building children’s futures this year and beyond

ANNUAL REVIEW 2000-2001

www.barnardos.ie
Barnardos’ mission statement

Barnardos is committed to the best interests of children and young people in Ireland, promoting and respecting their rights in all of our work.

Ráiteas chuspóireach bharnardos

Sé missiún Barnardos an chúram is fearr a bheith ag páistí agus daoine óga na hÉireann agus ómós a thabhairt dá gcearta is iad a chur chun cinn inár gcuid oibre ar fad.

Statement from our Principal Patron,
President Mary McAleese

As Patron of Barnardos, it gives me great pleasure to send warmest greetings to the members on the occasion of their Annual Review 2000-2001. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in Barnardos on your tremendous work over the past year.

Your dedication and commitment has helped many young people to face daunting challenges in their lives, helped to release previously untapped potential that lies within themselves. We are fortunate to have so many people in Barnardos to guide the children in their care with such skill and compassion – rebuilding hope and energy, reshaping the world around them for the better.

As Patron I am honoured to be associated with such a wonderful organisation and I would like to extend my good wishes to everyone involved. Your work makes an enormous difference to the most vulnerable of our young people and I wish you every success in that work in the years ahead.

Mary McAleese
President of Ireland

President McAleese at Barnardos Family Centre, Mulhuddart, February 2001, with Nadine Maguire
Welcome to Barnardos’ Annual Review 2000-2001. Here we will review progress over that last year and outline our goals for the coming years. We also relate our children’s services to the goals of the National Children’s Strategy.

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The needs of children are such that an organisation like Barnardos can never be satisfied that it is doing enough or being as effective as it possibly can. However, without being complacent, it is a pleasure to report on a further year of progress and success. Indeed, much of the progress achieved can be attributed to the efforts of the many Barnardos staff who participated in the Review of Organisational Effectiveness – which was, effectively, a benchmarking exercise – carried out during 1999-2000.

The purpose of the Review was to establish a best practice standard for all areas of organisational functioning and to evaluate current performance against this standard. Council unanimously adopted the Review Report in May 2000 and we are now well on the way towards its implementation which, it is envisaged, will take at least three years. With continuing commitment to its implementation throughout Barnardos, the appointment of a Review Implementation Manager to monitor and drive the process, and further investment in services, training and infrastructure, we are confident that the end result will be increased effectiveness, efficiency and innovation in the years ahead.

The real proof will be in the delivery of ever more relevant and effective services to children and families. In this regard we are looking forward to the benefits of the exciting collaboration, launched in March 2001, with Dartington-i, a research and development agency based in England, Spain and the United States. Dartington-i uses what it calls practice tools to encourage practitioners and service users to think creatively about services and to innovate. It brings to the work the latest evidence about what works, for whom, when and why. It encourages the sharing of ideas and exchange visits between each of the sites in Europe and the United States in which it operates.

Barnardos is one of twelve sites in Europe to be selected to work with Dartington-i to improve the quality of services for children. The other sites are located in Norway, Spain, Italy, Netherlands and England. We look forward to learning from the effective work being undertaken by these international partners and to contributing the expertise that we have developed over the years. Throughout this period we will also be continuing to evaluate specific services and expect to work with a number of other Irish and European research centres in this regard and on other potential initiatives.

The effect of this development will be to enhance Barnardos’ organisational capacity and effectiveness. Barnardos now works with children and families at twenty-five sites around Ireland. Together with our eight charity shops, this makes Barnardos a truly national organisation in 2000-2001. Although the significant growth of recent years is expected to continue, if at a somewhat slower pace, what we really want to see is further development in the quality of our services. This reflects our confidence in current standards of service combined with a determination to achieve new levels of performance.

The International Year of the Volunteer 2001, provides an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts of the many volunteers who assist our work in many ways, both in services and fundraising. It is appropriate, therefore, that we should mark this year with the appointment of a Volunteer Co-ordinator who will provide further support for volunteers and volunteering within Barnardos, and monitor the implementation of our volunteer policies and support systems.

