

Making a Positive Difference in the Community

Annual Review 2007



Barnardos

No child gets left behind

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Terence

**A Man United fan
Loves maths**

“I love to play soccer with my friends and go on my trampoline. Before, up in the other place, there was a green but it was full of rubbish so you couldn't get a game of soccer and then there's glass bottles busted on the concrete so you couldn't get a game of soccer on the road.”

Terence is 11. He lives with his mum, his sister and his younger brother. Bright and articulate, advanced for his age at maths, he wants to be a mechanic when he grows up.

He comes to Barnardos and recently moved into his estate. He has promised to tell me about his community but, before things kick-off, he asks me, “What football team do you support?” I don't, but throw in some fancy footwork. “Man United,” I reply. “That's ok then.” And we get off to a good start.

“So what's it like where you live,” I ask. “It's scary sometimes with all the guns and drugs and all. But sometimes it's nice, 'cause they got new cameras around and I feel safe. And if you only moved down here you'd have loads of friends.”

Plans are afoot for the summer holidays already. “We will play a two-man league. We've 10 teams, so 20 people. It's good fun to play a game of soccer with your friends.”

“There's a camera looking down on all of us. There's one directly at my house, so you can play a game of soccer without anything happening to you. Just say now something was going to happen, the guards would be down there straight away 'cause they're connected to the cameras.”

When I ask him what he'd most like to change about where he lives, he says, “The guns and drugs. And all the gang wars. I'd change all of them 'cause just say if someone was in a gang, and someone was after him, someone could shoot someone, but they could miss them and get someone else. An innocent person. They could die. So that's what I wish to change.”

Terence tells me what he likes about coming to Barnardos, “They teach us all the consequences over drugs. And they take you out on activities. Last year we went to Quasar. And we went bowling. After we do some work we go out and get a game of soccer, out in the back.”

Terence is in thrall with his friends and with soccer. “So, who's your favourite footballer?” I ask him. He doesn't have to think twice. “Ronaldo. He's brilliant.”

“And if Ronaldo came to your area, what would you show him?” He cuts in, “Ronaldo would be dead in less than five minutes.”

Terence has dreams. He wants to go to Old Trafford. He wants to be a mechanic. And he wants to move to England when he's 16. He says, “If I could go anywhere at all, I'd go to England. I'll move over there now when I'm 16. Down the road from my aunt's house is a big massive garage. So I wouldn't have to walk too far to get to work. Only the width of a soccer pitch.”





Chairman's Statement

Harry Slowey
Chair, Barnardos Board

“Barnardos operates over 40 centres across the country and on a daily basis we see the impact that neglected communities have on the children who live in them.”

In 2007 Barnardos conducted a national childhood poll. We wanted to get to the nub of what parents and young people feel are the biggest issues impacting on childhood today. When asked about what factors contribute to a good childhood, the parents interviewed ranked a safe community third. Strikingly, the children who participated also ranked it third - after a loving family and friends, and before things like sports, brothers and sisters and pets.

Community is not something that we talk about too often these days. We tend to relegate it to a misty past when people had time to chat and families sat down to dinner. And yet, according to parents and young people in Ireland, it is one of the biggest determinants of a child's safety, happiness and well-being. A clear indicator that we should be talking about it more.

In some respects, the physical community in Ireland has changed dramatically. Apartment blocks and gated estates have become a feature of the cityscape, whilst motorways ribbon past towns and cordon off estates. It is as though the idea of community is contracting as we close off and create enclaves, rather than create and open up neighbourhoods. And yet, where a child is born and raised has never been more important. For this is not a fair and equal society and, regardless of our wealth and confidence as a nation, a child's community can bear a deep and lasting impact on their life, for both good and ill.

Last year Barnardos conducted a study of the needs of children in Limerick. Barnardos runs a number of centres within the city and the surrounding area. The findings of our study are outlined later in this report, but broadly it is clear that the needs of the children we work with in Limerick are driven by a range of considerations, including the area in which they are reared.

The study surveyed a random sample of households with children in Limerick city, as well as a sample of mothers whose children attend Barnardos Centres in the area. The children we work with displayed a range of health, emotional and developmental concerns that were well in excess of the national average. For example, indicative findings showed that 46% of children we work with have health issues in comparison with 11% in Ireland as a whole. 67% of children in our centres in Limerick have a disability, compared with 18% in Ireland. 21% of children in our local services have reading difficulties, in comparison with the national average of 5%. We found that there are fewer books in their home, they are read to less frequently before beginning primary school, have less access to computers and the internet, and there are lower expectations of them staying in school.

Many of the families surveyed throughout Limerick also reported severe problems within their neighbourhoods. In some areas drugs are rife, it is unsafe to walk alone at night, roaming dogs and wide-spread rubbish tarnish their estates, and neighbourhood trust is strained.

These problems are not restricted to one area or community in Ireland. Barnardos operates over 40 centres across the country and on a daily basis we see the impact that neglected communities have on the children who live in them. We also see that the services desperately needed by children who are spiralling into hopeless situations are simply not available. Waiting lists for speech and language supports are averaging two years. It is nearly impossible to secure a psychologist and the employment freeze within the Health Service Executive means that over-burdened front line staff simply cannot respond to child concerns until they have escalated into a crisis. The result is that families are lurching from one catastrophe to another and childhoods are being damaged, perhaps irretrievably.

Barnardos also works in communities where families do favours for their neighbours. They mind each other's kids, and they look out for each other. In these same communities, whose problems have been widely reported in the media, local leaders come forward and selflessly give of their time and energy. In addition, both voluntary and state agencies work tirelessly, and in partnership, to raise the expectations of a community that has no shortage of spirit, but is low in opportunity, transport and employment.

In these same communities we work with children who, despite the barriers they are up against, manage to stay in school and make the most of their education. And these same children, who might have been written off as hopeless cases, may well go on to be role models for other children in the communities in which they live.

We can make this difference because Barnardos has a workforce that is skilled, committed, and located in the neighbourhoods where the need is greatest. We are a national organisation, but we are rooted in communities.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the staff of Barnardos. I admire their capacity for recognising the strengths of the communities in which they are based and nurturing the potential of every single child they work with.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Barnardos board. It is a privilege to work with a group of such dedicated individuals who provide leadership and are deeply committed to Barnardos' objectives.

Chief Executive's Review

Fergus Finlay
Chief Executive

“Investing in children and families is good for our economy, it's good for communities and it's good for children.”

Normally the Annual Review provides us with an opportunity to take stock and to look back on a productive period in our lives. Right now, though, it's essential that we look forward as well.

2007 was a year in which we significantly improved our capacity in Barnardos – giving us the ability to support the delivery of better and more accountable services for children and families. Side by side with that we invested heavily in improving the quality of those services and introducing a strong focus on outcomes. And we put a lot of time and effort into telling the story of the children we work with, and seeking to influence public policy on their behalf.

In 2004, the cost of delivering our range of services to children and families was €13.6 million. In 2008 we will invest over €24 million, an 80% increase. In addition to our national services, at the beginning of 2004 we operated 30 different centres in communities across the country. By the end of the current year it will be around 45.

That investment in the support of children and families is vital – and all the more so because of the changing economic environment. It has been evident for some time that 2008 was likely to be a year of slow economic growth. In recent months it is becoming clearer that international developments will have the effect of compounding the difficulties our economy is facing.

Among these developments are the slowing of economic growth, spiralling energy costs and the on-going difficulties in the international markets. While the indications for 2009 seem slightly better, tightening in the public finances here at home is expected to continue and perhaps even to become a central policy response.

