

# ONE FAMILY STRATEGY 2013–2015



Working towards an  
Ireland where every family  
is cherished equally

[www.onefamily.ie](http://www.onefamily.ie)

  
**onefamily**  
better lives for one-parent families

## Vision

One Family has a big vision: an Ireland where every family is cherished equally and enjoys the social, financial and legal **equality to create their own positive futures.**

## 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 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 one-parent 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.

## 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 and we continue to work with **integrity** to ensure **equality** for all one-parent families in Ireland.

## How will our vision become a reality?

Building on our achievements of the previous strategies, 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.

## Eight ways we're working to make it happen

### 1 Family Support Services Strategy

We will deliver high quality, cost-effective, family-centred services to one-parent families and families in transition by:

- Continuing to provide an enhanced One Family Services model including parenting courses, parent mentoring,

mediated parenting plans, welfare to work accredited training courses, counselling, play therapy, crisis pregnancy supports, child contact centres and our national askonefamily helpline

- Continuing to ensure high quality, evidence-informed services that demonstrate positive impacts for service users
- Systematically extending the availability of specialist family support services throughout Ireland through partnering with, training and accrediting local service providers
- Developing a Centre of Excellence for welfare to work comprising policy expertise, proven practices and engagement with all stakeholders
- Introducing an accreditation system for professionals who use our Training & Consultancy service to ensure quality
- Providing more training courses for professionals through our regionally based Trainers in Professional Development
- Responding to emerging client needs.

## 2 Policy & Legal Change Strategy

We will work to achieve fundamental equality for one-parent families through leading policy changes by:

- Continuing to draw together policy and practice expertise to influence policy makers regionally, nationally and at EU level
- Developing a series of position papers on issues affecting one-parent families which range from income security to family diversity; from family supports to security of housing; and health issues
- Ensuring that all 10 Solutions are fully implemented in order to effect work life balance and sustainable employment for lone parents
- Working with partner organisations on broad policy issues such as childcare, poverty, parenting, employability, health and more
- Seeking expansion of the Constitutional definition of the family so that it is inclusive of all the families children live in.

## 3 Attitudinal Change Strategy

We will ensure that one-parent families and families in transition are understood and positively supported by:

- Reflecting the reality of the diversity of family life in Ireland through our wide range of communications
- Establishing Family Day as a nationally recognised and celebrated day in Ireland and abroad. Find out more on [www.familyday.ie](http://www.familyday.ie)
- Addressing common myths and negative stereotypes about one-parent families.

In order to achieve these major strategic goals, we also need to ensure that One Family is well run, well resourced and working effectively. These are the other strategic areas that we will be focussing on:

- 4 Systems & Personnel Strategy:** to motivate and resource the One Family team to deliver effective, impactful services through quality assured systems, policies and governance.
- 5 Funding Strategy:** to ensure the financial security of the organisation through the effective use of limited resources, the provision of value for money services to funders and partnering.

- 6 Communications Strategy:** to deliver strong, accurate and positive communications about people parenting alone, sharing parenting and families in transition to a wide range of stakeholders.
- 7 Partnership Strategy:** to continue to expand our services, policy and corporate collaborations and partnership to ensure maximum impacts and efficiency.
- 8 Membership Strategy:** to build a movement of committed members who can take action on issues affecting one-parent families working towards equality.



### **One Family**

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