

A black and white photograph of several hands of different ages (adults and children) overlapping and clasped together in a supportive gesture. The image is framed by a magenta border on the left and right sides.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

With the housing crisis continuing throughout 2019, the services provided by Good Shepherd Cork have been more essential than ever for the many women and families experiencing homelessness in Cork.

Over the year we worked with over 950 women and children. This figure includes more than 400 women and children who have stayed in our accommodation during the year and over 130 families we supported in B&Bs and other private emergency accommodation.

Despite the sustained demands on our services, we made good progress through the year against our 2019 – 2021 Strategic Plan, *Valuing Every Individual*, and further strengthened our capacity, in terms of accommodation and skills, to deliver supports to vulnerable women, children and families.

After many years of work to put this in place, we finally saw the start of construction for the re-development of Edel House, funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government through Cork City Council. Funds of €7.53 million have been allocated for the development by the Department with full completion scheduled for September 2021.

A significant development in 2019 was the formal transfer of the long-term supported housing project, Baile an Aoire, from the Congregation of the Good Shepherd Sisters to Good Shepherd Cork in May 2019, giving us 30 units of accommodation for vulnerable women. We are very grateful to the Congregation for providing us with this vital service.

2019 was also the first full year of operation of Redclyffe, our family hub service which was at full capacity throughout the year.

Building on excellent work in 2018, we have been able to further improve the range and quality of therapeutic, educational and other supports over 2019, with the addition to the GSC team of specialist support for children, including for those experiencing domestic violence; for service users with mental health or addiction challenges and by placing educational specialists in our residential services.

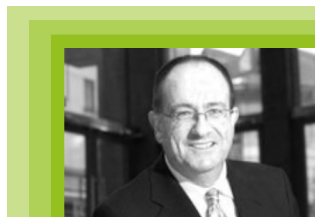
Over 2019 we completed our journey to full compliance with the voluntary charity Governance Code, positioning us well for a smooth transition to compliance with the new Governance Code of the Charity Regulator when that goes live in 2020.

Overall income and expenditure were on target for 2019, with income and expenditure of €3.65m, before the inclusion of the exceptional item of €1.67m (for the Baile an Aoire premises and associated resources transferred to Good Shepherd Cork).

As ever, we are extremely grateful to Tusla, HSE, Cork City Council, Cork ETB and our corporate, philanthropic and individual donors and supporters for their sustained support over the year, for their confidence in Good Shepherd Cork and their commitment to bettering the lives of our service users.

The Board of Trustees also wish to highlight and appreciate the professionalism and commitment of our team of staff in Good Shepherd Cork and the courage, dignity and resilience of the women, children and families who use our services.

We hope that this year's Annual Report offers a valuable glimpse into the context, achievements and challenges for Good Shepherd Cork over 2019. The additional capacity we were able to build over the year is proving extremely valuable in the very challenging environment that we are facing in 2020.



Brendan Lenihan
Chair

GOOD SHEPHERD CORK - MISSION, VISION, VALUES

Good Shepherd Cork is an independent, registered charity established in 1981. We work with women, children and families who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. We welcome people of all backgrounds, ages and stages of life. Our work is grounded in our belief in social justice and equality. We address the root causes of homelessness and social exclusion and aim to break the cycle of homelessness through generations.



Mission

Through trusting relationships, we support women and children who are vulnerable to homelessness to live more empowered, fulfilled and self-sufficient lives.

We work with women, children and families to achieve our mission.



Vision

Our vision is a society where every woman and child enjoy a secure, safe and dignified home in a supportive environment, respectful of their rights.

VALUES

Welcome

We welcome women of all backgrounds, ages and stages in life in a non-judgemental way.

Respect & Dignity

We acknowledge and respect the intrinsic dignity and value of each individual person, and promise trust, confidentiality and integrity in our conduct.

Ambition

We are ambitious for the women and children we serve: we aim for lasting positive, change.

Social Justice

We believe in social justice and equality: we look to address the reasons for homelessness.

Leadership

We look to lead and to give example in shaping a better future.

Collaboration & Partnership

We are open and responsive to the women and children we serve and to working with other agencies and organisations.