So there is little doubt that the next couple of years will see a significant retrenchment, especially in terms of public spending. However, the Taoiseach, Brian Cowen T.D., has frequently expressed a philosophical commitment to equality of opportunity and to the development of community capacity to deal with the challenges of poverty. The period of retrenchment that lies ahead will test that vision.

In the past 15 years we have seen a new Ireland emerge, an Ireland in which people have become accustomed to low unemployment and a high standard of living. We have emerged from years of struggle to peace in the North of Ireland and we have seen a confident country take its place on the world stage. We have been transformed, both economically and psychologically.

For the great majority of families, and children, Ireland has become an exciting place to grow up. Even today's uncertainties don't change that. For some children, however, the future remains a bleak and forbidding place. The number of children in consistent poverty in Ireland has actually grown in the latter years of the celtic tiger – and the number of children likely to be damaged by that poverty is potentially damaging for us all.

The Government's aim will be to hold firmly to the economic gains that have been made. And we would agree that while growth is strained and uncertainty loiters, it is critical that public spending is focused. In this coming period it is imperative that money is spent wisely, where it is most needed and where it will have most impact. Sacrificing the most vulnerable in our society is not only damning lives now, but it is creating problems that will come with a huge economic and social cost in the future. Problems that we can ill afford.

We need to plan well and wisely for the future. We need to ensure that vulnerable communities are not set adrift at this time when the knee-jerk reaction might well be to batten down the hatches. Investment in early intervention for children and family support, not retrenchment, is what is needed.

This is not a revolutionary proposition, it is common sense. Extensive research, which has been led by world leading economists, including the Nobel Prize winning Professor James Heckman, has proven that early intervention and investment in children has enormous long-term pay-offs. Providing supports for a child as early as possible is much more effective than trying to address problems at a much later stage after they have spiralled out of control and spilled over into their community.

Barnardos works with children and parents who have needs that often prevent them from reaching their full potential and participating fully in their community. Early intervention reaps enormous rewards for these families. Supporting a child in their early years means that they are more likely to stay in school, and less likely to end up in gangs or engaged in anti-social behaviour. They are also much more likely to enter full employment later in life and engage positively with their community. The individual and social benefit is clear.

What is also stark is the hard economic sense of investing early in children. Currently it is believed that the return is in the region of ten to one. Basically, for every euro spent in early intervention we save ten euro later on. This is considered to be a very conservative estimation.

During a period of financial strain, we cannot afford to ignore the economic argument. The impact of economic cut-backs on “forgotten communities” must be fully recognised. More public investment is needed, not less. Any cutbacks in, for example, family supports, educational access measures, child protection and welfare budgets, or even policing, could have devastating and long-term consequences. And forgotten communities make easier targets.

We know that the combination of child, family and community poverty can be lethal. We also know that no one response is enough in isolation. The regeneration of communities has to go hand in hand with family support. The ingredients that go into a happy childhood, leading to better choices and chances in adulthood, require intervention at many levels – better parenting, better educational access, the equipping of children with the skills necessary to cope with adversity and to grow and develop.

Despite our current economic situation, child poverty in Ireland can be beaten. Every child in Ireland can be given a real chance to be the most they can be, and certainly every child in Ireland can be given the best possible start. That will require more than resources, critical as they are. It will also take imagination and creativity, co-operation and leadership.

In our past in Barnardos, we have devoted ourselves to meeting need where we found it. Now, in the present, we are engaged in seeking to meet need and to secure quantifiable results through early and skilled intervention. Our future will focus on the challenge of eliminating need, and providing a guarantee to every child in Ireland that at the very least, they will get a good start in life. We are determined to do that.





David

**A dad
Loves horses**

“I just want to be left alone. With my horses. With my children. Live my life. I want nothing else in life.”

David agreed to meet with me to give me a sense of what it's like to raise his kids in the community in which he himself was reared. Barnardos has been working in this area, in the South of Ireland, for 12 years and knows David and his family well.

He tells me that he can't imagine living anywhere else, "I'm bred around here. My family was. I could never see myself moving out of here. I love walking down through the fields, mostly every day, with the dogs and all. Just to get away for half an hour."

But when I ask him what he'd like to change about it, if he could, he says, "I suppose I'd change all the shooting that's going on around here. It's bad for children like. My kids are down there. And they're coming in 'this fella got shot, that fella got shot'. They think it's an everyday thing. Cause they're hearing it every day on the street. I'd change the shootings. Other than that it's a perfect place to live in. Like, I'll be honest with you, I know everyone. And never a bad word from the best part of them."

David has three boys, aged seven, 11 and 14. The two youngest live with him and his partner. Reflecting on his community, David says, "I feel sorry for some of the kids around here because it's them that suffers. The minute there's a shooting you wouldn't see a child on the road for days. Everyone has their kids in. They won't let them out. But then again, you ask any child in this area and they're happy around here."

One of the biggest problems, he contends, is the lack of amenities in the area for children to keep them safe and occupied, "There's nothing around here for kids. The only thing is Barnardos and that other club. They should build something proper for the kids that would have something going on for them every day. Or three days a week. It would be something for them to look forward to."

When I ask him what sort of future he envisages for his children, he thinks for some time and replies, "To be honest with you, I don't really know. That's what I been thinking about myself the last couple of days. All I can do is hope that I'm there to guide them in the right lines."

"They're clever enough kids all the same. They know who's who and what's what. They're very clever. They're very street wise kids."

The minute his children leave for school in the morning, David heads out to his horses. He tells me that they have been his saviour and his refuge and not a day goes by without a gaggle of youngsters herding round his door. They're either looking to see Henry, who was his father's horse, or to get tips on how to look after their own.

"I know everyone around here and everyone knows me and my kids. I couldn't see my kids moving out of here. I know the way they are. I just couldn't."

Working for Children: Services Review

Suzanne Connolly
Director of Children's Services

“The environment in which a child is reared has a deep impact on their social and emotional well-being, on their expectations and on their life opportunities.”

Our services are delivered through a network of Barnardos Centres which are located in the heart of communities. Many of the localities in which we are based struggle with social issues that can trap children in cycles of poverty and educational disadvantage. Barnardos' work is about breaking that cycle and working for children in partnership with their parents and with all those who play a role in promoting their well-being.

Our work does not, and could not, happen in isolation. In the course of delivering quality services to children and their parents, we work in partnership with the wider extended family, with teachers and with other agencies – in particular the Health Service Executive. Together we are deeply committed to building stronger, safer communities and shaping brighter futures for vulnerable children.

In order to deliver the best possible outcomes for the children who come to Barnardos, we continue to develop our services. During 2007 we reached a number of milestones:

- In 2007 we piloted **Wizards of Words (WoW)**, a literacy improvement programme for children in 1st and 2nd class using older volunteers to deliver one-to-one tuition in schools.
- The planning of our new **Friendship Group** programme commenced. Based on an American proven model, it is designed for children aged six to nine years who have difficulties making and maintaining friendships. We will pilot this service in 2008.
- We began the service design of our **Tús Maith** early years service. As part of this process all our staff specialising in early years were trained in the proven High Scope curriculum.

During 2007 we made strides in equipping our staff with the resources they need to deliver services to the highest standard:

- Staff training was provided in a number of areas, including: active case management; assessing the needs of children attending our services; and developing a plan that will result in positive outcomes for these children.
- We developed best practice standards in the areas of child protection, promoting positive behaviour in the children with whom we work, and staff supervision. All of our centres completed an audit of their practices against these standards.
- We work for and with children in Barnardos. In 2007 we developed a participation toolkit to support the involvement of children in the planning and reviewing of services which aim to meet their needs. This will be piloted and evaluated in 2008.