Recent growth has also necessitated the strengthening of our organisational infrastructure and during the year the position of Director of Finance was created and successfully filled. This reflects the importance of good stewardship and governance for a charity of our size. The past year has also seen the need to invest in new properties, equipment and technology to support and assure the quality of our work in all areas. This will continue in the coming year and represents a significant further cost for Barnardos, which we will need to address through additional income from our supporters and statutory funders. In this regard it is important that I acknowledge the wonderful contribution being made to Barnardos by the members of the Fundraising Board, and the continuing support received from health boards, government departments, other statutory bodies and from a number of trusts and foundations over the past year.

Barnardos has set itself a challenging agenda for action over the coming years. However, it is one that will be met with the customary determination and skill of our staff and management who have a track record of success over quite a number of years now. We were particularly pleased with the election of our Chief Executive, Owen Keenan, to the position of President of the International Forum for Child Welfare in 2000 and we are delighted to host the IFCW WorldForum and Executive Institute in Limerick in August 2001.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank my colleagues on Barnardos’ Council for their unswerving commitment and support throughout the year.

Leslie Andrews, Chairman
There are encouraging signs that Ireland is entering the new Millennium with a stronger commitment to the well-being of her children than has been evident in decades. The past year has seen several significant advances that have been long awaited and are no less welcome for that.

Most significant was the publication in November 2000 of the National Children’s Strategy – for which Barnardos had been campaigning since 1996. Other important developments have included the publication of the Children Bill, the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000-2006 by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and the publication of the White Paper on Voluntary Activity. Furthermore, the provisions for tax relief on charitable donations in the Finance Act, long sought by Barnardos and other charities, are most welcome.

Increased confidence in Ireland’s capacity to deliver quality programmes for children, greater Government commitment and support, greatly enhanced economic resources and more exposure to international standards of provision have combined to transform our national horizons with regard to children. This increased awareness, confidence and capacity has resulted in translating aspirations that were seen as unrealistic only a few short years ago not only into achievable objectives, but Government policy. It also demonstrates that developments and standards that Barnardos was advocating were controversial then, but are now seen as quite legitimate. While this reflects many of the changes Irish society has experienced in recent years, it is also symptomatic of the results of effective lobbying over several years.

As a significant provider of services for vulnerable children and their families, many of them funded by government departments and statutory agencies, there are sensitivities to be considered and managed in criticising some of the policies and actions of these same bodies. Yet Barnardos would be failing its advocacy and lobbying will continue to feature as critical elements of Barnardos’ efforts to make Ireland a better place for children.
mission, its role in society and, most fundamentally, our children if it allowed such considerations to limit its advocacy for change. It is the specific role, and in the nature of voluntary organisations to be an independent, restless and, at times, uncomfortable voice for change, and to highlight inadequately met or emerging needs which require attention. It is essential that this critical role of Barnardos, as other voluntary organisations, be acknowledged and accepted.

Advocacy and lobbying will continue to feature as critical elements of Barnardos’ efforts to make Ireland a better place for children. Maintaining a stance, which is at once ambitious but realistic, demanding yet constructive, we will continue to raise awareness, lobby and campaign for necessary changes in policy and provision for children. And, since many of these developments are long term in their nature – not least the National Children’s Strategy – we will focus on the Opposition as well as Government in advising them of such changes.

Not all of this work takes place in the public arena, however. Barnardos makes a very substantial contribution to the development of policies and strategies relevant to children through participation in many national and local bodies, committees and working groups. This has been a developing aspect of our work, one that is demanding of Barnardos’ resources and one whose growth reflects the plethora of official committees concerning a variety of issues affecting children. This is welcome, but reflects the continuing fragmentation of national and local initiatives for children and families.

