Family Law Development Committee. We deliver more effective policy interventions through partnerships with others and we sat on 30 different committees and Boards to represent issues affecting one-parent families.

We know that many of the families, parents and children we work with continue to experience negative stereotypes and attitudes. We were delighted to again host our annual Family Day celebration event in May in the lovely Smithfield Square in Dublin and we continue to represent the realities of one-parent families in the media.

In compliance with our good governance procedures on Board tenure, three long term Board members stepped down and were replaced with new highly experienced members.

Unfortunately some of our services remain chronically underfunded, specifically our Early Years Intervention Service. This critical service continues to experience referrals of high-need vulnerable children (0-2 years of age) but the funding of this supportive model of service does not fit with current government schemes. This looks likely to continue into the future as the new National Childcare Scheme again will not appropriately deal with the families and children that we support.

It is also a continuing challenge to find funds to fulfil the ever increasing governance and administration requirements particularly when the conditions attached to some funding means that it is not possible to cover the overhead costs arising from implementing that funding.

As always, our staff and volunteers deliver a committed and professional service, and it has been a privilege to oversee the organisation for the past year.

Finally, sincere thanks to the funders, supporters and policy makers who trust in us to work in the best interests of the wide diversity of one-parent families in Ireland.

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 to improve the lives of one-parent families by challenging stereotypes and pushing for societal change. As a child-centric organisation, we will continue to work with policy makers, other Non-

Government Organisations (NGOs) and stakeholders, that combat child poverty. In 2019, we will be delivering a new organisational strategy that will enable us to grow our services so we can provide greater supports 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

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

Louise Finnegan completes One Family's New Futures programme

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.

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Charities Regulatory Authority number: 20012212



ATTITUDINAL CHANGE & COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY



OVER **4,000** PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR FAMILY DAY FESTIVAL IN SMITHFIELD SQUARE



FAMILY DAY FESTIVAL



50,000+ VISITORS ACCESSED INFORMATION ON WWW.ONEFAMILY.IE



ISSUED **16** PRESS RELEASES



49 MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND MENTIONS



POLICY & LEGAL CHANGE STRATEGY



11 POLICY SUBMISSIONS OVER 65 REPRESENTATIONS

Policy papers and submissions included:

- Submission on Actions to Reduce Child Poverty Reduction Target (Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures Advisory Council).
- Childcare Review (Children's Rights Alliance).
- Public Consultation into role of Voluntary Organisations (HSE).
- Submission to Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education and Skills: School Costs and Related Matters.
- Submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education and Skills: Barriers to Education Facing Vulnerable Groups: Lone Parents.
- Submission to the Law Reform Commission.
- Submission to the Low Pay Commission.
- National Action Plan for Social Inclusion Public Consultation.
- Pre-Budget Submission 2019.



FUNDING STRATEGY

2018 INCOME
€998,142
UP 20% FROM 2017
€780,072

EXPENDITURE
€975,573
INCREASE FROM 2017
€767,547



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.

WE COMMUNICATE WITH A DIVERSE AUDIENCE AS WE FEARLESSLY REPRESENT AND CHAMPION THE REALITIES AND NEEDS OF ONE-PARENT FAMILIES AND COMBAT STEREOTYPES.

20% INCREASE IN SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS.

120,000 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.

WE ENGAGE DIRECTLY WITH POLICY MAKERS, POLITICIANS AND OTHER INFLUENCERS.

WE WELCOMED THE TARGETED MEASURES IN BUDGET 2019 THAT POSITIVELY IMPACTED ON CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY. THE CHILD MAINTENANCE DISREGARD FOR THE WORKING FAMILY PAYMENT (WFP) WAS A PARTICULARLY POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS THE RECOGNITION OF CHILD MAINTENANCE AS A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT INCOME FOR CHILDREN. THE ADDITIONAL QUALIFIED CHILD INCREASE (QCI) INCREASE FOR CHILDREN OVER 12 WAS WELCOMED TOO.