We constantly review our work and assess our effectiveness to ensure that we provide the best possible services for children:

- A Best Practice Advisory Committee, comprised of a range of experts from Ireland, the UK and the US was set up last year to contribute to the development of Barnardos' services and is now fully operational. It provides advice on Barnardos' service design, research and evaluation work.
- Last year we conducted extensive research into the needs of the children who come to Barnardos. This research will support the development of our services. Our research and evaluation work included: a needs analysis of children living in drug mis-using families in the Tallaght area of West Dublin; an evaluation of the Family Welfare Conference service in South Tipperary; and an assessment of the Tender Loving Care Project in Thurles - a multi-agency response for children who have experienced domestic violence.

With over 40 Barnardos Centres nationwide, there was no shortage of landmark moments. The following is just a flavour of some of 2007's more memorable days:

- Dr Martin McAleese launched Barnardos' 'Da Project', highlighting the important role that fathers play in their children's lives.
- We opened a new Barnardos service for parents attending addiction treatment and their children. This pilot programme was developed in partnership with the HSE addiction services in Bray, County Wicklow.
- We launched the 'TESO Strategic Plan to 2014' - outlining the provision of services for Traveller children and their families in the Finglas area.
- Building work on the new Brighter Futures Centre in Knocknaheeny, Cork came close to completion, keeping us on target for the first local children and families to cross the threshold in Spring, 2008.

We work intensively with children who have high levels of need. The children we work with come to Barnardos after being referred by the Health Service Executive; by local partners, such as teachers and public health nurses; or through self-referrals.

We also identify children who need our support through our work with families within communities. For example when we start working with a child, it often becomes apparent that their siblings also need our help.

In 2007 we worked intensively with 5,333 children, young people and their families. This is a 10 % increase on the previous year.

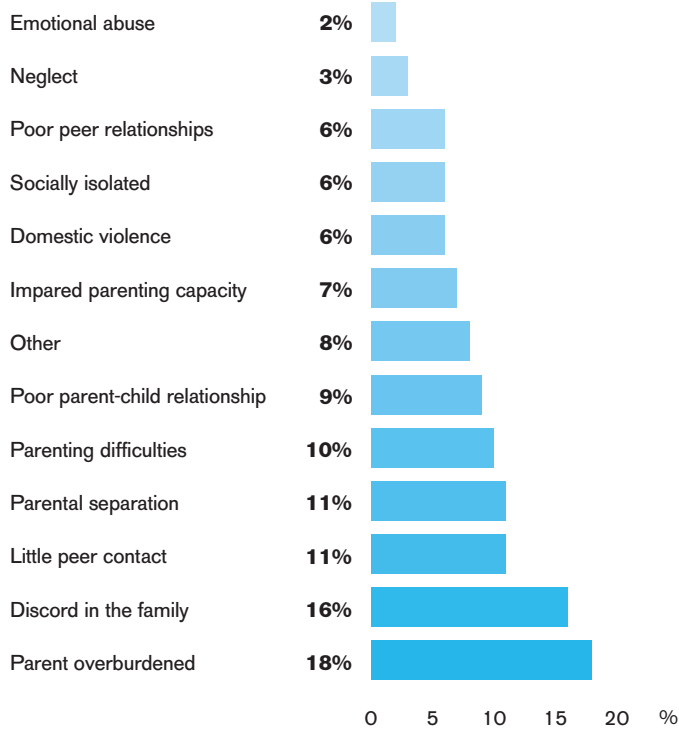
The children and young people we worked with displayed multiple needs and were exposed to a range of risks.

- More than half of all children experienced at least one risk factor associated with their emotional health and well-being.
- More than half of all children experienced at least one risk factor associated with their poor family and social relationships.
- Approximately 45% of all children demonstrated at least one risk factor associated with negative behaviour and social participation.
- Approximately 35% of all children were assessed as experiencing at least one risk factor associated with poor education and learning outcomes.

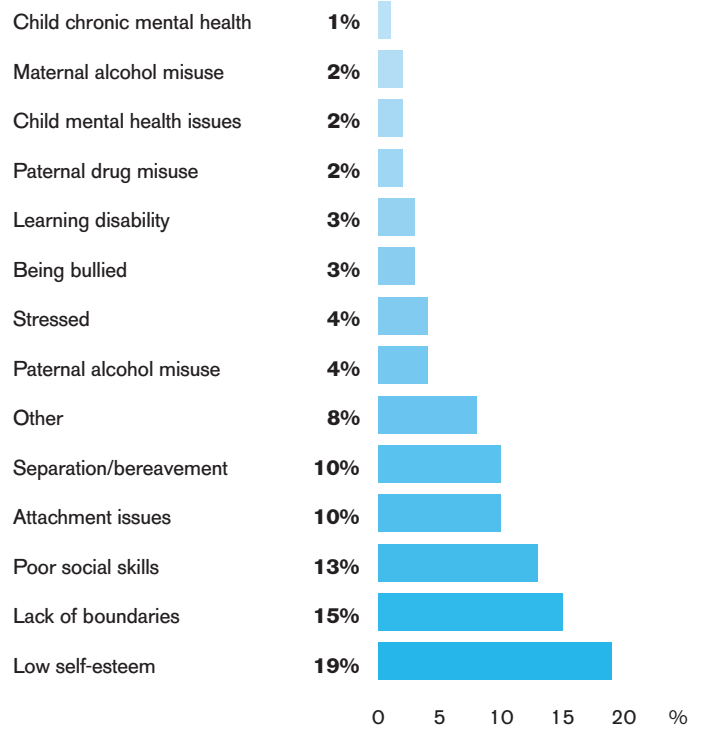
Working for Children: Services Review Continued