Accountability

We work to clear standards, we are transparent and answerable to our stakeholders; we are outcomes-focused and learn from each experience to improve our service.

OUR HERITAGE

Founded in Cork more than 40 years ago by Sr. Colette Hickey, a Good Shepherd Sister, Good Shepherd Cork draws on a heritage of nearly 400 years of seeing and supporting women and children who have in some way been marginalised or left behind, taking our name from the Good Shepherd of the Gospels.

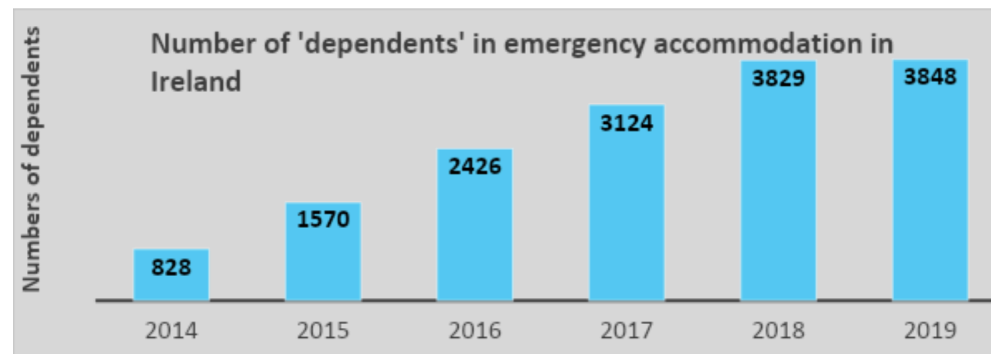
THE EXTERNAL CONTEXT IN 2019

Levels of homelessness remained high throughout 2019 with over 9,700 people in Ireland living in emergency homeless accommodation at the start and the end of the year. Of this number, just over 8% were homeless in Cork and Kerry.

There were over 3,800 children living in emergency accommodation in late 2019, with more than 260 of these children in Cork and Kerry. This represents more than a 450% increase nationally since the start of the current homelessness crisis in 2014 and a nine-fold increase for Cork and Kerry, where there were 29 children in emergency accommodation in late 2014.

Research shows that homelessness in childhood can lead to poor health, low self-esteem, problems in school, alienation and, ultimately as an adult, high risk of future homelessness¹.

[¹] Children's Rights Alliance (2019) Report Card 2019 and Ombudsman for Children's Office (2019) No Place Like Home Children's views and experiences of living in Family Hubs Dublin: Ombudsman for Children's Office



Source: Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Numbers Reached

In 2019, Good Shepherd Cork supported over 950 women and children. This included:

- ◆ Edel House and newly opened Redclyffe family hub were full throughout the year, accommodating over 370 women and children in the two centres (and 20 fathers in Redclyffe).
- ◆ Riverview accommodated 19 vulnerable teenage girls and young women.
- ◆ Baile an Aoire provided long-term supported housing to more than 30 women.
- ◆ Our B&B Outreach team supported 136 families who were homeless and staying in B&Bs and hotels.
- ◆ Our Support & Advocacy service worked with 386 women and children over the year.
- ◆ Our education and development service, Bruac, supported more than 20 young women to work towards a formal (QQI) qualification.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2019

Launched in January 2019, our 2019 – 2021 Strategic Plan, *Valuing Every Individual*, set out a range of priority goals that we in Good Shepherd Cork aim to achieve by the close of 2021.

We are pleased with the progress made during 2019 towards these goals. Highlights include:

Priority 1 Have widened the types of accommodation we offer.

- ◆ Construction on the re-development of Edel House started in April 2019.
- ◆ Redclyffe family hub had its first full year of operation.
- ◆ Long-term supported housing project, Baile an Aoire, was formally transferred to Good Shepherd Cork in May 2019.

Priority 2 Be providing a greater level and range of supports directly to children in our services.

- ◆ 2019 saw a considerable investment in services and supports for children - these are detailed in the following sections.

Priority 3 Be providing a greater level and range of supports to all service users.

- ◆ Appointment of new therapeutic posts - detailed below.
- ◆ Started a programme of awareness raising and training with all staff to improve capacity to support women and children experiencing domestic or sexual violence.

