

THE CORK FOYER & BISHOPSGROVE SUPPORTED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council



We are Cork.

Cork Foyer and Bishopsgrove
are Cork City Council Transitional
Supported Housing Initiatives



MISSION STATEMENT

Cork Foyer is a unique homeless service that offers quality affordable accommodation with education and training at the heart of the project. We strive to develop independent living skills through integrated training programmes and clear-cut Support Plans, empowering young adults to realise their full potential and take their rightful place in the community.



CORK FOYER

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STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

It's hard to believe that 2021 has been and gone and a sense of normality is resuming following the disastrous effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic. After such long periods of disappointment, loss of connection, and lives being turned upside down, it is wonderful to see the return of normal routine and structure and the palpable sense of despair diminish.

COVID-19 impacted our service users in many ways, especially those with poor mental health, complex needs, and limited tolerance, which often left them feeling confused, lonely, and anxious. Despite this upheaval, both service users and the staff team showed commendable strength, resilience, and creativity throughout the pandemic, keeping each other motivated and engaged during the lockdown and restrictions.

With a clear social purpose, we are confident in what, and who, we are here for. We must constantly strive to do the best we can for the young people we serve, as we have done for over 16 years. The way we articulate this is through the clear and simple aspirations to deliver a great service, provide safe and welcoming transitional homes, and enjoy coming to work. People have huge expectations of our service and it's now more important than ever that we strive to meet them.

Since the easing of restrictions, the staff team firmly placed its efforts on re-connecting young people with health services, education, training programmes, employment, and social activities. With monumental efforts from both staff and residents alike, opportunities soon evolved, and life began to take on increased meaning and focus.

Such an empowering service is only achievable through hard work, effective integration, partnership working, and the unseen support received from several departments within Cork City Council including Legal, Health & Safety, People & Organisation Development, Finance, ICT, and of course the Housing Department. Their unwavering support is further strengthened by the expert advice, commitment, and vision of a dedicated Foyer Management Committee who give their precious time voluntarily to help steer the service through both good and difficult times.

In recognition of the Foyers high-quality service offer and wonderful outcomes, I am delighted to announce that during 2021 the Foyer was endorsed once again by the Foyer Federation with an assessment result of Strategically Strong and Operationally Strong. Referred to as a Flagship Foyer, the grade awarded is the highest grade possible under their current quality framework. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generosity and trust of our core funders; the Health Service Executive, Cork City Council, Cork Education and Training Board and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. Their stable funding allows the service to operate in a consistently proactive and reassuring way to which we are truly thankful.

I hope you find this report both informative and enjoyable.

Dave Cody,
Chairman.

ERIN'S STORY



Following a relationship breakdown with my foster carers in 2017, I left and was sleeping in an abandoned factory for about four months. At around the same time, I started to smoke cannabis and moved onto using MDMA before eventually securing a place in the Cork Foyer. Back then, I did not consider my drug use to be so problematic. I managed to attend a course and was living in the Foyer for about one year.

My Project Worker, Jessie, thought Bishopsgrove would be a better living environment for me while attending college. I lived at Bishopsgrove for about six months before I decided to move to a friend's house, but unfortunately this friendship became very toxic. This person was constantly lying to me which had a significant effect on my mental health. I then started using MDMA again. I took about 11 yolks a day for four months straight. One day, I went to get my weekly supply and I was sold a bag of clay. I then started to go through withdrawals because I got ripped off so I ended up having a mental breakdown and was signed into St Michael's Mental Health Unit. I stayed there for about one month before I was released.

I then re-applied to Cork Foyer because I had nowhere else to go. In the meantime, I was able to stay with a friend temporarily until a room was ready. Unfortunately, and due to old influences in my life, I was kicked out of the Foyer for using cannabis in the building, however my Project Worker, Jessie, fought my case to get me back in. I was eventually allowed to return if I signed very strict conditions. After suspicions, staff conducted a spot check on my room, they found small traces of cannabis and drug paraphernalia, so I was asked to leave once again.

I couch surfed for a while before I presented to the Accommodation Placement Service who referred me to Edel House. I lived there for a few months, but I was not able to handle it at all and my mental health deteriorated massively. I was sober while living in Edel House. My friend's cannabis was found in my room, and I was then asked to leave there too. Things went seriously downhill from there on. I slept rough again for a month until I went back to the Accommodation Placement Service and they put me into temporary accommodation. I started taking speed amongst every other drug available. I was then moved again to another place and was there for eight months before I was asked to return to the Cork Foyer where I could get support. It was there that I finally got clean from drugs and my mental health improved massively.