The past year has seen further expansion of our services for children and families, and of our strategies to increase fundraising income. It has also been a year of consolidation where we have sought to focus on the quality and sustainability of our programmes. In particular, we have embarked on the implementation of the recommendations of the Barnardos Review, reported on last year, and substantial progress has been achieved to date. In particular, we have developed a collaborative partnership with the Dartington Social Research Unit, and through it we have access to a network of best practice “sites” providing quality services to children in Spain, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands and United Kingdom. The selection of Barnardos for participation in this network is significant affirmation of the quality of our services for children, the professionalism and commitment of our staff and the organisational development we have undertaken over several years.

As we continue to strive for ever-increasing effectiveness in our service and advocacy programmes, we are also conscious of the continuing growth of need amongst children in Ireland, for all our economic growth. In spite of this progress there are still too many children and young people experiencing poverty, homelessness, even hunger. Access to education and health services is not as free or equitable as we would like to think it is, and the consequences for many children’s capacity to realise their full potential are dire. Our care system for children - many of whom have experienced abuse and neglect - is seriously inadequate, as is the response to many unaccompanied refugee children, while many Traveller children are living in conditions more in keeping with the developing world rather than the fastest growing economy in Europe.

There have, indeed, been many positive developments in the past year, and the National Children’s Strategy offers the prospect of a sustained programme of improvement over the coming decade. But we need to remind ourselves that we are only at the beginning, not the end, of making Ireland a better place for children.

Owen Keenan
Chief Executive
In November 2000, the Government launched *Our Children – Their Lives: The National Children’s Strategy*. The Strategy sets out the Government’s vision and plan for children up until 2010. The development of a national strategy was one of the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child following its hearing on the Irish Government’s report to the Committee in January 1998. Many children and young people, adults and organisations contributed to the development of the strategy during 2000. Barnardos staff and young people also contributed to the Strategy. *Our Children – Their Lives* has been produced in two formats, one for children and young people, and one for adults.

These are some of the main elements, as outlined in the children’s version of the National Children’s Strategy.

**The Big Dream**
The Government dreams of an Ireland where....
- Grown-ups respect children and listen to what they have to say and
- Children are well looked after by their families and by all the people around them and
- Children can have fun, learn a lot and grow up into happy adults

**The plan has three main things in it... (National Goals)**
- Listening to children - making sure their voice is heard
- Thinking more about what children need - finding out what children need so that we can plan ways to make children’s lives better
- Acting for children - making sure that children will be able to get what they need without a whole lot of hassle and difficulty

**Some of the ways to make it happen...**
- Dáil na nÓg is where children can get together to talk about what is really important to them and tell the government what they think
- Ombudsman for Children – it is his or her job to look out for children, children can report problems and he or she will do their best to make things better
- Minister for Children – is in charge of making sure that the Plan really does happen
- National Children’s Office and National Children’s Advisory Council – will help the Minister to make sure that the Government and other people do everything they promised they would do for children and to think up new ways that everybody can help children and ensure nothing is overlooked

**What will be hardest part?**
- Ensuring that the Strategy is a priority no matter who is in Government
- Ensuring that all the adults involved co-ordinate and work together for the best interests of children - there are so many different government departments and agencies, voluntary organisations, at local and national level

**What can I do to help?**
Children - get a copy of the Strategy and ask your teacher if you can discuss it at school or with your parent at home
Parents - discuss it with your children and contact your opposition TD and ask them to sign up to the Strategy
Political parties – Sign up to the National Children’s Strategy
Government departments and bodies – work together at national and local level

**Where can I get the National Children’s Strategy?**
*Our Children – Their Lives: The National Children’s Strategy*, is available free in adult and children’s versions at The National Children’s Office, Floor 3, 94 St Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2, Tel. (01) 418 0582 or in your local library. You can also find further information at www.doh.ie and child_strategy@health.irlgov.ie

“Children need a **fun childhood** because if they don’t their whole life will be miserable **and I would like a park.**”
Barnardos is concerned about all children in Ireland. Although we provide services directly to several thousand children and their families each year, we recognise that we will never be able to directly respond to the needs of every child in Ireland. However, by sharing the experiences and insights we are privileged to gain through the provision of services with a wider audience, we can make a valuable contribution to the lives of all children in Ireland. This is the rationale for our increasing focus on advocating for children.