Priority 4 Be fully accessible and relevant to the needs of non-nationals and other minority groups.

- ◆ Provided training for all staff and groups of service users in Intercultural Awareness.
- ◆ Conducted staff training in Traveller Cultural Awareness.

Priority 5 Be widely regarded as a highly professional organisation.

- ◆ Began process of developing an integrated, on-line database system to improve our capacity to collect, analyse and report data about our services.
- ◆ Strengthened our processes for recruiting and supporting volunteers
- ◆ Identified an Employee Assistance Programme provider..

ENHANCEMENTS TO OUR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Expanding and upgrading our premises

Construction of a new extension for Edel House began in April 2019, as part of a major re-development of the service, with funding of over €7.5m confirmed by the Department of Housing through Cork City Council. When completed in 2021, the re-developed Edel House will provide residents with a much more dignified environment, with ensuite single rooms and one and two-bedroom family units and space where service users can avail of therapeutic, educational and other supports.

2019 was the first full year of operation of Redclyffe, our family hub service, which opened in mid 2018. By January 2019, Redclyffe was at full capacity and remained so throughout the year.

A significant development in 2019 was the transfer of long-term supported housing service, Baile an Aoire, from the Congregation of the Good Shepherd Sisters to Good Shepherd Cork, giving us over 30 units of accommodation for vulnerable women. Baile an Aoire was originally established for women who were brought up in the care of the Good Shepherd Sisters. When the service joined Good Shepherd Cork in May 2019, ten of the original residents were still living there, alongside 15 younger women who need a supported setting and moved to Baile an Aoire from Edel House. We also have a small number of residents with disabilities, for whom the supported setting at Baile an Aoire makes some level of independent living possible.

Our residential centre for teenage girls, Riverview, saw a number of building improvements over the year, with funding from Tusla, including a grant to double glaze and restore all the sash windows, making the building much more comfortable and energy efficient. We recognise the importance of a pleasant work environment and the Riverview staff office also had a long-awaited makeover, making it a much brighter and more pleasant environment in which to work.



Extending in-house supports

A feature of 2019 has been our investment in a wider range of therapeutic, educational and developmental supports for service users, including a range of specialist supports for children who are homeless.

In mid-2019, we were able to recruit a Dual Diagnosis Support Worker, through the generous support of a charitable trust. The Dual Diagnosis (DD) Worker supports our service users who have mental health and/or substance misuse challenges. We have learnt that it is people's mental wellbeing which often underpins their drug or alcohol use as a form of self-soothing. Our DD Worker helps people build on their skills for good mental health which reduces their need for alcohol or drugs, builds self-awareness and reduces the impact of trauma on decision making.

ENHANCEMENTS TO OUR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (CONT.)

We have also been able to expand our Making Change programme in 2019, employing part-time Making Change Coordinators in Edel House and Redclyffe – again through the support of a charitable trust. The programme provides a wide range of educational and personal development opportunities, on an individual and small group basis, starting ‘where the learner is at’ to build levels of engagement, confidence and self-esteem. Making Change Coordinators work with women to identify their individual needs (for example, literacy, communication skills, parenting skills or healthy cooking) and agree a personal learning plan. For children (see below) the focus is on healthy activities that children enjoy and that help them feel good about themselves (whilst forgetting the stresses of being homeless) and on homework support to prevent them falling further behind at school, as many in homeless services do.

We have continued to offer counselling to give women in our services a safe space to process their past and present experiences, build self-awareness and to look at the impact of these life experiences on their current wellbeing. We continue to provide therapeutic group supports, including ‘Just for Mams’ and WRAP² courses.

Over 2019 we also invested in training and awareness-raising work to better understand the rights and needs of our service users who are non-nationals, or from minority groups in Ireland and the language, cultural and other barriers they may face when accessing housing and other social services - so as to ensure our services are relevant and accessible to everyone.

A men’s group was set up in 2019 to give fathers in Redclyffe the chance to share experiences and offer and receive peer support.



Services for children and young people

As the only agency in Cork that can accommodate children who are homeless, we see very clearly the many negative impacts of homelessness on children. This prompted us over the year to further expand our supports for children.