Through my recent employment, I have experienced how important routine can be and I am now looking for a better job. Jessie helped me to do my CV. I am also looking to start the process of finding my own place with the help of my Project Worker, Jessie. This time I am keeping a low profile, doing my own thing, and staying off drugs. I am meeting with Jessie regularly and focusing on keeping my life on track.

I am grateful to the Cork Foyer for giving me so many chances and seeing my potential. I have known my Project Worker, Jessie, now for nearly five years and we get on very well. She has always supported me even when I was in the wrong. I am now looking forward to my new chapter.



IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ACTIVITIES

Building motivation,
self-confidence, and
a real sense of pride



The Foyer Garden Cafe operated by Churchfield Community Trust CLG, toddler play park, mini pet farm, allotments, and bicycle project are all proving to be real assets to the Foyer. These planned initiatives not only appeal to people of all ages within the community, but they also allow Foyer residents and other learners from disadvantage backgrounds to have direct contact with the public. In addition, they provide a range of opportunities from working in the cafe, attending courses, to organising and participating in community events.

Tasks associated with holding a successful community event builds motivation, self-confidence, and a real sense of pride. We measure the success of an event not only from the outcome or attendance, but through seeing residents using and developing their talents in a creative and productive way. With improved self-confidence in their communication and abilities, residents can establish a real sense of belonging both within the Foyer and within the wider community. Equally, regular involvement in social activities remains a key factor in helping young people reduce social isolation and become open-minded to new experiences.

SNAPSHOT OF ORGANISED ACTIVITIES DURING 2021

Heritage Week

As part of Heritage week, Cork Foyer participated in “InterActive” Heritage Billboards initiative with Cork Creates and artist Davy Dummigan. Cork Creates is a city-wide art project run by Youth Work Ireland and supported by CETB youth services which aims to support inclusion and cultural belonging for young people aged between 14 and 24 years of age. Together with Notes to Cork, a creative agency, and artists Davy Dummigan and others, the project saw the design of three large artworks inspired by Cork city’s rich cultural built and natural heritage.

The Foyer contribution was to build handmade wooden facades of well-known Cork heritage buildings: **City Hall**, **Atkins building**, which, for a period, was a temporary courthouse on Camden Quay and **R&H Hall** (Odlums). These were displayed at the ‘Island site’ at Kyril’s Quay, historically a foreshore, was the docking point for small cargo ships. The foreshore lay just outside the original city walls which cut through the abandoned sawmill site. Kyril’s/Kerl’s Quay was also named Timber Quay linking this part of the city to the timber trade and industry. The site is currently under the direction of ‘Test Site’, a collaborative urban research project, who have kindly allowed the use of the site for this exhibition.

Four residents spent two weeks completing this project and then watched it being placed on site, feeling a sense of achievement as it was there for public viewing during Heritage Week. The project was nominated for an award and received “runner up” in Heritage newcomer category.

Sailing

Churchfield Community Trust and Sailing into Wellness have been in partnership since the conception of Sailing into Wellness in 2016. Within that time, five full programs, as well as a variety of additional collaborative events have taken place. It is evident that the hands on, practical approach to development offered by the sailing programs is a quintessential match to the needs and goals of the participants. The residents thoroughly enjoyed this experience.

There was a basic understanding of how to sail a boat including safety at sea, tides, and weather. They learned great group work skills which enhanced their personal development and being out in the open sea had a positive effect on their physical and mental well-being. Residents from both Cork Foyer and Bishopsgrove took part. It was fantastic to see service users from both projects mix together and get on so well.



Cookery Kits



As part of the Warrior to Wellness programme, staff from the Garden Café and Cork Foyer residents assembled 60 cookery kits. Included in the kits were a quick and easy student cookery book, a curry kit of either Thai green, red or pad curry, rice, an allergen information leaflet, and instructions on how to

make up each curry kit. These kits proved very popular with Foyer residents as all they needed to do was to add their preference of chicken, prawns, or beef, and they had a tasty nutritious meal in 10 mins. In addition, Churchfield Community Trust staff made up a garden pack containing peas and onions, together with a window box full of soil. Foyer residents were given their own pack which they planted themselves and could watch them grow from scratch. Growing from planters is a great skill to learn when you secure your own place!

Fota Visit

At our Health and Social Committee we plan activities and trips. The residents asked to go to Fota. We made the plan to go and went during the week. We had a great time although we got a bit unlucky with the weather and had to take shelter near the monkey sanctuary. You would forget how great Fota is! We stopped halfway for a coffee and sandwiches that we packed. We spent hours walking around. I think everyone enjoyed it and hopefully we will get back to Fota next Summer.



Being out in the fresh air and around animals can have a positive influence on people.