Many children experience multiple risk factors within and between categories¹

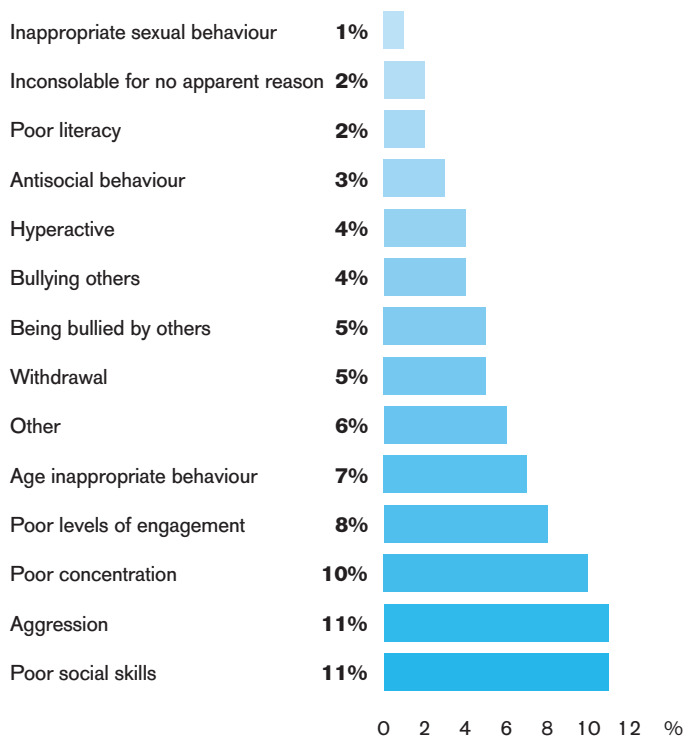
Family and social relationships



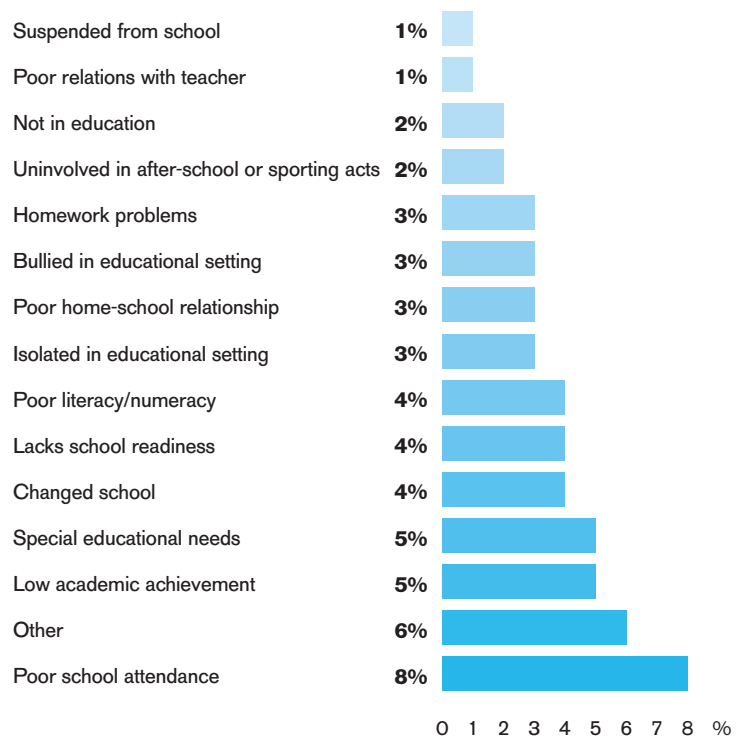
Emotional health and well-being



Behaviour and social participation



Education and learning



¹ For all graphs, n=2,477 children

'Understanding the Needs of Children: A Study of Needs and their Determinants in Limerick and Thurles'

When we talk about a child's needs, we are referring to everything that impacts on their well-being. This includes their physical and emotional well-being, their relationships with parents and peers, school attendance and performance, out-of-school activities and the well-being of their parents. In addition, a child's needs are influenced by socio-economic factors, such as the level of household income, employment and education as well as neighbourhood perceptions.

In 2007 Barnardos, in partnership with the HSE in the West, commissioned research to better understand the range of needs of three groups of children:

- A representative sample of children living in Limerick city.
- Children receiving Barnardos services in Limerick city.
- A sample of children receiving Barnardos services in Thurles.

Some of the things we measured included:

- Child emotional well-being and child educational attainment.
- Maternal mental health.
- The parent-child relationship.

Main findings

- Behavioural and emotional well-being problem areas for children are conduct and hyperactivity.
- How often a child is read to before primary school has an impact on the child's later reading achievement.
- Maternal depression was found to be part of a pattern of negative thoughts and emotions towards the self and the child; having a child with difficulties amplifies this.
- Excessive discipline is primarily associated with maternal mental health, while secondary influences are the maternal-child relationship and whether or not the child has difficulties.
- Mothers influence the needs of their children and children influence the needs of their mothers, but the flows of influence are predominantly from mother to child.

Conclusions

The needs of the children attending Barnardos services are high and varied, ranging from poor family relationships and emotional, educational and behavioural issues to socio-economic factors.

In order to address the needs identified in the study, it is recommended that services focus on:

- Changing mothers' negative thoughts, emotions and behaviours.
- Reducing stress caused by financial difficulties.
- Improving a parent's capacity to set appropriate limits for their children.
- Working directly with children on behavioural problems.
- Supporting parents to read to their children in their early years.

Barnardos will use the findings of this study to tailor our services to meet the needs of the children we work with in Limerick and Thurles. The problems identified can be tackled and overcome and a positive finding of the study is that targeted family support can make a marked difference to a child's well-being.

Lorraine

**A School Completion Co-ordinator
Loves music**

“What annoys me is the way the kids are labelled as scum-bags. The only difference between them and my sons is the opportunities that they’ve had growing up.”

Lorraine is a mother of two boys. “They’re lovely. They’re my life,” she tells me. She also works for the School Completion programme, which is a Department of Education initiative whose primary focus is to keep children in school. Barnardos and Lorraine work closely together in their community, as many of the children who come to Barnardos are also involved in the school completion programme.

No one agency can accomplish the work on its own. As Lorraine outlines, “It’s important that the child is getting every help in every aspect of their life. We are working in the social and educational aspect; Barnardos is working from the family base; the Garda diversion programme does the recreational aspect of it. You tie it all together and you’re coming at the child from every angle.”

Lorraine is a firm believer in early intervention, which is what brought her to her current post. She explains, “We work with children from age four up to when they leave school and after. It’s a support mechanism all the way through. There are four strands: in-school activities, which include academic, sport and personal development programmes; after-school activities; out-of-school activities for kids who have dropped out or have been suspended; and holiday supports, such as Halloween, Easter and Summer camps.

“The idea is that the school isn’t seen purely as an academic base. It’s bringing the school into the community, rather than getting the kids into the school.”

Becoming part of the community is central to Lorraine’s work. “You have to be accessible, you have to be on their doorstep. I go down the town and I say hello to everyone. I always walk, so that people will see me and get to know my face.”

When I ask Lorraine what she thinks are the challenges keeping children out of school, she tells me, “Most of these kids have never had the attention that I would give my children. The support, the one person who will listen, encourage them. They have no belief in themselves.”

“I see the potential in every child. They have it. As a mother myself I see the potential in my children. There’s no child different. Their circumstances are different. Their opportunities are different. But inside of them they’re not different. Unfortunately they don’t get the opportunities that others get and they get lost.

“But, if you can get to a child who is two or three you can raise their expectations. And you do it through parenting: listening to them, encouraging them.”

As a last question, I ask her who she most admires. There’s no hesitation, “My music teacher. She has been my mentor. She’s a fantastic woman. She had a way about her. She boosted me all the time. She just brought me forward. She brought me to adulthood. She did what I’m trying to do now.”





Speaking out for Children: Advocacy Review

Norah Gibbons
Director of Advocacy and Central Services

“In Barnardos, we believe that children have rights, including the right to have their childhood protected and their voice heard.”

We also believe that every child in Ireland has the right to feel safe wherever they live, and that family and the wider community are central to how children experience childhood. The communities that we work in are disadvantaged and often lack adequate amenities and services for children. Through our advocacy work in 2007, we focused on enabling all children to get an opportunity to reach their developmental potential.

We prioritise four main areas that affect a child's life: child poverty; educational disadvantage; alcohol harm; and child protection. We also respond, react and lobby for positive changes to be made to national policies and legislation as they relate to or impact on children and families. In 2007, these included submissions on:

- Children's Budget – Barnardos Pre-Budget Submission 2008.
- National Action Plan to prevent and combat human trafficking.
- National Education Welfare Board for the Development of School Codes of Behaviour.
- Department of Education and Science submission into the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007.

In the past year, we also fought hard for some of the most vulnerable people in our society. We became a member of the Action for Separated Children in Ireland group, whose purpose is to highlight the needs of and risks to these children.

Our campaign to insert children's rights into the Irish Constitution continued with the launch by Justice Catherine McGuinness of our Case for Constitutional Change, which outlined a poll commissioned by Barnardos on voter intentions in the event of a referendum on children's rights. Our poll showed that four out of five voters would back such a move. This campaign remains live following the publication of a draft Amendment by the Government in February 2007.