Riverview, our service for teenage girls who are out of home, accommodated 19 teenage girls and young women over 2019. In addition to a safe place to stay, Riverview uses a solution-focused approach to assist residents to identify and work towards personal and educational goals.

Many of the Riverview residents have experienced the breakdown of family relationships or relationships with other key people in their lives. This separation can have a huge impact on young people. The team in Riverview supports its young residents through this highly traumatic time in their lives. The team works closely with Tusla’s Liberty Street House service and collaborates with other agencies, including Jigsaw, Arbour House and Pieta House, to offer mental health and addiction supports.

[²] WRAP Wellness Recovery Action Plan

ENHANCEMENTS TO OUR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (CONT.)

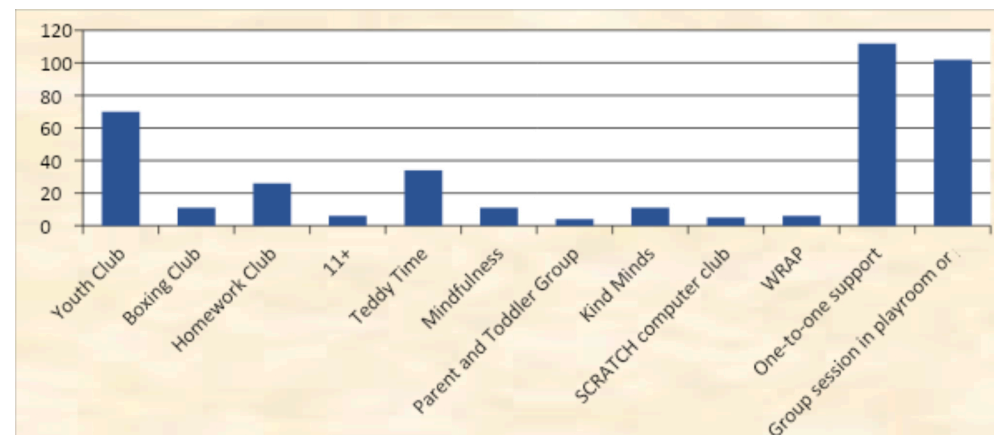
We see many of the girls and young women striving to fulfil their potential and in 2019 were very pleased to see two former Riverview residents accepted into UCC to take up degrees in Social Science.

Henrietta's Club, our youth club for teenage girls and young women, continued throughout the year. The club aims to help participants develop confidence and self-esteem through engagement in a programme of social and learning activities.

In mid 2019 we were able, with the support of Tusla's Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence service, to appoint a Child Support Worker for Domestic and Sexual Violence (DSV) who works with children and parents who have experienced violence in their home. Our DSV Support Worker is also supporting the implementation of recommendations arising from the review of our work on domestic and sexual violence which was completed in 2019 with the launch of 'Breaking that Cycle - Tackling the Intergenerational Cycles Of Abuse And Homelessness (see page 18).

We have continued to build our services for children in Edel House and Redclyffe in 2019. A total of 161 children stayed in this accommodation during 2019. Of these, 148 (92%) participated in at least one type of developmental or educational activity. (The 13 children who did not participate in any activity were resident for less than 7 days.)

The largest numbers (70) attended our weekly Youth Club, run in collaboration with Tusla's Springboard project, with smaller numbers attending the more specialised activities such as WRAP, Mindfulness, Kind Minds or the 11+ Group. The majority of children staying in Edel House or Redclyffe for more than a week would also have received one-to-one support (112) or participated in group play activities in the playroom or garden (102).



Number of children in Edel House and Redclyffe who engaged with each type of activity.

The Child and Youth Services in GSC was supported by Springboard (Tusla) and a number of very committed and talented volunteers to run a weekly Youth Club (and Teddy Time for those too young to attend Youth Club), Homework Clubs, a Parent and Toddler Group and a weekly Boxing Class. Healthy Ireland helped fund these activities during 2019.

The Creative Community Alternatives programme, also funded by Tusla, allows us to work intensively with children who are deemed at risk of being taken into care or who have returned to their family having been in care. We believe the programme has contributed to a significant reduction in the number of child protection referrals we have had to make to Tusla in recent years.