At Barnardos, we believe that our extensive commitment to working with vulnerable children, and the supports we provide to parents in their vital but often-difficult task, lends relevance to our advocacy. The direct experience of working with children and families provides important lessons on the causes and effects of the difficulties that they experience and compels us to work towards changing their world, rather than only helping them to cope with an unacceptable reality. We believe, in short, that we have a responsibility to share this learning with a wider audience in the interests of raising awareness, changing attitudes and influencing policies.

Over the past year we have continued our series of policy briefings on a number of vital issues (see box). We have also continued collaborations with other organisations with an interest in children and families in Ireland today.

Barnardos plans to build on these initiatives in the coming year and, in particular, focus on raising awareness on the actual experiences of children in Ireland. In so doing, we intend to contribute to the creation of an increasingly positive environment for children.

Changing attitudes and policies does not happen overnight but requires sustained commitment and stamina over a prolonged period. This is partly why Barnardos is so positive about the National Children’s Strategy – and had campaigned for just such a measure over several years. For the first time we have an agreed vision and plan of action, supported by national and local delivery mechanisms, which will guide developments over the next ten years. In itself this will not guarantee a successful outcome but it is the first essential building block towards achieving a much better future for children in Ireland.
Barnardos at a glance

BARNARDOS NATIONAL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FREE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY:

- Adoption Advice Service
- Sólás Bereavement Counselling
- Beacon Guardian ad litem Service
- National Children’s Resource Centre
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2000-2001

Barnardos keeps growing – we’re expanding our services, shops and the number of staff in order to work with more children and families than ever before.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR CHILD WELFARE


ABOVE

Dr Thomas Barnardo was born in Dame Street, Dublin in 1845 and attended St Patrick’s Cathedral School. While in medical training in London he was horrified by the levels of poverty and destitution facing children, and abandoned his plans to work as a missionary in China. Instead he began his lifelong dedication to the welfare of children. Barnardos first came to Northern Ireland in 1899, and to the Republic in the 1960’s. Barnardos in Ireland has been an independent organisation since 1989. Barnardos has sister organisations in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. Dr Barnardos died in 1905 and a plaque commemorating his work can be found at the Millennium Gardens in Dame Street next to City Hall in Dublin.

RIGHT

This poster campaign could be seen all over Ireland over the last year thanks to JC Decaux (formerly David Allen). The striking posters raised public awareness of Barnardos’ work with children and families in Ireland and has had a great impact on Barnardos’ profile with the public.
ABOVE: PENTHOUSE RAFFLE
19-year-old student Natalie Devine has one major headache normally facing students out of her way – she now owns a £275,000 penthouse apartment thanks to Barnardos’ Penthouse Giveaway. The apartment was donated at cost by Walsh Maguire & O’Shea and Manor Park Homebuilders.

LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL CHILDREN’S STRATEGY
Barnardos welcomed the launch of the National Children’s Strategy in November 2000, setting clear goals for provision for children and processes to achieve them. Barnardos particularly welcomed the consultation with children that took place in the lead up and the children’s version of the Strategy which is available free from the National Children’s Office. Barnardos was involved in the consultation at policy level and Barnardos children participated in the children’s consultation.

ABOVE: ASPIRING TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN CHILDREN’S SERVICES
In April 2001, we announced our co-operation with research and development unit Dartington-i, a leading social research institute based in Devon, England. The co-operation will help Barnardos achieve best practice in our children’s services.

LEFT: MILLENNIUM CHILD SCULPTURE
In November 2000, President Mary McAleese, Barnardos Patron, unveiled “Millennium Child” by artist John Behan. Situated opposite Christchurch Cathedral, the sculpture was commissioned by Barnardos to mark the Millennium for children and families in Ireland. The location of the sculpture marks the neighbourhood that Dubliner Dr. Thomas Barnardo grew up in, as he was born in Dame Street and attended St Patrick’s Cathedral School.