Garden Clean Up

The Cork Foyer has a large garden behind the main building and having identified a section of it overgrown and in need of landscaping, some residents decided to take up the challenge. Over the space of a couple of days, the area was weeded, and the soil turned for new planting. With lots of hard work from Kevin and the help of Churchfield Trust, raspberry cuttings were planted, and new paths were laid.



Pet Farm Addition

Five Rhode Island Reds were added to the Foyer mini pet farm this year. The hens have settled in well and laying daily. Hamilton our resident Hog is taking a liking to them, so much so, one hen has found a nice safe place to lay her eggs in his hutch. With many young children and families visiting the playground and garden, the hens have added a bit more excitement. Being out in the fresh air and around animals can have a positive influence on people and it is our hope that some of this will rub off on our residents too. A couple of residents along with staff have taken responsibility for the feeding, cleaning, and general care of the animals.

Christmas Market

In December, Cork City Partnership organised a Christmas market for the second year in a row at the Plaza community area in Blackpool. The Foyer were once again invited to have a stall and we were delighted to participate. Our display included a range of breads including, brown, seeded, gluten free, sour dough, scones, and mince pies too. All the breads were made in our newly fitted main kitchen. This made a big difference as we now have three ovens instead of one. A small group of residents who were not in external education or training got involved. This project gave these residents the opportunity to see the market stall through from beginning to end, making the produce, displaying the items, costing it, selling the produce, dealing with money and customers, but most importantly, having fun.





IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INVESTMENT

We continue to
invest in the talents
of service users



Foyers offer a safe space where all young people are viewed as talented and unique, a space where they have access to support day or night, a Support Session space where their differing journey to independence is fully respected, a space where they can build resilience to take the knock backs, and a space where they can learn to take advantage of the opportunities that life presents. With these fundamental spaces in place, the Foyer team and external facilitators hope to earn the trust of each individual resident and steer them towards a positive and transformational journey of self-development. This journey can start with a simple investment in the young person themselves.

Thanks to the very generous funding from the **ESB Energy for Generations Fund**, we have continued to invest in the talents of service users. This superb initiative helps individuals to explore new interests, develop their existing talents, and overall improve personal wellbeing through direct financial investment in the form of a Talent Bond. To date, the Foyer has issued **51** Talent Bonds with a total value of **€6,557.69**, **11** of which were issued during 2021.

Adding structure, routine and purpose, examples of Talent Bonds issued during 2021 were:

- Gym Membership
- Course Fees
- Work Clothes
- Laptops
- Musical Instrument and Equipment
- Make-up Artistry Kit

The young adults that reside in the Cork Foyer come from a wide variety of backgrounds and their level of life and employment skills can vary greatly. Because of this, it is important to have a flexible and adaptable approach to working with young people. For some, their personal development journey is full of obstacles and challenges, making progress very gradual and protracted, for others, they will grasp every opportunity to build on their existing achievements and talents.

SO, WHAT INTERNAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING DO WE HAVE ON OFFER?

Great to Train

The importance of this multi-agency employability programme, kindly funded by Cork Education and Training Board, proves to be very popular with Foyer residents and other homeless service users, allowing them to build up their skills and CV's very quickly with qualifications attractive to potential employers. Including the learners from our Great to Train partners, Cork Simon Community and Focus Ireland, the following achievements during a pandemic speak for themselves.

GREAT TO TRAIN 2021 OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Fire Warden Training: | 23 |
| Manual Handling: | 44 |
| Safepass: | 25 |
| Basic First Aid Training: | 20 |
| Abrasive Wheel Training: | 21 |
| CV Prep Classes: | 16 |
| Forklift Truck Driving: | 08 |
| Mobile Elevate Platform: | 21 |
| Working from Heights and Harness: | 29 |
| Working in Confined Places: | 17 |
| Warehouse Safety: | 25 |
| Security Licence: | 08 |
| Power Pallet: | 08 |
| Banksman: | 07 |



Independent Living and Wellbeing Modules

In addition to the above, the Support staff successfully delivered an amazing **101 individual Independent Living Skills modules** addressing areas such as:

- Talents, Skills, Education, Employment and Planning
- Debt, Budgeting, Bills
- Rent, Rent Allowance, HAP
- Being a good Neighbour and Part of your Community
- Identifying Ways to Minimise Risks to Your Tenancy and Getting the Right Support
- Understanding a Tenancy Agreement
- Finding a Property
- Getting Ready to Move Out and Move In.

