

DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place

**Annual Report**  

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**2017**





**200**

emergency hostel beds were provided each and every night so that those most in need did not have to sleep rough on the streets of Dublin



**14,075**

floating support visits and phone calls were provided so that people in need had someone on their side at challenging times

## Annual Report 2017

Depaul helped thousands of vulnerable homeless men, women and families over the course of 2017. We grew in bed capacity by 21.5%, to providing 604 beds a night at the close of 2017.



**3,182**

men and women experiencing homelessness were welcomed through our doors in 2017



**779**

children were given the support they needed through their time in homelessness



**604**

warm beds were provided every single night to people who needed them most



**774**

people were helped to move on to more appropriate accommodation, for some this meant a home of their own



**19**

babies were born to women accessing Depaul's services throughout 2017



**463**

volunteers put in hours, care and hard work. Without them we simply could not provide the same level of support to so many vulnerable people experiencing homelessness



**413**

professionally trained staff worked to support those most in need in 2017. During extraordinary weather incidents staff went above and beyond to ensure the safety of the vulnerable people in need



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# 2017

# Our Values

# in Action

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*Cover: Depaul in 2017 at a glance*

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# Welcome

we are glad you are here.



In 2017 Depaul helped 3,961 men, women and children that are homeless or at risk of homelessness across the Republic of Ireland (ROI) and Northern Ireland (NI). Throughout the year our 413 (287 ROI and 126 NI) staff have worked with professionalism, compassion and dedication to provide the best possible support in our 27 accommodation and outreach services across Derry, Dungannon, Belfast and Dublin.

Having personally worked within the homeless sector for more than 20 years it is clear that the situation at the end of 2017 in the Republic of Ireland, in which more than 8,500<sup>1</sup> men, women and children are homeless in 2017 is an exceptionally challenging one. Throughout 2017 Depaul has worked with numerous agencies, sector peers and government officials to come up with innovative solutions to help alleviate the hardship of homelessness.

Our 2017 Annual Report speaks to our Vision, Mission and Values. These values remain at the core of our work and drive us in continuing in our mission to end homelessness, even

1. Dept. Housing, Planning & Local Government, Homeless Report. <https://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/homelessness/homelessness-report-december-2017> (accessed 10 September 2018).

in the most challenging of times. We continue to meet people where they are in life and give the support that they need, because we believe in the potential of all people.

We faced a year with few viable housing solutions for what remains as the largest group within the homeless population, single adults. Throughout the year Depaul worked to respond to the needs of this group who are experiencing homelessness and doubled our number of emergency beds to help people at their most vulnerable time.

In Derry/Londonderry our service for street drinkers Foyle Haven, was met with uncertainty due to a lack of sustainable funding. Throughout 2017, we fought to keep its doors open and we will continue to battle for the service and those who rely on it.

Our work with Depaul Housing Association continued to develop as we remain fully committed to Housing First and other policies that seek to address the causes of homelessness and to provide individual service users with support beyond emergency accommodation.

We continue to plan for the future and explore possibilities of working in partnership with others to expand in to other towns and areas across the Island of Ireland, always keeping the needs of those who use our services at the forefront of our minds.

In 2017 we continued to dedicate ourselves to working to end homelessness and change lives. It is a privilege to work with those in our services and help empower them to move towards better futures.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry Anthony".

**Kerry Anthony MBE**  
**CEO Depaul**

# Our story

**Our Vision** is of a society in which everyone has a place to call home and a stake in their community

**Our Mission** is to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it

## Our Values

- We celebrate the potential in people
- We put our words into action
- We aim to take a wider role in civil society
- We believe in rights and responsibilities

Depaul came to the Republic of Ireland in 2002 and Northern Ireland in 2005, on the invitation of both the Government and the Vincentian Family in Ireland. There was an unmet need at the time, in particular for those with very complex needs who found it difficult to access and maintain accommodation services. Depaul developed pragmatic responses and opened many services that were the first of their kind in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Now, over 15 years later, Depaul is a cross border charity providing more than 27 services across Dublin, Belfast, Derry and Dungannon. To this day, we continue to provide services and support to those with complex issues and to many others experiencing homelessness in what is the most difficult point in their lives.

