

# BREAKING THE HOMELESSNESS CYCLE - BUILDING BETTER FUTURES

In 2024, homelessness level records were broken again and again. Despite these challenges, Depaul continued to provide solutions, services and care to people across the island of Ireland.

Every single day our devoted team provided lifesaving and life-changing interventions to vulnerable individuals and families.

Our 2024–2026 strategic plan, Leading the Way Home, kicked off this year. Grounded in our vision, mission and values, this strategy reaffirms our commitment to a trauma- informed, housing-led and low-threshold approach to the delivery of our services. Above all, the needs and voices of our service users remain at the heart of our service provision.

In 2024, Depaul supported a total of **9,836** services users – including **7,412** adults and **2,424** children – in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. These figures include individuals and families living in Direct Provision who we support through our Cosán Nua service.

## 2024 IN NUMBERS

9,836  
PEOPLE

7,412 adults and 2,424 children supported in 2024

1,012  
SERVICE USERS

moved out of homelessness and into suitable long-term accommodation, a 39% increase from 2023 (726 - 2023)

1,366  
FAMILIES

helped through Depaul's services

16  
BABIES

were born in Depaul services

231  
VOLUNTEERS

dedicated over 20,000 hours to making a difference to the lives of our service users (155 - 2023, 17,000 hours)

706  
SERVICE USERS

reported concerns or support needs related to their mental health. Including

257

incidences of suicidal ideation reported and

135

incidences of self-harm

50,257

KEYWORKING SESSIONS

were carried out, a 25% increase from 2023

799

EMERGENCY BEDS

42

SERVICES

## MEETING NEEDS

In 2024, Depaul helped **1,012 people** move out of homelessness and into suitable long-term accommodation, a 39% increase from 2023.

We also worked harder at meeting our service users where their need was greatest - and provided more tailored support. As evidenced by a tremendous **50,257 keyworking sessions** which took place across all our services in 2024, a 25% increase compared to 2023. For another year, our frontline colleagues delivered outstanding care and intensive interventions to adults and children across our accommodation and community-based services and we can't thank them enough.

## COMPLEX NEEDS

Depaul continued to strengthen its voice in 2024 by partnering with Mental Health Reform and commissioning an urgently-needed and independent assessment of mental health needs and services available for people experiencing homelessness in Ireland.

While **1 in 5 people** in Ireland experience mental health difficulties, the situation is far worse for those experiencing homelessness. Within Depaul's services, **36.9%** of service users (2018–2023) reported enduring mental health difficulties requiring intervention, nearly twice the national rate and more than likely massively underestimated, as government homelessness data excludes many people living in precarious situations, such as those couch-surfing or living in direct provision.

In 2024, across the island of Ireland, Depaul staff supported **706** service users with mental health concerns. In that year, we had **135** incidences of self harm and **257** incidences of suicidal ideation.



## HOUSING-LED SOLUTIONS

With record numbers of people already accessing emergency accommodation in 2024, the important role of housing provision in eradicating and preventing homelessness was once again highlighted.

Throughout the year, over 16,500 notices to quit were received by the Residential Tenancies Board. Over 55% of those notices were because the landlord wanted to sell the property.

Depaul Housing Association plays a crucial role in delivering housing-led solutions. It operates as a housing provider working with those who have the greatest and most complex needs. In 2024, Depaul Housing acquired 25 new properties, including our first properties in Cork. By the end of 2024, Depaul Housing was providing housing in its own properties for 51 individuals and families and had another 16 units undergoing work to make them tenant ready.



## MIGRANT SERVICES - PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

Depaul strongly believes that new communities are welcome and should be integrated into our society. In partnership with the Department of Justice, our Cosán Nua inter-county service has provided support to people living in Direct Provision since 2019. Spread throughout the East and West of Ireland, our work covers 220 Direct Provision centres across 15 counties.

In 2024, we engaged with **2,098 households**, and **supported 672 households** moving out of IPAS accommodation.

Our aim is to provide support for migrants and appropriate accommodation at what is an incredibly difficult time for them.

In 2024, we opened our first supported accommodation service for International Protection Applicants. **This service now provides a safe home for 10 mothers and their 17 children.**



## FOYLE HAVEN: 10 YEARS OF LOW THRESHOLD HARM REDUCTION

In 2024, Depaul released the findings of independent research commissioned to evaluate the impact that **Low Threshold Harm Reduction Services** have had on service users over a ten-year period at Depaul's Foyle Haven service.

The findings spoke volumes about the importance of this crucial service with **79%** of respondents noting improvements in their physical health and **84%** in their mental health.

A core strength of Foyle Haven over those ten years lies in its dedicated, professional, and compassionate workforce. In 2024 alone, Foyle Haven **supported 141 unique service users**, provided **7,807 meals** and there were over **12,451 visits** to the centre.



DEPAUL  
Homelessness has no place



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Impact Report 2024