Whilst concentrating on the above, we have also prioritised the wellbeing of Foyer residents by completing **84** individual Wellbeing modules as follows:

- Healthy Eating
- Food Shopping
- Cooking and Meal Ideas
- Room Cleanliness
- Laundry
- My Wellbeing and Mental Health
- My Physical Health
- Physical Health and Exercise
- Registering with a Doctor and Applying for Medical Card
- Smoking
- Drugs
- Alcohol Consumption
- Personal Hygiene and Appearance
- Sexual Health and Relationships
- Values, Strengths and Leadership



Garden Project

We are so lucky to have an amazing Garden Project and good-sized kitchens. These combined with Liz, our Cork ETB funded cookery tutor, means that our residents are able to have a garden to a kitchen learning experience. We are now in the early planning stages of opening this experience to other community groups and the wider homeless services through a partnership initiative with the HSE Health Action Zone and Churchfield Community Trust. The early uptake for the new Grow, Cook, Eat, programme appears to be very positive, so we intend to start the first classes when the weather improves in March 2022.

Woodcraft

In recognition of those residents who prefer to work with their hands, the Cork ETB have kindly provided funding to run two woodcraft workshops per week. Under the supervision of Davy Dummigan, Foyer residents have turned their hands to making bug hotels. Besides being eco-friendly, bug hotels provide minibeasts and insects such as ladybirds, bees, spiders, and woodlice, a safe-haven from predators.

For the more active, we have continued to run weekly street league soccer sessions and enter competitions. As an indoor alternative, we have also continued to provide free off-peak passes to Leisure World to use the gym and swimming pool.





Returning to the classroom, ABLES Adult Basic Literacy Education Service provide the following accredited training:

- Basic Literacy
- Career Preparation
- Mathematics
- Communications
- Personal Effectiveness
- Computer Literacy
- Computer Applications
- Literacy Component for Culinary Skills

Unfortunately, and due to the pandemic, these programmes were greatly missed for the most of 2021. However, it was great to see the facilitators return in the autumn, so hopefully Foyer residents will be able to make up for any lost learning. On a positive note, an increased number of employment opportunities arose during 2021, resulting in **10** young people from the Foyer securing full or part time employment. The type of employment varied from retail to hospitality and construction.

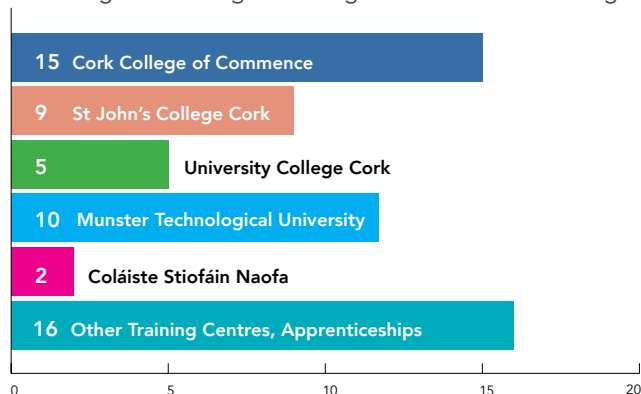
Bishopsgrove Supported Student Accommodation

For those wishing to advance in their education or training, a move to our sister project, Bishopsgrove Supported Student Accommodation, provides a fantastic opportunity to achieve longer term aspirations, whilst helping to free up units in the Foyer and other homeless services for those in more need. Working in close partnership with TUSLA, Liberty Street House for Young People out of Home and Focus Ireland, Bishopsgrove also targets young people who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless, diverting them away from the high probability of living in emergency accommodation and potentially falling into the longer-term cycle of homelessness.

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INVESTMENT

A SNAPSHOT OF BISHOPSGROVE

Throughout 2021, a total **48** young people were housed and supported by Bishopsgrove and its multi-agency team. Students are at varying levels of development and are attending a wide range of colleges and centres including:



STUDENTS BY COLLEGES ATTENDED

Note: Several students attended more than one college or centre.

21 new lettings were offered during 2021

 **11** male students  **10** female students.

For **15** of these students, it was their first time starting a college course. Some of the courses started by new students include:

- Social Care
- Make-up Artistry
- Youth Work
- Furniture Making and Restoration Skills
- Healthcare Assistant
- Hospitality Studies
- Holistic Therapies
- Leisure and Recreation
- Music

WHAT TRISHA HAD TO SAY

"I had my interview in Bishopsgrove at the end of the summer in 2021. I was delighted when a room became available a few weeks later in September 2021, just

before I was starting my course in College of Commerce. It was a relief to have secured accommodation while I started my course and worked in my part-time job. It is great for me to have the support that Bishopsgrove offers when I need it. As this is my first time living independently and on my own, I am responsible for all my own finances. It is great to have the support from my Project Worker for budgeting and money management. Bishopsgrove was there for me when I really needed it."