WE WERE AN ACTIVE PART OF THE **TOGETHER FOR YES** COALITION OF CIVIC ORGANISATIONS SEEKING THE ABOLITION OF THE 8TH AMENDMENT FROM THE CONSTITUTION.

Proud Member of
Together for Yes.



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 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.

WE PROVIDED OVER **1,000 PARENTING SERVICES** TO 279 MOTHERS, FATHERS, STEP-PARENTS AND FOSTER-PARENTS.

40% OF PARENTING PARTICIPANTS WERE **MEN**.

WE PROVIDED **1,841 COUNSELLING SESSIONS** TO 275 CLIENTS IN 2018, AN INCREASE OF 49% ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR.



IRELAND IN 2018

Demographics: (Census 2016)

- 218,817 (25.4%) of family units with children (of any age) are headed by a lone parent.
- 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.
- 356,203 children live in one-parent families, representing more than one in five or 21.2% of all children in family units.
- 84% of lone parents are female, 13.6% are male.

Housing and homelessness: (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Focus Ireland, Dublin Region Homeless Executive 2018).

- 45% of one-parent families are in private rented accommodation.
- 60% of homeless families are lone mother families.
- 65% of Dublin's homeless families are one-parent families.
- 3,689 children were homeless.

Poverty rates: (Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2017)

- Deprivation Rates:
 - 44.5% for one-parent families, 15.8% for two-parent families.
- Consistent Poverty Rates:
 - 20.7% for one-parent families, 3.9% for two-parent households.
 - 130,000 children living in consistent poverty in Ireland, more likely to be in one-parent family.
- At Risk of Poverty Rates:
 - 39.9% for one-parent families, 9.4% for two-parent families.

NEARLY 4,100 QUERIES RECEIVED BY **ASKONEFAMILY**.

20% OF HELPLINE QUERIES RELATED TO **SOCIAL WELFARE**.

29% OF QUERIES WERE LOOKING FOR SUPPORT & INFORMATION ON **FAMILY LIFE & PARENTING**.

25% OF QUERIES CONCERNED **HOUSEHOLD FINANCES**.

17% OF CALLS WERE **FAMILY LAW RELATED** WITH ISSUES FROM CUSTODY, ACCESS TO GUARDIANSHIP AND CHILD MAINTENANCE TOPPING THE LIST.

84% OF CALLS WERE FROM **MAMS** AND **16%** FROM **DADS**.

400 CALLS WERE MORE THAN 30 MINUTES LONG.



PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

In 2018 we:

- Represented the interests of one-parent families on 30 boards and committees.
- Participated in active service and policy partnerships with over 40 organisations in Ireland and across Europe.
- Provided expert parenting inputs to TUSLA Parenting Working Group; the TUSLA Parenting 24/7 Working Group and The Parenting Network.
- Contributed as members of the HSE's Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme's Advisory Group.
- Participated in the Migrant Consultative Forum, chaired by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.
- Took part in the European Anti-Poverty Network Policy Group with other NGOs.
- Worked on the National Advisory Council on *Better Outcomes: Brighter Futures* and sub-group on child poverty.
- Contributed to the Affordable Childcare Scheme Business & Systems Consultative Group.



OUR FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES IN 2018

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 Service offering support to children aged 0-3 years of age. The service offers part-time and sessional places to children whose parents may be accessing One Family's services or children who live in our community and present with high level needs.
- Specialist parenting courses for parents parenting alone and sharing parenting after separation. Courses offered on an outreach basis within the community.
- Separating Well for Children is a specialist support service for families experiencing conflict as they move through family separation into shared parenting and new family forms.
- Parent mentoring in Dublin, Cork and Galway.
- Mediation service to support shared parenting after separation.
- Social groups offering family activity and social interaction for people in one-parent families.
- 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.
- 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.

8,430 INTENSIVE IN-PERSON SUPPORTS

82% INCREASE ON 2017