Advocacy Highlights in 2007

The following is a flavour of our campaigning highlights:

Children's Declaration – A million reasons to get it right

In April 2007 we launched Barnardos Children's Declaration – 'A million reasons to get it right'. The Declaration was developed to influence the manifestos of political parties on the run up to the election. It set out the issues which most concerned the lives of the children and families we work with. These issues covered:

- Pre-school – quality early childhood education and care
- Child protection
- Poverty
- Education
- Health
- Housing and homelessness
- Alcohol

This campaign was successful because, through extensive media coverage at national and local level and the use of postcards to lobby politicians, some of our policies and recommendations were included in the manifestos of the political parties. Some of these have now been transferred into the Programme for Government, including the commitment to hold a referendum for the inclusion of children's rights in the Irish Constitution.

Childhood 2007 Poll

Barnardos commissioned an independent poll seeking the views of 400 parents and 200 young people on a range of issues affecting childhood in Ireland today. The purpose of the poll was to inform our work with children, but also to contribute to a national debate on childhood.

Different themes were explored, such as happiness within the parent/child relationship, children's health, aspects of child protection and the use of alcohol and drugs. Some key findings include:

- Eight out of 10 parents and children polled think childhood is better today than previous generations.
- Priorities for both parents and children as to what contributes to a good childhood were 'loving families' and 'safe communities'.
- 82% of parents cited bullying as their main concern for children growing up today.
- 52% of children surveyed use social networking websites weekly, yet 66% of parents and children either don't know or believe incorrectly that these sites are responsible for their content.

The findings of this poll were widely publicised through the media and will continue to inform our work in 2008 to ensure that children's voices are heard, their needs met, their potential reached and their rights upheld.

Our Central Services: A Review

In addition to our community based child and family support services, Barnardos provides national services that are run centrally, but which can be accessed by children, families and child welfare practitioners across the country.

Barnardos Bereavement Counselling for Children

Barnardos runs a bereavement counselling service for children that provides both counselling sessions and a telephone helpline.

During 2007, we provided counselling to 262 children and young people and 234 parents/carers from 200 families. 1,761 therapy appointments were offered. In addition, the service responded to 373 helpline calls. The national increase in the number of deaths by the crime of manslaughter or murder was reflected in an increase in the number of families bereaved by homicide seeking the support of our service in 2007. 86 children from 29 families were bereaved in this traumatic way. We also worked with 140 children and their parents/carers who were bereaved by the suicide of someone close to them. A further 173 children were bereaved following a sudden or anticipated illness. To ensure that we provide the best service possible to bereaved children and their parents/carers, our team continues to grow and develop. Last year, we linked in with the Tavistock Child and Adolescent Clinic in London to further refine our specialist skills and we commenced an evaluation of our service with researchers in Dublin City University and University College Dublin. The findings of this research will inform how we develop and deliver our service.

“Barnardos’ service was sympathetic but professional. They gave me advice that was reassuring and I felt more confident in talking to my son about his dad’s death.” A caller to our helpline.

Guardian ad Litem Service

Our Guardian ad Litem service gives a voice to children involved in court proceedings and ensures that their interests are at the centre of the decisions that are being made about them.

We worked with 221 children in 2007, a 34% increase on the previous year. The children we work with are among Ireland's most vulnerable – those coming before the courts. While the majority of the service's work is with children coming into care, we also work with children in the High Courts who are in Special Care facilities which restrict their liberty. Some have experienced extreme poverty and deprivation, some have been through horrific abuse, while others have experienced exceptional trauma at a very young age. Along with our bereavement service, we have also seen an unfortunate increase in our work with children who have been affected by homicide and we are using our mutual experiences to develop our practice in this area. The service continues to expand and is working with other agencies in developing children's rights before the courts. In addition, a growing amount of our work is with children experiencing family breakdown, particularly where there is dispute about the arrangements for their care.

“I would like to express my complete satisfaction with the Guardian ad Litem service and in particular the professionalism, respect and kindness that (the Guardian) has shown towards my children in her meetings with them during this difficult time.” A parent involved in family separation.

Barnardos’ Origins Service

Barnardos’ Origins service supports people who spent their childhood in Ireland's industrial schools to trace their family history and discover their origins.

The service was set up in September 2002. At the end of 2006, 3,003 applications were completed for those who wanted their industrial school records only. This has allowed us to fully focus on family tracing and information during 2007. By the end of April of last year we had completed 558 applications. We are currently working on 148 applications and a further 52 are on our waiting list. Our service, which is funded by the Department of Education and Science, uses all channels and sources to piece together our clients' family histories. For example, we contact the General Registers Office, Churches, hospitals and voluntary agencies to track information and, where appropriate, we refer the case to the Information Commission.

It can be difficult to get information for older clients. The biggest gap in information is between when a person was born and when a person was committed to the industrial school. In many cases the only significant record of a client's early childhood is the hospital record of their birth. The majority of our clients are in the older age group and realise that it is unlikely that a parent will still be alive. However, it is desperately important for them to learn who their parents were, and the reasons why they were placed in an industrial school.

One client, now 82 years of age, wrote: "Am I going to die without ever knowing about myself and my mother?" Barnardos' Origins has since traced her family, letters have been exchanged and a visit is planned.

Barnardos' Post Adoption Service

Barnardos has been providing post adoption support to families for 30 years. Our service includes group work, one-to-one counselling and a helpline.

We received 392 new enquiries last year and provided group work support to over 100 people. A large part of our work in 2007 involved providing a mediation service to birth family members and adopted people who were linked through the National Adoption Contact Preference Register. In addition we facilitated confidential meetings for parents whose children were adopted, which addressed topics such as: parting with a child for adoption; seeking information or searching for your adopted child; and what happens after a reunion.

In March we celebrated our 30th birthday. A huge achievement for the service and a landmark year all round as a funding agreement was also reached with the Health Service Executive to provide counselling and support to children adopted from abroad and their families.

"Anyone with a concern about adoption - whether you are a birth parent, adoptive parent or an adopted person - will find a soft landing when they contact the Post Adoption Service." A birthmother.

Barnardos' Training and Resource Service

Formerly known as the National Children's Resource Centre, Barnardos' Training and Resource Service is Ireland's leading training, information and resource hub for parents, policy-makers and child-care practitioners.

2007 was another busy year. The library and information service dealt with 5,303 enquiries during 2007. A new development was the inclusion of a library catalogue on the Barnardos website, which had over 3,000 online visits. Users requested information and resources on a wide range of topics, such as: childcare practice; child protection; parenting; behaviour management; special needs; family support; legislation and much more. A range of publications for the childcare sector were produced in 2007 covering topics such as health and safety in childcare, mental health, and working with fathers. Our Parenting Positively series was enthusiastically welcomed. It was produced in collaboration with the Family Support Agency and consisted of nine booklets for parents and children on topics such as bullying, separation, domestic abuse and bereavement.

Our training and consultancy service provided 1,104 training places on a range of training themes, including: child protection; school-age childcare; equality and diversity; and parenting. We worked with staff groups in both voluntary and statutory organisations. Receiving the Fetac Quality Assurance Award from Minister of State, Seán Haughey T.D., was a particular highlight.

"This training was very topical and central to our work and therefore it is extremely beneficial and proactive in working with families." Childcare practitioner who attended our 'Involving Fathers' course.





Kathleen

**A Barnardos Project Worker
Loves the sea**

“The greatest value you can teach a child is to value themselves. And then from that they will value their family, their friends, their community.”

Barnardos moved into Kathleen’s community 10 years ago and set up a centre next door to her. “They dropped by and asked me if I would help them by introducing them to their neighbours, and I agreed.” The following year a mini-bus was bought and, as Kathleen had a licence, she took on the job of driver. At this time, as part of voluntary work she was doing in the community, Kathleen was studying a counselling course. In 2000 she became a part-time Project Assistant. She now works full-time with Barnardos as a Project Worker, supporting a community that she has lived in since she was 11 years old.