From the students living at Bishopsgrove, and despite all the restrictions to learning the pandemic imposed, a total of **9** students fully completed their course and the remaining **17** moved onto the next level in their education. Of the nine students that fully completed their courses, a wide variety of educational levels were achieved including:

- Bachelor of Arts in English (Level 8)
- Bachelor of Arts in Popular Music (Level 8)
- Fine Art - Painting & Sculpture (Level 6)
- Computers & Office Applications (Level 6)
- Advanced Healthcare (Level 6)
- Healthcare Assistant (Level 5)
- Music (Level 5)
- The Leaving Certificate
- Catering – City & Guilds (Level 2).

WHAT MARCELLA, AFTERCARE SOCIAL WORKER, HAD TO SAY

"I witness every day the benefits of Bishopsgrove Student Accommodation and how it has impacted in many different positive ways in the lives of the young people whom I work with. For many Bishopsgrove is more than Student Accommodation, it provides young people not only with a very high standard of accommodation but a nurturing environment that is both safe and supportive. For some student's this is their first experience of transitioning into independent living which can be both an exciting and an anxious period."

All students who reside at Bishopsgrove have access to exceptional staff support, with staff onsite who are always on hand to guide, support and advise in the best interests of the student. Bishopsgrove allows students who are in full time education the opportunity to experience first-hand student accommodation while they journey through the education system and make friendships. I have found working with the staff (Ruth) in Bishopsgrove a very positive experience as have the students I support living there."

In relation to moving on, **17 students moved on successfully**, 7 of which secured their own private rented accommodation. The vast majority of the remaining students moved into accommodation with a friend, family member, or secured accommodation with another housing provider.

On the employment front, and as a means of paying the bills throughout the year, 19 students worked part-time in a variety of roles including:

- Sales Assistant
- Kitchen Porter
- Waitressing
- Cheffing
- Food and Beverage Assistant
- Healthcare Assistant



WHAT RUTH HAD TO SAY

I began my career as a Project Worker in Cork Foyer and moved to Bishopsgrove in July 2018. The work that I do in Bishopsgrove is varied and I enjoy the combination of co-ordinating the project and key working.



Firstly, I oversee the day-to-day activities and welfare of all students on the complex who all know me and are great at reaching out if they need assistance with anything. With help from the Caretaker, Conor, I would ensure the accommodation and communal areas are in good condition, that any repairs required are logged and followed up with in a timely manner.

Every young person that secures a place at Bishopsgrove, would go through an interview process with myself. There would always be a second interviewer in attendance, often, another representative from the referring agency. Each agency would then support their young person living in their allocated houses. As a result, I would have a great working relationship with the various Support Workers on the complex

Another part of my role at Bishopsgrove is working as a Key Worker to twelve students. I support the students with whatever they feel that they need additional support with. This can include accessing specialised services in the community, such as mental health supports, assisting house-keeping sessions, to money management and budgeting. It is great to see how successful Bishopsgrove has been and see it going from strength to strength. It is a unique service designed to ensure that vulnerable young people do not enter a homeless shelter, have safe, secure, and supported accommodation while they focus on their education, welfare, employment, and independence, without worrying about a roof over their heads. I am very honoured to be part of such a unique project.



IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH QUALITY SUPPORTS & EMPOWERMENT

Residents are
empowered to
have a big voice.

Compassion, Respect, Inclusiveness, Empowerment, Justice, Honesty and Excellence are all placed at the core of the Foyer philosophy and its daily work. Now edging towards its 16th year of operation, the Foyer has never lost sight of its core values and reflects on them regularly when tailoring its services to meet external demands and the needs of the individuals that we support.

To fully take advantage of what the Foyer has to offer and get the most from their transitional stay, residents are empowered to have a big voice in the service. The presence of residents at the Foyer Management Board, on the Health and Social Committee and at resident meetings provide the perfect platform to innovate change from the kitchen table to the board room table.

Foyer Life

SOME PROS

- Given time and housing stability that Foyers provide, residents greatly benefit from the mandatory goal setting process, peer influence and achieving aspirations, all of which build self-confidence
- Foyers prioritise education and training as a key to a sustainable livelihood. Without doubt, many Foyer participants show strong improvement in their educational and employability qualifications
- Over time, the health and wellbeing and confidence of Foyer residents can improve significantly through organised activities, such as sport, cooking, arts, and other hobbies
- Foyer residents awareness of housing availability and confidence in their housing and financial capabilities increases markedly by Foyer exit
- Internal life skill modules assist this learning process, especially in relation to budgeting, cleaning and tenancy rights
- The routine of paying weekly rent and the consequences of not paying rent helps to prepare young people for inevitable landlord expectations, whilst still living in a supportive landlord environment
- The support staff are highly trained and maintain up to date knowledge of specialist services, courses, and events etc., ensuring residents receive the best possible information and guidance service from staff
- Living in a multi occupancy setting often allows residents to make good and lasting friends, helping to build social acceptance, normal relationships, and self-esteem. Such friendships can be vital when a young person moves into their own accommodation on their own.