We have also run mindfulness activities for children in 2019, both in-house and in collaboration with local provider, Kind Minds, with a focus on empowering and nurturing well-being through mindfulness, creativity and kindness. Children have responded very positively and are using tools and skills they have learnt to help self-regulate and to manage conflicts with other children in our accommodation. We have also successfully piloted WRAP groups with families and been pleased to see how well children have taken on board the WRAP concepts of self-care.

OUTREACH SUPPORT SERVICES

Our Support & Advocacy Service provides service users with a range of individual and group supports, including a number of social activities, as they make the transition to independent living.

During 2019 the service received 75 new referrals, as residents moved on from Edel House and Redclyffe and needed on-going support in the community to manage in their new environment and to be able to sustain tenancies.

The service supported an average of 125 people each month – working with nearly 400 women and children and 16 men over the year. Housing, family issues, parenting and mental health were the main issues for which clients sought support.

A key part of the service is supporting service users to engage with other service providers – statutory and voluntary – and advocating on their behalf with those providers. In 2019, Support & Advocacy had over 3,200 contacts with other professionals, this includes social workers, social welfare services, mental health services, courts services and housing providers.

In 2019, we also continued to develop our supports for families and single women in B&Bs and other private emergency accommodation.

The B&B team increased over the year with funding from Cork Education and Training Board for a Family Support Worker and a part-time Child and Youth Worker, allowing the team to engage with 136 families over the year with a total of 275 children in those families.

Throughout 2019, a Parent and Toddler group was run on a weekly basis to support the families in private emergency accommodation. This provided opportunities for children living in B&Bs and hotels to have a space to play and it also provided a forum for parents living in emergency accommodation to share experiences and support each other.



EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

Our education and development service, based at Bruac, supported more than 20 young women to have a second chance at education and work towards a formal (QQI) qualification, with a total of 58 minor awards achieved over the academic year.

With the support of external funding, we were able to complete the extension of the building and open a substantial new learners' kitchen, enabling the delivery of a very relevant and practical Culinary Skills Special purpose award and providing a much larger and more welcoming space for learners and staff to sit and share food together, which is fundamental to the therapeutic and life skills component of Bruac's approach.

With the recruitment of Making Change Coordinators based in Edel House and Redclyffe, we have been able to expand the educational team and take our education and development work into our residential services. The team has also led on WRAP facilitator training for ten GSC staff from across our services.



STAFF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING

We have continued to invest in the development of our staff with a particular emphasis on becoming a more trauma-sensitive service – understanding how experiences of trauma impact the well-being and responses of service users – as a first step on our journey to being a fully trauma informed organisation.

Other training and awareness raising activities have included: Solution-Focused Brief Therapy, Intercultural Awareness and Traveller Cultural Awareness training, training in supporting women and children who have experienced domestic or sexual violence, training in child protection, as well as skills upgrading in first aid, fire safety, manual handling and other practical requirements.

We ran a number of Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) workshops for staff teams as a team-development exercise and trained more GSC staff as WRAP facilitators, increasing our capacity to offer WRAP to service-users.

During 2019, we researched and identified an Employee Assistance Programme provider. The programme provides all GSC staff, and family members, with confidential counselling and other supports to help deal with workplace and personal issues.



OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Over 2019 we completed our journey to full compliance with the voluntary Governance Code, positioning us well for a smooth transition to compliance with the Charities Governance Code of the Charities Regulator when that goes live in 2020.

As an organisation we have spent time in 2019 reviewing our approach to data collection and management and at the close of 2019 took a decision to invest in an integrated, on-line database system, using Salesforce software, to improve our ability to collect, manage and analyse data about our services. Once this goes live, in late 2020, we will be much better placed to provide GSC-wide integrated services and monitor and measure the outputs and outcomes of our work.

Mindful of the vulnerability of the older residents in Baile An Aoire and the resources some have received through the state's compensation fund, we conducted a review, with the pro-bono support of Deloitte, of financial management arrangements and supports for residents who have received compensation. Whilst current practices and protocols were deemed to be satisfactory, we have benefitted from a number of recommendations which we are in process of implementing.