She has reared her family in the area and now has three grandchildren, one of whom lives a couple of doors down from her. She has seen enormous changes. “It was a calm, peaceful area when we moved in. There was great community spirit. It was spotlessly clean and everyone helped each other. If you had food and your neighbour hadn’t, then you shared it. I loved it so much. I never wanted to move.”

When I ask her if she would like to see her grandchildren reared there now, she replies, “Definitely not. Not now. You’d be frightened of what they’d get up to or who they’d be mixing with. I’d love for the fun to come back into the community and the sense of pride. It’s not normal now. Normal is seeing stolen cars and hearing shots being fired.”

But working within her community is really important to Kathleen. She says, “I like working in my community. I really do. It’s like a different kind of job satisfaction because you’re making a difference in your own area. I worked in a factory before and you go to work and you come home. But it’s different. Because you’re making a difference and you work hard to try and change things for the people you care about.”

Kathleen outlines some of the problems in the community, “There’s no safe play area. Apart from the likes of the clubs that are there. It’s not safe to send kids off playing soccer on the green because you don’t know what’s going to happen. Last week at four o’clock there was a drive-by shooting. Kids were out playing and thought nothing of it.”

When asked about what she thinks would make a difference, she replies, “Everyone seems to be focusing on age 10 up. Barnardos is one of the few that keeps banging it home that we need to start young. And we do. As a person that was reared in the community, and that has raised kids in the community, we need to start at the very beginning, because by 10 it’s too late for some of them kids, you know.”

When I ask her how she keeps doing the work, day in day out, she says, “My escape is that I love to go to the seaside. That keeps me kind of sane.”

Our Internal Services: A Review

Jacki Conway
Director of Internal Services

“Since the start of our Strategic Plan 2005-9, we have been transformed. Virtually every element of Barnardos has been touched by change.”

We are moving to higher standards in all our work and practice and over the past year great strides were made in growing our capacity and professionalism.

Getting our services to the point where they are as good as they can be, and reaching the maximum number of children and families we can is our aim. We want to be able to say, with absolute conviction, that we are employing best practice, and high quality support, to make a real and measurable impact on the lives of the children and families with whom we work.

To do this we are innovating and investing in excellence to achieve better outcomes. We select, retain and motivate high quality people. We are committed to an in-depth training programme for staff, which includes project management, IT supports, health and safety and induction training. In addition, in 2007 we continued to roll-out staff training in new and innovative ways of working with children and families, which have been proven to work in an international context.

The involvement of our philanthropic partners Atlantic Philanthropies and The One Foundation have helped us to grow our commitment to excellence, which is a key hallmark of the people who work in Barnardos.

We have also expanded considerably. At the start of 2005 we were 298 people and we have increased that number by 14% to 340 by the end of 2007. During 2004, we operated in 30 different centres around the country. By the end of 2008 we will be in over 45 Barnardos Centres in communities around the country.

We are investing in Barnardos so that we can achieve a real return for children in Ireland. And we will continue to reach out to more children until we can say with certainty that all the children of the nation truly are cherished equally.

Our work is all about people. And Barnardos people epitomise what is best about our organisation.

We are staffed by highly skilled, passionate and professional individuals who are single-minded in their goal of making a real and lasting difference in the lives of the children and families we work with.

Barnardos employed over 340 people in 2007. The majority of our staff worked in over 40 Barnardos Centres across the country, delivering services to meet the needs of the children and families who came to our doors. We also provided vital central services in areas that are highly specialised, such as bereavement counselling, post adoption support, Guardian ad Litem, and information and tracing for people who spent their childhood in an industrial school. In addition, our teams were supported by in-depth research, ground-breaking service design developments, a library resource, training and top class publications.

Barnardos' day-to-day work is also facilitated through our secure IT systems, finance structures and human resources. In this way we ensure that we can deliver the best possible services to as many children as possible in even more communities.

Amongst the highlights of 2007 was the setting up of the Barnardos Vetting Service, at the request of the Office of the Minister for Children. We provide a clearing house for vetting applications to the Garda Vetting Unit, covering providers who fall under the Pre-School Regulations in the childcare sector who are not linked to any provider network.

We believe in training and investing in staff to ensure that all our people are supported to meet the complex needs of the children and families we work with. In 2007 we continued to roll-out our training programme as part of our HR strategy.

Training, support and recognition of our staff's skills and achievements are all central to Barnardos' ethos. We recruit the best people and we work hard to keep them.

Our Volunteers

Steeped in volunteering tradition, Barnardos continued to welcome the skills, commitment and dedication of our volunteer network in 2007.

Based within local communities, our 200 strong volunteer network worked alongside local children and families in after-school clubs, homework groups, parent and toddler groups and toy libraries. Our volunteers also provided cornerstone support for our shops network, fundraising events, and administrative, helpline and information services. Without this local input, knowledge and commitment, Barnardos could not have provided the breadth of services during 2007.

Not only did Barnardos volunteers provide vital services and precious time, they also helped to build important social networks and support systems for families previously isolated or disconnected from their local community.

Amongst our highlights in 2007 was the pilot launch of our new volunteer led literacy initiative entitled Wizards of Words. This programme, new to Ireland, is a school based literacy programme that recruits, trains and manages teams of mature adult volunteers to provide reading and literacy support to children who are a year behind in their reading. Not only does the programme provide intensive support to children in building their literacy skills base, but also has been proven to build inter-generational relationships within the communities in which it is run.

Our volunteer initiative is committed to best practice and provides on-going training, recognition and support to volunteers to enable them to carry out their roles. We hugely value the dedication of Barnardos volunteers. Last year we used the occasion of our annual Volunteer Awards ceremony to pay tribute to all our volunteers, young and older, for their enormous contribution to making Ireland the best place in the world to be a child.

Our Board

Our volunteers support every facet of Barnardos, including our board. Every member of our board freely donates their time, their skills and their experience.

We are truly grateful to have the support of a group of visionaries who are deeply committed to Barnardos' ethos of excellence and our objective of making Ireland the best place in the world to be a child.

We would like to pay tribute to their leadership and integrity.

Barnardos Board 2007

Harry Slowey	Chair
Niamh Cleary	Vice Chair
Michael Mortell	Honorary Treasurer
Sheila Greene	
Deirdre Kiely	
Deirdre Mortell	
Michael Murray	
Owen O'Brien	
Fintan O'Toole	
Shalini Sinha	
Owen Keenan	Resigned, 12 July 2007
Declan Ryan	Resigned, 22 February 2007

Olivia

**A Barnardos fundraiser
Loves tennis**

“You get to make a difference in people’s lives in communities. Way beyond what you ever imagined.”

It was a chilly afternoon when I met Olivia. However, she had already been out for a three mile run as she’s in training for the mini-marathon in Dublin. She is a runner, an avid tennis player and is also involved in a Landmark Education programme in Ireland which, she told me, is about emphasising the difference that one person can make when they create new possibilities.

With an eye to the possibility, Olivia took on the project of organising a 10 kilometre walk and run for Barnardos to raise funds for the charity. As a result of her work, she raised over €1,355.60.

Outlining her approach to this undertaking, she told me, “I’m interested in running. And having fun was the big thing. I wanted to do this for Barnardos. I read up about them and it’s all about children. It’s making a difference. And what I wanted to do just matches in with Barnardos.”

Posters were hung. Ads were placed in the local media. The run took place on the 2nd September and Olivia involved the whole community in her efforts. She was struck at how open people were to giving a hand. “People were fabulous when asked to help out. One person looked after the catering and got the sponsorship. The tennis club gave the premises free of charge – showers and all that. I got help with the posters and put a notice in the local papers. A guy in the athletic club measured the distance and took the entries. And then it was word of mouth after that.”