SOME CONS

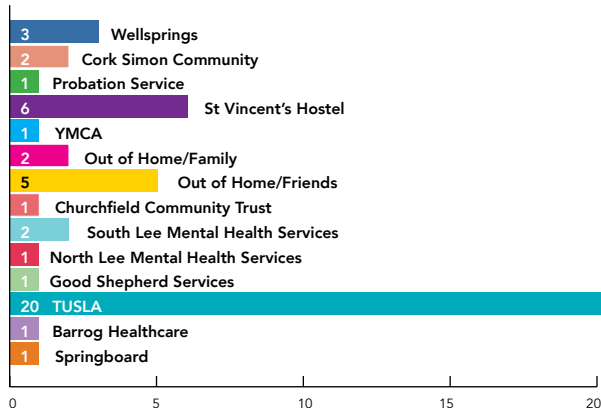
- Many young people fear a classroom environment, especially group work. Strategies need to be put in place to overcome this
- Allowing residents to live too long in a Foyer setting can create a degree of dependence instead of independence. A full engagement programme and appropriate resettlement at the earliest opportunity can counteract any dependence creep
- Some young people will lean towards negative peers, leading to further negative experiences and consequences for them
- Living in a service associated with homelessness can have negative consequences on successful resettlement. Maintaining an excellent service reputation can help to counteract this



About Applicants

The Cork Foyer received **47 housing applications** during 2021, a slight increase of six on 2020. Once the COVID-19 restrictions are fully lifted and life returns to normal, we expect the number of housing applications to increase further.

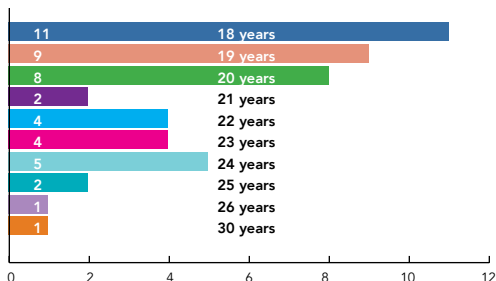
APPLICANTS BY MAIN REFERRER



APPLICANTS BY GENDER



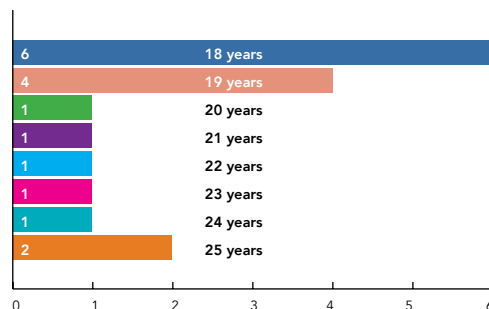
APPLICANTS BY AGE



About Residents

In total **35** young people were housed and supported during 2021, with **17** new young people moving in throughout the year.

RESIDENTS BY AGE ON THE DAY OF ENTRY



RESIDENTS BY GENDER

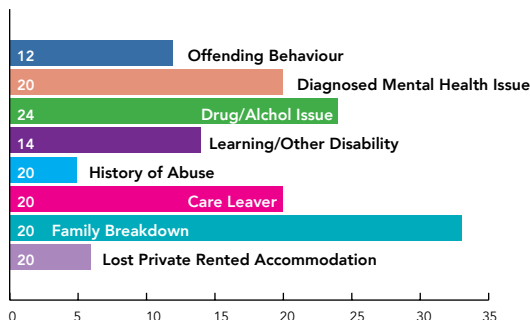


The Foyer is not just about providing accommodation. Residents must be willing to buy into the whole package, which also includes the support and training on offer, both internally and externally. This holistic approach allows the Foyer to accurately assess and agree a tailored Support Plan to meet the complex needs or aspirations of each young person.

With a comfortable, structured, and supportive environment to live in, each resident can begin to re-build their lives and self-worth. For many Foyer residents, this may require them to face and address their underlying issues before even contemplating education, training, or resettlement. Others simply have the motivation and ambition within them to take progressive steps from day one.

Support Needs on Entry

RESIDENTS MAIN SUPPORT NEEDS



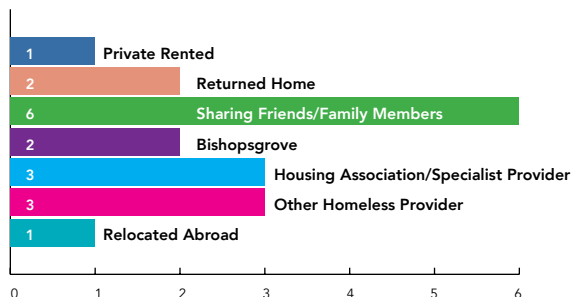
Resettlement

Evidence suggests that early integrated investment and supports in young people experiencing homelessness, or at imminent risk of homelessness, greatly help to sustain improved outcomes. Therefore, adopting a very close partnership approach with the voluntary and statutory sector is crucial in enabling our residents to move onto a fulfilling independent life in the community. Since opening in March 2006, the Foyer has supported over **400** young people, averaging at approximately **25** young people leaving the Foyer service each year.