ABOVE: BARNARDOS WELCOMES CLINTON FAMILY TO DUNDALK
Ciara and Shane Hanratty of Barnardos Newry, along with Lynda Wilson of Barnardos Northern Ireland and Dundalk-man Owen Keenan of Barnardos greeted President Clinton, Senator Hillary Clinton and their daughter Chelsea, on their visit to Dundalk in December 2000. Shane and Ciara presented Senator Clinton with a local gift to mark the occasion.
Barnardos believes that every child has the right to reach their full potential. Family Support Services help children who face barriers like poverty, family violence, abuse, neglect, bereavement, substance misuse, or early school leaving.

What is Family Support?

Family support is at the core of Barnardos services across the country. Each Barnardos centre provides services tailored to meet the needs of the individual family and the local community, offering real support for families under stress and living in disadvantaged areas. Every family experiences stress at some point, and help may be simple and practical or it may require deeper solutions. The right support at the right time can often prevent a difficult situation from reaching crisis point – where a child may end up out of school, out of home, or out of control. Family Support Services work with children and parents together to understand what is causing the problem and find a solution that will work.

Family support takes place in a number of very practical ways. Day care services provide early childhood programmes (0-8 year-olds) and after school groups. Youth action projects are aimed at young people with particular problems at home or at school – seeking to build self-esteem and confidence while improving communication with adults and peers. Other support is provided through family counselling services and special programmes in personal development for parents. For children with disabilities, there is a programme designed to cater for their special needs.

Family support centres can be a first stop for parents seeking information on topics relating to their children. By linking into the Barnardos’ National Children’s Resource Centre in Dublin, Limerick and Cork, parents have a unique resource at hand.

Family support is there from babyhood to teenage years, and from teenage parents to grandparents. Involving parents in work with their children is crucial to success. Family support is dedicated to focusing on children in the context of their family. Practical family support, such as helping parents with routines, money advice and budgeting, advocacy work, parenting and family work, is critical to strengthening children and families.

“Family support is dedicated to focussing on children in the context of their family”
Barnardos’ Family Support Services reflect the goals of the National Children’s Strategy by giving children a voice, ensuring children receive quality supports and services, and having a say on the services they receive.

**Giving Children A Voice**

A common thread running through the twenty Family Support Services offered by Barnardos across Ireland is empowering children to reach their full potential. Listening to children and encouraging children to shape the services they use is a basic building block in Barnardos’ services.

Many Barnardos’ children participated directly in the Government’s consultation with children about what they wanted to see in the National Children’s Strategy. This consultation involved children commenting on what is good and bad about growing up in Ireland today.

Children from Barnardos’ services across Ireland will be participating in Dáil na nÓg, the parliament for children, set up under the National Children’s Strategy. A daily feature is that the children participating in the groups from age three and up are encouraged to be actively involved in planning their activities, learning crucial communication skills, how to make choices and decisions and take responsibility for them.

Barnardos’ Family Support Services also plan to provide information material about Barnardos and their specific services in a format accessible to children and their families.

**Children will receive quality supports and services**

Barnardos is committed to providing the highest quality supports and services and is continuing to work towards best practice standards in all children’s services.

“**It gave me very high self-esteem about myself. When we done the play and went out on stage I didn’t want to do it, but when I started saying my part, I felt well if I could do that I could do anything.**” – member of the Young Women’s Group “The Club” in Moyross, Limerick.

“The most important things I learned was about each one of us there have rights, a right to speak out where ever we are, no matter what age you are.” – member of the Young Women’s Group “The Club” in Moyross, Limerick.

Barnardos has always evaluated its services, both internally and externally. To demonstrate our continued commitment to evaluation, Barnardos has formed a partnership with leading international research institute, Dartington-i. Barnardos’ Family Support Services can use Dartington-i’s innovative approach to research and evaluation and draw from, and contribute to, their international network of children’s organisations to build on the strengths of our current practice and set new standards in service provision.

