



# **Don Bosco Care** Annual Report 2019

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### Introduction from the Chair of Don Bosco Care

2019 was the forty first year of Don Bosco Care providing safe and nurturing homes for young people who, through no fault of their own, cannot live with their family. Since we opened our doors in January 1978 there has not been a single day or night when a vulnerable young person has not slept safely and securely, knowing that they were truly valued in the care of our dedicated team.

The Board would like to thank the committed staff for all their hard work during the year. The therapeutic care service they provide to the young people in our care is unrivalled, and the significantly improved outcomes they can influence and generate for our young people are very impressive. As a society we should all be helping these troubled young people but, in reality, it falls on the shoulders of our staff to show there is a better way and that society has not forgotten about them. The Board is fully supportive of the work of each staff member and would again like to thank them for their dedication as they undertake their often difficult work.

2019 continued the trend of challenging years within the service. We were unable to acquire any further apartments for young people leaving care service - and perhaps facing homelessness.

The Board continued with its strategic plan to invest in fundraising in 2019 in an effort to reduce its 100% reliance on state funding. This is a long-term strategy which is exposed to changes in the economy and the Board continually reviews the strategic options around fundraising. To date the number of donors who generously give to DBC has grown to over 4,000 since the plan was implemented. The Board would like to thank all those who contributed to our cause in 2019 and have continued to do so to date in 2020.

In terms of the senior management team Martin Burke, our Director of Services, assumed the role as leader of the organisation in January 2020 with the agreement of Tusla. We would also like to thank Breda Keogh for her contribution over her many years with DBC and welcome Lorretta Nwafor as our new Finance Manager

Tony McPoland

Board Chair

## **Residential & Aftercare Services**

### **Occupancy**

Don Bosco Care continues to see a high demand for its services in both residential care and after care. Our two residential care homes for under 18s had over 90% occupancy throughout 2019 with a referrals list of up to 5 young people in desperate need of a placement waiting on a room to come available. This shows the great need for our service continues to grow and we hope to increase our capacity in the future so that more young people can be cared for.

In aftercare we also see very high demand for placements. Our Ballymun House alone was at almost 100% capacity for the whole year, the only time it dropped below this was when one young person moved out in December. Across our aftercare the occupancy rate for 2019 was over 81%. This slightly lower overall figure highlights a slight increase in the availability of housing options for young people leaving care. We were able to move a number of young people who had come to the end of their time with us into their own 'forever homes' during the year and we wish them all safe and healthy futures. There is however an ever present need to secure more spaces in aftercare for young people. At all times through the year we had long lists of referrals of young people who have been in care and are urgently in need of an aftercare placement. The list rarely drops below 18 young people in need of a home. We urgently need to increase the number of aftercare beds available for these vulnerable young people and Don Bosco Care is keen to work on ways we can support more care leavers whether through increased capacity, outreach or training programmes.

### **Outcomes**

Many of the young people who come under the care of Don Bosco Care have been in the care system for most of their lives. Some have experienced the highest levels of trauma and pain imaginable. For over 40 years our incredibly dedicated staff have been working to help hurt young people to piece their lives, their self confidence and their future back together in the hope that their children will never experience the challenges that they have.

The work is difficult and it can be hard to know whether we're making progress or not sometimes but then a little change in behavior or a surprising gesture can show we're on the right track.

Let us share with you a couple of short stories from a recent newsletter:

### **Donal**

*“You are just going to throw me out like everywhere else,” said Donal, when we first met him. He was 14 years old and he’d had 16 previous placements with foster families or residential care.*

*They’d all broken down.*

*Donal may not have believed in us, but we believed in him. With your support, the team built a relationship with him step-by-step. And at Christmas, there was a moment of transformation.*

*Before giving out Donal’s present, our volunteer Santa talked about what a fine young man he is. Donal was moved to tears and, realising he has love and support he can count on, he hasn’t looked back. After years out of education, he’s studying for his junior certificate. After that, he plans to do an apprenticeship in carpentry.*

### **Michael**

*In spring, we introduced you to Michael, a boy who has experienced unspeakable tragedy in his life.*

*He’d just arrived at Don Bosco Care. We were his last chance...*

*When Michael lost his baby sister, something inside him broke. His home life offered no comfort – his father was in and out of jail. His mum, who loves him dearly, couldn’t care for him due to alcoholism. Michael went from one care home to the next. A string of foster placements broke down. When he arrived at Don Bosco Care, it was supposed to be for six months. Michael wanted to then go back to his family. Sadly, he’s discovered that’s not going to be possible.*

*Angry, hurt and fearful, Michael lashed out, but it didn’t have the effect he anticipated. We simply asked why he’d behaved like that, and continued to support him.*

*Michael is starting to put his feelings into words, and finding ways of managing his anger.*

*Thanks to your support, there are promising signs he trusts us and sees his future with us. We hope he'll be able to start school in September.*

*There's a long road ahead for Michael. With a gift today, you could help provide him with loving, patient care.*

## **Fundraising & Communications in 2019**

Don Bosco Care continues to rely on state funding for the majority of our income. Over the past few years we have been implementing our strategy to invest in fundraising and carefully build a large, loyal group of supporters who will provide the organisation with the funds we need to grow, expand our services, provide care for more young people and to reduce our reliance on state funding.