The ongoing challenges faced by the social and private rented market continues to limit 'move on' activity. During 2021, **18** young people moved on from the Foyer, representing a sharp fall on the yearly average. The average length of stay for residents leaving during 2021 was **12.1 months**.

So where did they move too?

RESIDENTS BY MOVE ON TYPE



The Foyer ultimately aims to provide a wide range of move on options, whilst considering the young person's preferences and their current commitments. We therefore maintain daily links with the Cork City Council Housing Department, Housing Associations, and the Private Rented Sector.

The length of time a resident may live at the Foyer varies greatly. Some young people feel confident and equipped to move on from the Foyer after several months, others may require substantially longer. Either way, every young person will find the move to independent living exciting but daunting at the same time.

The knowledge, experience, and confidence a young person gains whilst living at the Foyer will greatly assist them to handle the transition into independent living and beyond. No matter which option they choose to elect, the Foyer will continue to support a young person through this transitional and often unsettling period by offering information, advice, and practical support, all of which will decrease as soon as practicably possible.



CHINO'S JOURNEY

I lived in the Cork Foyer for over two years. While I was there, I learned to cook, communicate better with others, and improve my social skills. I really liked the rooms and having my own bathroom. I enjoyed the cooking class and classes with Nadine. The staff were very supportive and helpful.

Finding a place for me to move to was tough though! For a long time, I felt that I was getting nowhere and lost hope, but something eventually worked out for me. I was linked in with Focus Ireland and was in contact with them each week for over a year. Now I have moved to a lovely quiet place with Focus Ireland. Most of all, I am looking forward to being fully independent again.

CORK FOYER AND BISHOPSGROVE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY AS OF 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Foyer General Account

| INCOME: | TOTAL | FOYER | B'GROVE |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Rent | €253,541 | €82,404 | €171,137 |
| Health Service Executive | €291,745 | €291,745 | ----- |
| Health Service Executive COVID 19 Transport Reimbursement | €11,803 | €11,803 | ----- |
| Department of Environment, Community & Local Government | €244,428 | €244,428 | ----- |
| Miscellaneous Income | €4,125 | €3,875 | €250 |
| Total Income | €805,642 | €634,255 | €171,387 |
| EXPENDITURE: | TOTAL | FOYER | B'GROVE |
| Payroll | €513,375 | €483,622 | €29,753 |
| Transfer to Capital Budget Provision | €74,720 | €41,033 | €33,687 |
| Cleaning/Waste | €18,747 | €13,188 | €5,559 |
| Heating & Lighting | €36,941 | €22,383 | €14,558 |
| Maintenance Repair, Parks, Materials | €54,526 | €34,390 | €20,136 |
| Non-Capital Equipment Purchases | €12,782 | €7,909 | €4,873 |
| Miscellaneous | €1,050 | €792 | €258 |
| Other Operational Expenses/Minor Contracts | €11,219 | €356 | €9,863 |
| Professional Fees | €3,075 | €3,075 | ----- |
| Telephone, TV & Postage | €9,165 | €8,525 | €640 |
| Design, Printing, Stationery | €4,154 | €3,173 | €981 |
| Travel, Training & Subsistence | €1,671 | €920 | €751 |
| Night Security/Security Property | €58,236 | €7,978 | €50,258 |
| Minibus Costs/ Other Vehicle & Machinery Expenses | €5,981 | €5,911 | €70 |
| Total Expenditure | €805,642 | €634,255 | €171,387 |

Capital Accounts:

RESIDENT HARDSHIP I PARTICIPATION FUND:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Balance as at 31 st December 2020 | €16,104 |
|--|---------|

INCOME:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Big Issue Magazine Street League Tournament | €2,500 |
|---|--------|

| | |
|---|--------|
| Cork City Council COVID -19 Emergency Response Fund | €5,000 |
|---|--------|

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Total income | €7,500 |
|---------------------|---------------|

EXPENDITURE:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Participation, Activities, Equipment & Hardship | €6,205 |
|---|--------|

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Total Expenditure | €6,205 |
|-------------------|--------|

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Balance as of 31st December 2021 | €17,399 |
|--|----------------|

CAPITAL REPLACEMENT I DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Balance as at 31 st December 2020 | €204,533 |
|--|----------|