We support people across four key pillars:

- Our work with families
- Our work with addiction
- Our work preventing homelessness
- Our work in criminal justice

Into the future, we will continue to adapt and improve to provide the services needed most by those experiencing homelessness.

# A global family



Depaul International are a global family of charities working with homeless and marginalised people in the UK, Ireland, France, Slovakia, Ukraine, Croatia and the USA.

The Depaul Group is inspired by the values of Saint Vincent de Paul, a major social reformer in 17th Century France.

Our approach is tailored to the people, communities and issues in each of these countries. Wherever we work, we do so with common values and the same respect for each person we meet.

Globally, Depaul's work ranges from providing safe shelter, accommodation, food and health services to helping people affected by homelessness receive the education, employment and social services they need.

Our goal is to empower people who face homelessness, improve their quality of life and help them stay off the streets for good.



Our Values

# Putting our words into action

## Emergency accommodation; something must be done

### Single People in Emergency

By the end of 2017 in the Republic of Ireland recorded figures showed that the number of single adults in homelessness continues to rise beyond crisis point.

Over the course of the year, Depaul emergency beds doubled in number in response to this crisis with 200 beds across our four Dublin emergency hostels; Blessington Street, Mount Brown, Little Britain Street and Brú Aimsir.

In the current climate, we know that while emergency beds are not a permanent solution they are vital in ensuring that people do not have to sleep rough. In July 2017 Depaul took over the management of Brú Aimsir, a 101 bed emergency hostel for men and women and the largest of its kind in the State.

Over 2017 Depaul continued to advocate for all accommodation to be 24 hour access where possible and for an increase in supported temporary accommodation services.

Through extensive refurbishment with the support of Dublin City Council, our Little Britain Street service went from a 65 bed hostel to an 89 bed hostel with almost half being supported temporary accommodation beds.

The organisation went to great lengths to stabilise the lives of those in need of emergency accommodation so they can make steps in moving on to more permanent accommodation.

Much of this was achieved through our Assertive Engagement (AE) programme.

Out of our 200 emergency beds in Dublin, by the end of 2017, 112 were AE, stabilising the lives of hundreds of people experiencing homelessness.

Depaul increased the number of AE sessions from 480 in 2016 to 3,338 in 2017 and by implementing our AE programme successfully, we helped 593 people to move on to more stable/permanent accommodation, doing all we can to provide a pathway out of homelessness.

### Families in Emergency

It is tragic that at the end of 2017, there were 1,408 families with 3,079<sup>1</sup> children homeless and living in emergency accommodation, hotels and B&Bs in the Republic of Ireland.

This crisis in family homelessness has certainly been reflected in Depaul services. We experienced a 60% increase in the number of families coming through our services in 2017, ranging from our community based services, to those looking to access emergency beds as well as our accommodation service for mothers and children. We supported 258 families in the Republic of Ireland through accommodation and outreach services which include 412 children, an increase of 41% from last year.

1. Dept. Housing, Planning & Local Government, Homeless Report. <https://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/homelessness/homelessness-report-december-2017> (accessed 10 September 2018).

## Our Values

# The rights and responsibilities of all

## Temporary accommodation; a step towards a better future

### Supported Temporary Accommodation

Depaul continued to work with a large cohort of people and provided supported temporary accommodation in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland throughout 2017.

Depaul is a pioneer in providing low threshold harm reduction services supporting those who are most in need. In 2017 Depaul worked with 512 men and women in our Orchid House, Peters Place and Back Lane services through our supported temporary accommodation in the Republic of Ireland.

In Northern Ireland, the lack of government caused issues for those who are struggling, including families. Over 5,887<sup>1</sup> families presented as homeless in Northern Ireland in 2016-17 with many in need of support. Depaul family services in Belfast, Mater Dei and Cloverhill have been changing lives and creating brighter futures for young families for over 10 years.

These two services helped 72 families, providing 101 children with a safe and secure home at a difficult time for them and their parents.

Our accommodation based services for single people including our Stella Maris service, which offers accommodation and support for people experiencing homelessness with a history of acute alcohol addiction, supported 60 individuals.