“You may be targeting one community, which is runners and walkers, but it ripples out through all sorts of ways that you never imagined. Everyone was so willing to do it. Different communities within the community came together. It was a wet day, but it was a real fun day. Just a great mix of people. People who wouldn’t normally run. People who walked.”

Olivia completed the circuit in just under an hour.

“People are asking me ‘are you running it again?’ I found out that people really want to help. They’re just waiting to be asked.”





Making a Difference: Fundraising Review

Ruth Guy

Director of Fundraising and Marketing

“We fundraise in Barnardos so that we can deliver more services, in more communities, to more children who need our support.”

Our fundraising is vital to ensuring that we can respond to the needs that we have identified in the communities in which we work. When we fundraise it is important that people understand who we are, what we do and, most importantly, why we do it. To that end we continue to focus on growing public awareness of Barnardos. Our work has paid off - in a recent survey, 75% of the people who had heard of Barnardos identified us as a children's charity. A year ago, that figure was 61%. The survey placed us in the top 12 Irish charities, with just over two-thirds of everyone surveyed recognising our name and identity. No other charity in Ireland has managed to improve the level of recognition for what they do to the same extent.

That's a testament to a lot of hard work right across our organisation, and that hard work is evident in the resulting support and generosity of the Irish public.

That generosity resulted in a growth in fundraising income in 2007 of over 34% on the previous year. Cash income raised was in excess of €5.2 million. Funds secured came through a variety of means: monthly direct debits; corporate donations and sponsorship; grants from Trusts and Foundations in Ireland and abroad; and legacies and personal gifts.

Our biggest growth area in income was from private individuals supporting us with a monthly direct debit, reflecting our recent strategy in growing our individual donor database.

But when you look behind the figures, what you see are the people who make the real difference. People who give their time, expertise and money to support Barnardos. People who are creative, dedicated and imaginative. People who take on all kinds of feats and organise all manner of events to raise funds and have fun for Barnardos.

There were beard shaves, head shaves and table quizzes. There were toddles and treks, marathons and mini-marathons, golf events, 10K fun runs – winter and summer – and bungee jumps for the adrenaline junkies. There were art exhibitions, fashion shows, read-a-thons, cookery and craft days, disco nights and a ‘Lovely Man’ pageant! There were birthday parties, First Communion and weddings, where gift-lists were cast aside and instead guests made a donation to Barnardos.

In addition to these individual acts of generosity, the business community also performed stellar feats. From company toddles, to staff fundraising days and business sponsorships, we were the recipients of much support from the corporate sector.

All that activity in 2007 meant that not only was a lot of money raised, but more and more people learned about the issues that many children in Ireland face and what we in Barnardos, with the support of the public, can do to overcome them.

We would like to thank all of those, too numerous to mention, who supported us throughout the year and in so doing made our work possible. The work of Barnardos in our centres across Ireland is the work that inspires all of us in the organisation and the reason why we fundraise.

The response of all those who chose to donate their time to raise funds for us is truly inspirational. It is those people who are making a real difference to the lives of the children we work with.

Our seven charity shops are located on high streets and in small towns around the country. The bright green Barnardos sign is recognised by shoppers searching for a bargain, and by neighbours catching up on local goings on.

Each shop is a lively retail hub, providing local employment, promoting local events and, importantly, stocking top class merchandise. The shops network is supported by volunteers from across the community, including students from local schools, colleges and clubs.

In the past year, we further developed our Brand New range of goods, whereby retailers and manufacturers donate new products to Barnardos, which are then sold throughout our shops network at a fraction of their high street cost. In 2007, the number of retail donors across the country grew, and we secured a larger storage site to house the donated stock. This allowed us to roll-out the Brand New items across the shops network, with merchandise ranging from clothing and accessories to household items.

Our Bridal Boutique had its most successful year ever. Brides-to-be flocked to our bridal suite, located above our store in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, to sample our range of brand new and designer wedding gowns selling at well below their normal retail price. We also positioned ourselves as leading stockists of fashionable and affordable First Communion and Confirmation outfits. As these occasions can cause financial hardship for many families, we ensure that we meet a child's wish to look good with their parents' purse constraints.

In 2007 we also upgraded and refreshed a number of our stores. In addition to giving all our shop fronts a face-lift, we also fully fitted and kitted our Wexford shop.

We're working hard on standing out on the ever more competitive high street, while at the same time fitting in and contributing to our local communities. Last year we participated in the Community Employment Scheme, which is administered by Fás. Supported by volunteers, we put in place a great team who helped us to run our shops more profitably and more successfully than ever before. And, at the same time, we provided employment in the areas in which we operate.

However, none of this could have happened without the support and generosity of the suppliers, retailers, manufacturers, and general public who cleared out their closets and thought of Barnardos.

Investing in Children: Financial Review

Diane O'Kelly, Director of Finance
Tom Hope, Acting Director of Finance

“Barnardos spent €21.5m in 2007, an increase of 10.8% on the previous year, to deliver our services and support children and families all over Ireland.”

Barnardos is financed by a mix of statutory and voluntary funding. In 2007 we raised a total income of €21.6m, an increase of 10.7% on the previous year. The income was generated through various channels. 62% was government funding, primarily allocated through the Health Service Executive; and the remainder was raised through our fundraising activity.

In 2007 fundraising income generated €3.55m (actual cash income was €5.2m), a growth of almost 34% on the previous year. This enabled Barnardos to expand our reach and invest in critical services for children and families. We also continued to bolster our internal services to ensure that we have the people, the capacity, and the supports needed to deliver the best possible services to make a long-term positive impact on the children we work with.

Our investment in supporting children and families was made possible both through the statutory funding we received through the HSE, government departments and agencies, and the significant support of our voluntary funders. We would like to pay tribute to the generosity of all our donors – who ranged from businesses engaged with social responsibility to individuals who brought their communities together to host an event for Barnardos.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of our philanthropic partners, The Atlantic Philanthropies and The One Foundation, as well as those who gave of their time and expertise on a pro bono basis.

We believe that all children deserve the best possible start in life. Therefore we will continue to grow our investment in building better futures for children whose potential might otherwise never be nurtured.

Financial Highlights

We are committed to best practice, and that is reflected in our ethos and all our activity across Barnardos.

Our financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with best practice as recommended by the Companies Acts and, voluntarily in the absence of statutory reporting standards for charities in Ireland, in accordance with best practice (Statement of Recommended Practice revised 2005), as recommended by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

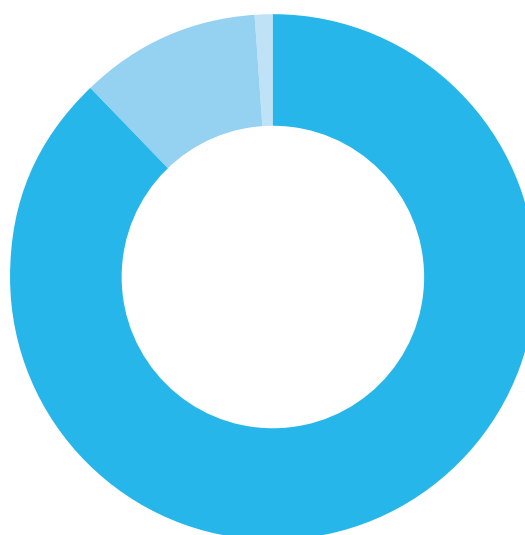
Income



2007: €21.6m (2006: €19.5m)

- **Statutory 62%**
- **Voluntary 38%**
broken down as follows:
 - Donations 21%
 - Shops 7%
 - Trusts, Foundations and Legacies 9%
 - Other 1%

Expenditure



2007: €21.5m (2006: €19.4m)

- service delivery 88%
- generating funds 11%
- governance 1%

88 cent of every euro raised (excluding retail shops which are profit making) was spent directly on our work with children and families.