We also appreciated support from the Sustainable Energy Authority (SEAI) to begin a process of reviewing and improving energy efficiency across our premises.



CHALLENGES

Challenges facing Good Shepherd Cork, and the women and families using our services, in 2019 largely arise from the challenges of Ireland's homelessness crisis.

The critical shortage of social housing, the high and rapidly rising rents and insecurity in the private rental market and the growing gap between the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) provided by the government and the rent expectations of landlords, has made it immensely difficult for people on low incomes to find and maintain secure accommodation. We know many families who have had to make difficult choices between paying unaffordable rents and putting food on the table.

We have also seen many people experiencing multiple episodes of homelessness in 2019 as, having finally secured private rented accommodation, they lost their home when rent increases made their property unaffordable.

We have also seen people staying in our residential services for longer and longer periods as they simply cannot find affordable accommodation to move on to. In 2019, the average length of time that a family stayed in our emergency accommodation was over 26 weeks. This also has a knock-on effect for families staying in B&B accommodation who have had to wait for longer periods before a room becomes available in Edel House or Redclyffe.

We have seen an increase in the number of service users presenting with higher support needs in 2019, particularly in Redclyffe where many families come to us who simply cannot cope in B&Bs.

Organisational challenges facing Good Shepherd Cork, as for most charities, centre on being able to secure sufficient income to provide the breadth and quality of services needed to make lasting positive change in the lives of the women, children and families we serve.



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Good Shepherd Cork is an independent Cork-based charity registered with the Charity Regulator with a voluntary Board of Trustees.

We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of person-centred practice, good management and corporate governance. The Board of Directors is made up of nine highly experienced non-executive and external members, recruited through trusted recommendations and/or Board Match for their knowledge and expertise and drawn from diverse backgrounds. The Board members serve for terms of four years and the Chair is selected by the Board. The Board meets at least nine times a year with a minimum quorum of three and subcommittees appointed as required. All Board members complete an induction programme and are made fully aware of the conflict of interest procedures. There are clear distinctions between the roles of the Board and the executive management team.

All our Directors are volunteers and do not receive any remuneration or expenses for their work with Good Shepherd Cork. The Directors who served on the Board over 2019 were:

Mr Brendan Lenihan (Chairperson), Mr Garvan Corkery, Ms Ann Marie O'Sullivan, Sister Ethna McDermott, Mr Paddy Caffrey, Mr Jim Mulcahy, Ms Deirdre Carwood, Ms Sinead Corcoran (Secretary to the Board) and Ms Celine Fox (appointed May 2019).

CEO is normally in attendance but is not a member of the Board.

We are compliant with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and the Guidelines for Charitable Organisations Fundraising from the Public and over 2019 achieved full compliance with the Governance Code.

Our annual accounts are audited by Moore and are published on our website. We work to best practice service-level agreements with our major statutory funders.



**Registered Office: Bruac, The Priory, Redemption Road,
Cork T23 C579**

**Good Shepherd Cork Ltd, Company Limited by
Guarantee, Registered in Ireland. Company number
82114.**

Charity Number CHY 13399.

**Registered with the Charities Regulator: CRA Number
20041618.**

Tel: 021 439 1188 Email: info@goodshepherdcork.ie

Web: www.goodshepherdcork.ie

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income in 2019 was €5.32m.

However, this included an exceptional item of €1.67m with the transfer of Baile an Aoire to Good Shepherd Cork during 2019. Excluding this gift leaves income of €3.65m. The increase in income and expenditure over 2018 was the result of operating Redclyffe for a full year (the service had opened mid-2018); income and expenditure through Baile An Aoire; a welcome increase in funds from our statutory donors to allow us to deliver additional supports to service-users and an increase in fundraising income including philanthropic grants.

Expenditure was on target, with a modest deficit of €2,427 once the exceptional gift item is excluded.