In our Dungannon based service 66 individual's accessed supported accommodation throughout the year.

In 2017 Depaul also continued to provide assistance to women released from prison in their transition to independent living in the community.

Tús Nua, our one-of-a kind service which provides support to women released from Dóchas prison and identified as at risk of becoming homeless, offered support to 45 women while our Suaimhneas service supported 12 women exiting treatment services. Both these services are in partnership with the Probation service and European Union as well as the Health Service Executive respectfully.

In Dublin through our Sundial House service we were able to provide long term accommodation to 41 men and women in 2017. This long term accommodation based service continues to present challenges with reducing resources and increasing needs of those living there. However, this service remains critical in the city and provides a unique home environment for those who are supported.

Over the course of the year we supported 2,720 men, women and children in our accommodation services across the Island of Ireland.

Depaul continues to advocate for people living in homelessness and our staff work hard on a daily basis to try to move people through and out of homelessness as quickly as possible.

1. Housing Executive, Homeless Strategy for Northern Ireland 2017-22. [https://www.nihe.gov.uk/northern\\_ireland\\_homelessness\\_strategy.pdf](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/northern_ireland_homelessness_strategy.pdf) (accessed 10 September 2018).

## Our Values

# The potential of all people

## Moving on; supporting people in their communities

Housing First is a service which aims to place people with complex needs into the community with a package of wrap around supports in order to help them to maintain their tenancy. This service has demonstrated that with the correct support people can live independently and thrive in their communities. In Northern Ireland, Depaul is a pioneer of Housing First having achieved significant success in the 4 years since piloting the service in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry.

Our Housing First services came up against increased obstacles in 2017 with few suitable housing options available in both Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. Despite this, we have had strong successes in placing vulnerable people in homes and in helping them to sustain their tenancies. Our Housing First service in Derry/Londonderry and Belfast supported 114 people in 2017.

Depaul's Family Floating Support team in Northern Ireland provides support to families in the community who are at risk of homelessness, as well as those who have moved out of our services, helping them to retain their tenancy and continue their progression to a new future for their family.

In 2017 our Family Floating Support service helped 143 vulnerable families including 266 children in a variety of ways, helping people to get the accommodation that they needed and in navigating the complex housing and welfare system. The family floating

support team expanded in Belfast in 2017 recognising the increasing demand to support families exiting homeless services into the community.

In Derry/Londonderry, Foyle Haven, our day centre for entrenched street drinkers successfully battled its way through 2017 after severe cuts in funding and continued to fight to keep its place in the community, serving an extremely vulnerable group of people. During 2017, Depaul continually advocated for funding and for the future of this vital service.

In the Republic of Ireland through our community services, we supported 240 adults, 158 families and 292 children through our Ballymun Case Management Team, our Migrant Housing Action Team and our Resettlement Support Service in Dublin. These services support people in a range of ways including: one to one professional support, tenancy sustainment support, home visits, referral, advocacy, case management and social activities to prevent isolation.

Our Befriending service supported 30 people in the community primarily through the use of volunteers and our Migrant Housing Action Team supported 30 families including 47 children and 72 adults. This is a very small team focused on resettling people out of homelessness, working with families and single people who do not originate from Ireland.



## Our Values

# Taking a wider role in civil society

## Working together; homelessness and health

For people experiencing homelessness, living in uncertainty with a lack of good nutrition, self-care, and other issues that often accompany homelessness, can sometimes lead to a rapid overall decline of mental and physical health. In 2017, Depaul did its best to create access points to health care with in-service clinic hours, health interventions and access to GPs and to our own healthcare professionals.

In 2017 we provided 1,334 nursing consultations, 1,217 GP consultations and 2,541 health interventions for some of the most unwell people experiencing homelessness.

We also advocated for those experiencing homelessness and their right to health services, working with policymakers and Government leaders to further plan for the future of an integrated approach to homelessness by the Departments of Housing and Health.

### Naloxone

At the core of our values we provide services for people experiencing homelessness while living with acute addictions. In 2017, we went further in providing the best possible care to those with addictions by training staff and service users in the use of Naloxone, a life-saving overdose antidote.