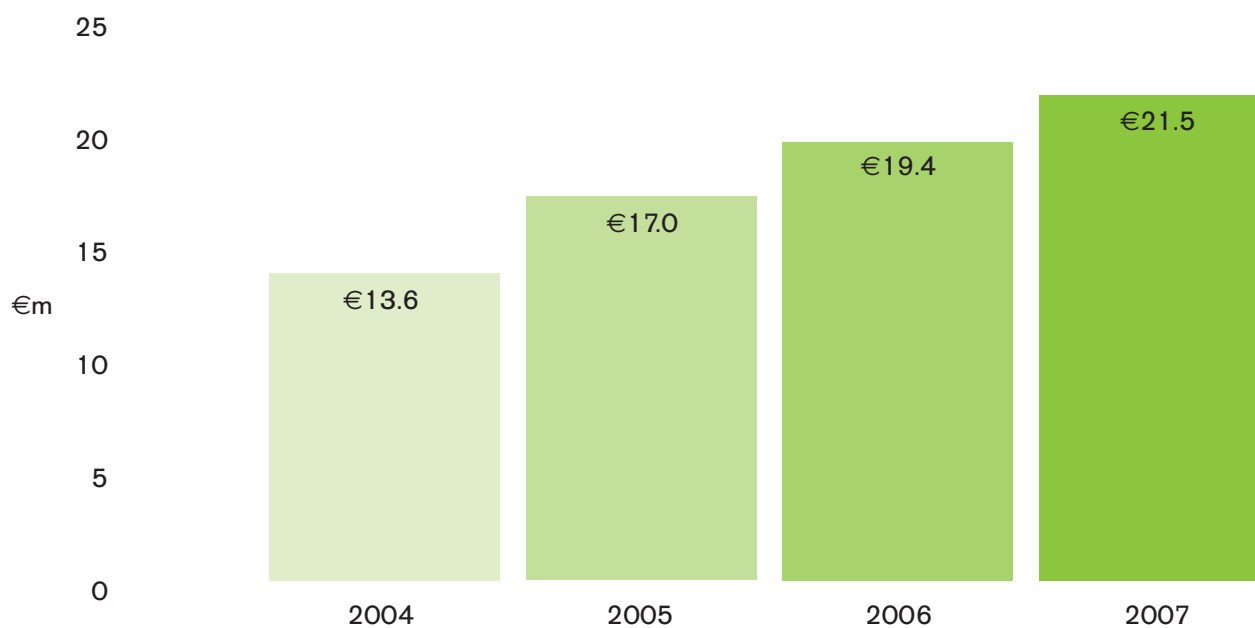
11 cent was invested in generating funds, for which we received an excellent return as fundraising income grew 34% on the previous year.

1 cent was spent on governance.

Investing in Children: Financial Review Continued

Investment growth chart

Since the launch of our Strategic Plan 2005 – 2009, we continue to grow our investment in children and families.



Treasurer's Report

Michael Mortell
Honorary Treasurer

The following summary accounts have been extracted from the statutory financial statements of Barnardos Republic of Ireland Limited for the year ended 31 December 2007. The statutory financial statements, on which the auditors, KPMG, expressed an unqualified opinion, have been filed with the Register of Companies following the Annual General Meeting.

The detailed auditor's report and accounts are available to download from www.barnardos.ie or can be obtained from our national office.

Summary Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 December 2007

Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account

	2007	2006
	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds
	€000's	€000's
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from generating funds		
- Voluntary income	6,447	7,118
- Income from trading activities	1,396	1,190
Incoming resources for charitable activities	13,480	10,989
Investment income	266	198
Other incoming resources	-	11
Total incoming resources	21,589	19,506
Resources expended		
Cost of generating funds		
- Cost of generating voluntary income	2,279	1,772
- Cost of trading activities	1,277	1,049
Charitable activities	17,765	16,263
Governance costs	132	281
Total resources expended	21,453	19,365
Net incoming resources before transfers	136	141
Transfers between funds	-	-
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses	136	141

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. The surplus for the year for Companies Act purposes was €136,000 (2006: €141,000).

Summary Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 December 2007

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

For the Year Ended 31 December 2007

	2007 €000's	2006 €000's
Net incoming resources for the year	136	141
Actuarial (loss)/gain on defined benefit pension scheme	(403)	613
Total recognised gains and losses for the year	(267)	754

Reconciliation of Movement in Reserves

For the Year Ended 31 December 2007

	2007 €000's	2006 €000's
Net incoming resources for the year	136	141
Actuarial (loss)/gain on defined benefit pension scheme	<u>(403)</u>	<u>613</u>
Total recognised (losses)/gains for the year	(267)	754
Reserves at the beginning of the year	7,546	6,792
Reserves at the end of the year	7,279	7,546

Summary Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 December 2007

Balance Sheet

At 31 December 2007

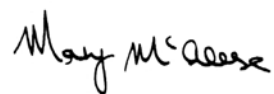
	2007 €000's	2006 €000's
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	<u>2,150</u>	<u>2,288</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	1,964	1,322
Cash at bank and short term deposits	7,603	6,692
	9,567	8,014
Current liabilities		
Creditors: (amounts falling due within one year)	(4,039)	(2,556)
Net current assets	5,528	5,458
Total assets less current liabilities	7,678	7,746
Provision for liabilities and charges	<u>(60)</u>	<u>(116)</u>
Net assets before pension liability	7,618	7,630
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(339)	(84)
Net assets	7,279	7,546
Represented by		
General fund	6,488	6,546
Restricted income fund	791	1,000
Total funds	7,279	7,546

Message from President McAleese

“As Patron of Barnardos, I am delighted to send my best wishes. Barnardos’ work throughout 2007 has once again garnered our deepest respect and admiration.”

The 2007 report’s focus on Communities reminds us of the importance of community to children in Ireland; of the support and hope that properly functioning communities can offer, and of the vulnerabilities that exist when they break down. Barnardos’ work does much to ameliorate the deleterious effects of the breakdown of community, and to offer a sense of hope – of the real possibility of a better tomorrow – to some of the most vulnerable persons in our wider community.

I am deeply honoured by my continued association with the wonderful work of Barnardos. I wish you every success in the coming year.



Mary McAleese
President of Ireland
9 April 2008





Barnardos

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Callsave 1850 222 300
E info@barnardos.ie
www.barnardos.ie

Barnardos supports children whose well-being is under threat, by working with them, their families and communities and by campaigning for the rights of children. Barnardos was established in Ireland in 1962 and is Ireland's leading independent children's charity.

Barnardos' vision is an Ireland where childhood is valued and all children and young people are cherished equally.

Barnardos' mission is to challenge and support families, communities, society and government to make Ireland the best place in the world to be a child, focusing specifically on children and young people whose well-being is under threat.

To find out more about Barnardos visit our website www.barnardos.ie or contact our national office.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following Barnardos staff:

Kathleen Coyle, Jason Fahy, Claire Hickey, James Keane, Laura Keane, Margeurite McCormick, Nicola McMahon, and Stephanie Whyte.

Design by Red Dog.

Photography by Patrick Bolger.

Models: Aoife, Ayla, Caoimhe, Carl, Gavin, Helen, Layla, Mel, Naoise, Oisín and Sunny.

Finally, a very special thank you to Terence, David, Kathleen, Lorraine and Olivia. Conversations took place with Róisín Sorahan, Barnardos.

Registered Charity 6015