Income	Grants and contracts	Fundraising	Rent and other	Total 2019	Total 2018
Tusla	1,358,702			1,358,702	1,307,394
HSE	708,373			708,373	552,217
Cork City Council	781,747			781,747	518,333
CETB	160,362			160,362	118,696
YPSFS grant	55,204			55,204	57,827
Rent			141,392	141,392	54,335
Donations, gifts, other grants	131,758	160,655		292,413	125,532
Sundry income	53,527		68,983	122,510	88,955
Amortisation of capital grants			32,839	32,839	31,011
Investments			334	334	1,344
Other income			0	0	7,000
Sub total	3,249,673	160,655	243,548	3,653,876	2,862,644
Exceptional Item (Baile an Aoire)			1,668,225	1,668,225	
Total				5,322,101	2,862,644

Expenditure	2019	2018
Staff costs	2,808,061	2,175,578
Depreciation and impairment	112,435	78,783
Insurance	34,659	31,965
Light and heat	55,469	45,305
Repairs and maintenance	241,740	159,297
Office expenses	10,049	3,361
Crafts and recreation	33,356	12,754
Printing, post, stationery	24,177	17,615
Telephone	18,300	14,302
Motor and travel	30,115	16,279
Client care	52,503	22,155
Household expenses	38,021	21,327
Sundry/U18 expenses	346	10,704
Course materials	21,637	22,351
Security (Redclyffe)	84,663	38,962
Audit fees	8,658	5,659
Fundraising costs	3,075	-
Other support costs (incl. training, accountancy and professional fees)	79,039	112,247
Total	3,656,303	2,788,577

Our full audited accounts for 2019 and for previous years are available on our website: www.goodshepherdscork.ie

Breaking that Cycle - Tackling the Intergenerational Cycles Of Abuse And Homelessness

During late 2018 and early 2019, independent researcher, Dr. Caroline Crowley, conducted research on behalf of GSC and Tusla with 30 GSC service users and 26 staff to better understand their experience of domestic and sexual violence, and the opportunities that exist for GSC to develop more supports in this area. This, primarily qualitative, research served to explore the very worrying intergenerational cycle of abuse and the links between abuse and homelessness.

Key Research Findings:

- 1** The homelessness crisis in Ireland is exacerbating the impact of domestic violence in Irish society. Whilst there is a tendency in policy terms to separate 'homelessness' and 'domestic violence', in practice the two are intrinsically linked.
 - ◆ Of those interviewed during the research, over one third of service users became homeless as a result of abuse and violence in the home. But many have to return, with their children, to violent homes because, given the current housing crisis in Ireland, they cannot find alternative, affordable, accommodation.
 - ◆ Almost half of all respondents, 13 women, said they returned to live in an abusive situation due to homelessness and eight of them did so to keep their children in a home.
- 2** Children who grow up in a family where there is domestic abuse or violence are very likely to go on to experience violence in their adult life. The research highlights the catastrophic cycle of abuse passing from generation to generation.
 - ◆ 90% of the 30 respondents who participated in the survey have experienced domestic or sexual abuse in their adult life, with over 40% (13 respondents) confirming that they experienced abuse during childhood.
 - ◆ Of the 13 women who reported experiencing abuse in their family during childhood, including those placed in care, ALL went on to suffer abuse as an adult, most of those at the extreme end (i.e. physical or sexual violence).
 - ◆ These findings are in line with wider research nationally and internationally. - According to Tusla (Parenting Positively, 2015), adults whose parents were abusive have more than double the chance of being abused.

Key objectives for GSC and other support services for women escaping abuse

- ◆ The research provides insights into the long-term impacts of growing up in an unsafe home, including a high risk of abuse in adulthood. Highlighting:
 - ◆ The importance of tailored, respectful, one-to-one supports, for women and children in homelessness services, to overcome the many, profound and potentially lifelong consequences of domestic and sexual abuse and violence.
 - ◆ The critical need for safe, affordable housing for women and their children trying to escape abuse; the need for the judicial system to place the onus on perpetrators of abuse to leave the family home, rather than the affected family members being made homeless, and
 - ◆ the need for policy makers to recognise/address homelessness and domestic abuse in a joined-up way.

The Importance of Future Investment

This research shows the importance of GSC's work, not just to tackle the immediate need for shelter, but also to invest in one-to-one supports in a safe and secure environment.

Investing the time and resources in breaking the cycle is key. Failure to appropriately support and invest in today's generation of children and young people experiencing violence and homelessness, will perpetuate these experiences over their lifetimes – and those of their children.