Throughout 2017, 95 staff were trained to spot the signs of overdose and administer Naloxone should the need arise. A total of 24 lives were saved in our services as a result of staff administering Naloxone to service users as they experienced drug overdose.

Depaul continued to advocate around the reinstatement of past cuts from the Health Service Executive in the Republic of Ireland as well as calling for the joint commission of services from both a Health and Housing perspective in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

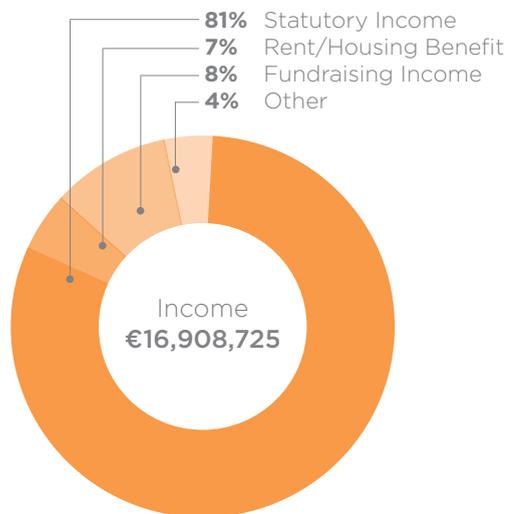
# Finances

In the Republic of Ireland our main funders include the Health Service Executive, Dublin Region Homeless Executive, the Probation Service and the European Social Fund.

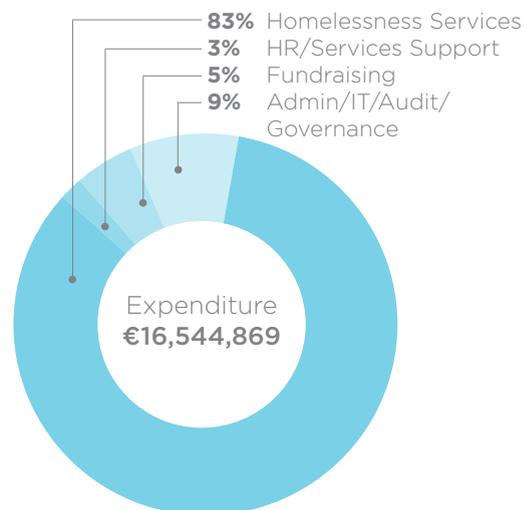
Our funders in Northern Ireland include the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Public Health Agency and Derry City and Strabane District Council.

A full copy of our SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) Annual Accounts for 2017 can be found on [ie.depaulcharity.org](http://ie.depaulcharity.org).

## 2017 Income



## 2017 Expenditure



86c of every €1/£1 donated goes directly towards supporting our work in our homeless services.

# Governance

In 2017 we walked further down the path to achieve the gold standard in good governance for a charitable organisation.

We are on the road to becoming a 'Triple Locked' member of Charities Institute Ireland, the gold standard in transparency reporting, good fundraising and governance.

The 'Triple Lock' standard includes our full compliance with Charity SORP, our adoption of the Governance Code for the Community and Voluntary Sector and our compliance with the Guidelines for Charitable Organisation on Fundraising from the Public.

We are also registered with the Charities Regulator Ireland as well as the Fundraising Regulator in Northern Ireland.

## Our Supporter Promise

We are committed to maintaining the highest standard of financial integrity. We recognise that as a recipient of large amounts of public funds and private donations from organisations and individuals we have a duty to use our financial resources properly and effectively.

*We do, and we always will.*

If in doubt, always get in touch. We take the issue of transparency and accountability very seriously and are delighted to answer any questions you may have.