In 2019 we received over 2,800 individual donations from amazing supporters who care about the work of Don Bosco Care and the young people whom we serve. Christmas continues to be the busiest time for fundraising and this year we received over €50,000 in donations for our Christmas appeal alongside gifts of food, clothing, Christmas decorations etc to help ensure the young people felt loved and cared for.

We are incredibly thankful for each and every donation, regardless of the amount. Each donation is a message of support for the extremely vulnerable young people we work with and helps us show them that while their experience of the world might be mostly negative there are many thousands of people out there who just want them to have a great future. These donations also help us build towards a future where we will be less reliant on state support and able to develop new services and programmes that reflect the ever changing needs of young people in care.

In 2020 we hope to attract more donors through a digital fundraising campaign and new legacy programme. These will hopefully spread news of our work to a wider audience giving them the opportunity to support Don Bosco Care.

## **Governance of Don Bosco Care**

Don Bosco Care is governed by a voluntary board of directors and managed on a day to day

basis by the Senior Management Team. We have a number of sub committees, who report into and make recommendations to the board of directors: Finance, Audit & Risk, Governance and Property.

Don Bosco Care underwent an audit by the HSE internal audit department in 2019. We would like to thank the team from the HSE for their professionalism and diligence and we welcome their recommendations on how we can improve some areas of governance and oversight in 2020 and in the future.

We are committed to being fully compliant with the Governance Codes for Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations, the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising and SORP financial reporting standards - our governance committee continues to work to ensure we reach this goal. We are fully compliant with the Voluntary Regulation Code for Approved Housing Bodies.

A number of new board members have joined Don Bosco Care and we would like to welcome Larry Gordon and Nessa Mulcahy to the team. We are sure that their experience and commitment will be a huge asset to the organisation.

### **Board of Directors December 2019**

Tony Mc Poland, Chairman

Patrick Hennessy

Michael Casey

Terry Dignan

Nichola Costello

Larry Gordon

Nessa Mulcahy

### **Leadership Team December 2019**

Martin Burke Director of Services

Kevin Delaney Head of Fundraising & Communications

**Don Bosco Care CLG**

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2019 €	Restricted Funds 2019 €	Endowment Funds 2019 €	Total 2019 €	Total 2018 €
<b>Generated Funds</b>						
<b>Charitable:</b>						
Tusla Grants		-	2,844,530	-	2,844,530	2,820,249
Pension Income		-	-	-	-	112,187
Rental Income		-	23,411	-	23,411	32,647
Social Welfare		-	30,379	-	30,379	18,837
<b>Fundraising:</b>						
Donations		103,822	2,000	-	105,822	41,258
Fundraising		154,181	8,495	-	162,676	177,493
Grants & other		-	-	-	-	7,108
<b>Other Income</b>						
Other Income & Office Services		33,517	-	-	33,517	16,800
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>291,520</u>	<u>2,908,815</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,200,335</u>	<u>3,226,579</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>						
Raising Funds		267,817	-	-	267,817	348,653
CEO Salary cost	17	-	495,605	-	495,605	-
Charitable activities		-	2,915,601	-	2,915,601	3,063,235
<b>Total resources expended</b>	3	<u>267,817</u>	<u>3,411,206</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,679,023</u>	<u>3,411,888</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<u>23,703</u>	<u>(502,391)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(478,688)</u>	<u>(185,309)</u>
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		23,703	(502,391)	-	(478,688)	(185,309)
Balances brought forward DBC CLG Prior Year		(1,138,485)	86,085	3,525,000	2,472,600	3,353,280
Adjustment	14	-	-	-	-	(726,577)
Net Consolidation	1.1	-	-	-	-	31,206
<b>Carried forward to 31/12/2019</b>		<u>(1,114,782)</u>	<u>(416,306)</u>	<u>3,525,000</u>	<u>1,993,912</u>	<u>2,472,600</u>

Approved by the Directors on September 29, 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

*Tony McPoland*  
 Tony McPoland  
*Nichola Costello*  
 Nichola Costello

# Don Bosco Care CLG

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

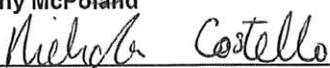
## BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	5	5,408,265	5,453,336
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	6	161,133	67,972
Cash and cash equivalents	7	290,245	278,598
		451,378	346,570
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(349,254)	(281,433)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		102,124	65,137
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	9	(2,701,949)	(2,326,115)
<b>Total Assets less Total Liabilities</b>		2,808,440	3,192,358
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted funds	10	(416,306)	86,085
General fund (unrestricted)	11	(1,114,782)	(1,138,485)
Capital Reserve	12	814,528	719,758
Expendable Endowment Fund	13	3,525,000	3,525,000
<b>Total funds</b>		2,808,440	3,192,358

Approved by the Directors on  
September 29, 2020 and signed on its behalf  
by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony McPoland

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nichola Costello