INCOME

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Transfer Capital Budget Provision | €74,720 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Total income | €74,720 |
|---------------------|----------------|

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Refurbishment & Safety Work | €22,937 |
|-----------------------------|---------|

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Total Expenditure | €22,937 |
|-------------------|---------|

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Balance as of 31st December 2021 | €256,316 |
|--|-----------------|

CERTIFIED BY:



Barry O'Hare, Management Accountant,
Cork City Council

STAFF TEAM

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Barry Waddingham | Foyer Manager |
| Ruairi O’Farrell | Senior Project Worker |
| Jessie Twomey | Project Worker |
| Ruth McGuane | Project Worker |
| Kevin O’Sullivan | Administrator |
| Fidelma Murphy | PT Administrator |
| Marie Scully | PT Life Skills Worker and Talents Coach |
| Conor McManus | PT Maintenance Caretaker |
| Julia Seitz | Night Premises Supervisor |
| Patrick Fitzsimmons | Night Premises Supervisor |
| Paul Carroll | Night Premises Supervisor |
| Vacant | Night Premises Supervisor |

THE CORE STAFF TEAM ARE SUPPORTED BY A
DEDICATED BANK OF RELIEF SUPPORT WORKERS:

Trish Jones, Eric O’Neill, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Paul Carroll,
Stewart Hartery and Danny Bullman.

Staff Feature: Danny Bullman

“Due to having a deep-rooted interest in social justice and equality, I returned to education in 2017 to study Youth & Community Work in University College Cork with the hope of working with those from marginalised communities. I began working with, Cork Simon Community in 2019 and continue to work there. When I saw Cork Foyer advertising for a Relief Support Worker, I decided to apply as I was passionate about working with young people and I was aware of the great work the Cork Foyer provides and the opportunities it creates for its young people through education, employment, and transitioning to independent living. I feel lucky to be part of such a great team where every day is different, and you are continuously learning new skills and approaches. I look forward to continuing my work with the Cork Foyer”



Staff Feature: Stewart Hartery

In 2016 I started my journey in youth and community work in St. Kevin's School as a youth worker and special needs assistant. St. Kevin's supports young people who have been excluded from the formal education system. In 2018, I began my journey in the homeless services in Cork City working in one of the largest hostels, and in Cork Foyer. Working in both the school, homelessness and youth homelessness settings has allowed me to experience the effects of social issues amongst a variety of age groups.

My experiences of working in the Foyer over the last two and half years has given me great insight into how a holistic approach based on empowering the individual to take ownership of their decision-making and future ensures that the individual learns valuable life skills and resilience for when they leave the service. This future-based approach has helped me to develop my professional practice and has highlighted to me the importance of my role in the Cork Foyer, and how every-day interactions with the individuals living in the service can have a massive impact on their future. The high level of skilled staff has also provided great peer support to my practice, also this aspect is seen with the high level of care towards each individual in the service. What I find most impressive about the Cork Foyer is the ability of staff to critically examine the outcomes and delivery of the service and striving to look for areas of improvement. The connections with the wider community and engaging the individual in the service into the community is an area of passion for me and one that the Foyer excels in.

In 2018, I completed my diploma in Youth and Community Work in University College Cork and went on to complete a degree in the same in 2021. I am currently studying a Master of Applied Psychology and Coaching in University College Cork, and my dissertation is focused on exploring the experiences of supervision for youth workers. I have found that working in the Cork Foyer and studying at the same time has been a great benefit as it has allowed me to apply theory to practice. The Cork Foyer plays an extremely important role in the homeless services in Cork city and has supported young people who have experienced homelessness, to exit services with a greater skill set, education, and personal development.



FOYER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Cody Chairman CEO (Retired)

Cork City Enterprise Board,
Union Quay, Cork.

David Lane

Drug and Alcohol Services Co-ordinator,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare,
Health Service Executive, Kinvara House, Dublin Hill, Cork.

Teresa O'Sullivan

Adult Education Officer,
21Lavitt's Quay, Cork.

Barry Waddingham

Cork Foyer Manager,
Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork

Invited Resident Representatives

Cork Foyer, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.

Joanna MacCarthy

Admin Officer, Housing Department,
Cork City Council, Cork.

Aideen O'Dwyer

Admin Officer, Housing Department,
Cork City Council, Cork.

Denis Manning

Admin Officer, Housing Department,
Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork.

John Hartnett

Member of Blackpool Community,
Co-operative Service Centre Ltd.,
90 Great William O'Brien Street, Blackpool, Cork.

Garda Jacqui White

An Garda Síochána, Community Policing,
Watercourse Road, Blackpool, Cork.

Note: The Foyer Management Committee meets a minimum of four times each year.