# Trustees and management

## Board of Trustees

Chairman  
Trustees

Frank Allen  
Paddie Blaney  
Dominic Burke  
Goretti Butler DC  
John Murphy  
Michael Murphy  
Cormac Ó Tighearnaigh  
Paschal Scallon CM  
Paul Stanley  
Paul White  
Larry McArdle  
Mary Higgins  
Laurence Tuomey  
Sr. Nuala Kelly

Secretary ROI  
Secretary NI

## CEO

Kerry Anthony, MBE

## Directors

David Carroll  
Mairéad McGinn  
Aoife Watters

Director of Services & Development  
Director of Fundraising & Communications  
Director of Finance & Corporate Services

## Registered Offices

### Dublin

Depaul  
Holy Cross College  
Clonliffe Road  
Dublin 3  
D03 P2E7

### Belfast

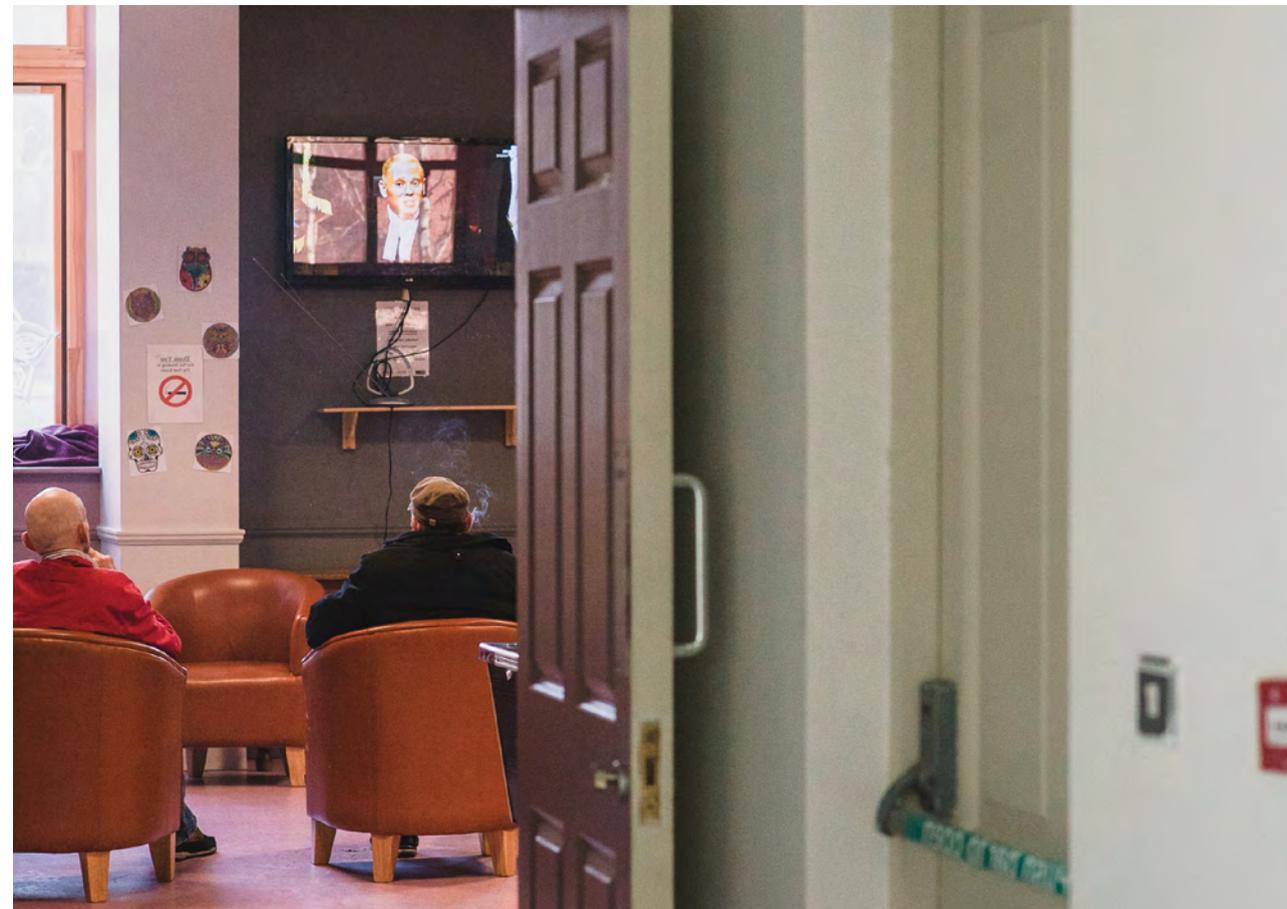
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## Auditor

Walsh O'Brien Harrett

## Solicitor

Kilcullen Associates



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