Family support is not a rigid formula but is tailored to respond to the needs of a community or group of children. Barnardos’ Family Support Services currently include: Breakfast Clubs, Parent and Toddler Groups, Toy Libraries, After-school Groups and Homework Clubs, Lone Parents’ Support Group and Parents’ Groups.

Practical support is provided to homeless families living in B&Bs giving them access to regular family activities such as cooking and having a meal together, doing homework and laundry. Family support also provides individual and family counselling when needed.

**what’s new?**

- **Tullamore Family Support Springboard Project**, funded by the Midland Health Board, opened its doors to the public in October 2000 with a Halloween Party. The project currently offers a young parents’ group, parent and toddler group, and after school groups.

- Barnardos, together with East Coast Area Health Board and the Southside Partnership in Dublin, commissioned an assessment of the needs of children and families who are refugees and asylum seekers and living in hostel accommodation.

- Barnardos and Ericsson have joined together in Dun Laoghaire and Loughlinstown to introduce technology for children who would not have access to computers at home. Gráinne Burke, Regional Manager Eastern Region Coastal said “children learn all about computers and develop their technology skills, as well as using education software appropriate to their stage of development. This will ensure that their future potential to benefit from education and employment will be improved.”

quality supports and services

Barnardos Family Support provides...

“I love coming because Barnardos is warm, the food is nice and we have fun”

- child using the Breakfast Club in Southill, Limerick.
Barnardos’ National Children’s Resource Centre (NCRC) is a unique resource of information, training and research to families, professionals and the general public with the aim of improving the lives of children in Ireland.

The NCRC supports the goals of the National Children’s Strategy through a variety of research projects which aim to help understand children’s lives better, and through information and training which directly improve service provision for children and their families.

While the service does not directly work with children, it aims to improve the work of professionals with children and support parents in making the best parenting decisions they can. It gives them relevant, up to date, quality information and resources on any matter related to children and families.

Bringing Barnardos’ information services to the regions

In July 2000, the National Children’s Resource Centre opened its doors in Sarsfield Street in Limerick. Minister of State for Children, Mary Hanafin TD opened the centre. The city centre location has meant a steady stream of parents can call in to look for information, while Barnardos’ Family Support Projects in Limerick and Tipperary are also supported through the NCRC.

In May 2001, the newly refurbished National Children’s Resource Centre Cork, was opened by the Minister for Health and Children, Micheál Martin TD. Based in the Barnardos regional office (on Patrick’s Hill) the new look centre will be a more user-friendly resource for parents and professionals alike. By expanding the capacity of the NCRC in Cork, parents in the Southern Region can access a nation-wide resource.

Publishing resources for parents and professionals

The National Children’s Resource Centre continued to produce a range of publications throughout the year. The quarterly journal “Childlinks” got a new improved appearance and increased from 12 to over 30 pages, and the print-run was increased from 500 to 3,000 initially. This journal is an important forum for debate on policy and practice in relation to children and families and will now be accessible to more readers.

Barnardos continued its commitment to promoting
debate on policy matters with the publication of its fourth, fifth and sixth Policy Papers:
• The Case for Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (4),
• Meeting the Needs of Refugee & Asylum-Seeking Children in Ireland (5),
• Responding to Domestic Violence and its Impact on Women and Children (6).
These are available free of charge from any NCRC branch.

The NCRC publishes a wide range of books, manuals, brochures, policy documents and leaflets, a quarterly journal and several bulletins. The National Children’s Resource Centre also maintains a number of databases and directories, notably the Database of Parenting Programmes in Ireland and the Child and Family Directory.

**Training**

In the period 2000-2001 the NCRC organised 15 public events and organised 149 tailor made events. The types of training range from management and childcare training, parenting events to policy development and child protection courses.

Looking to 2001-2002, the NCRC will continue to expand and develop. The opening of a new centre in Athlone, a continuing ambitious publishing programme, the development of research capacity and the certification of “flagship” training programmes are major developments in 2001-2002.

With the assistance of substantial funding from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, the NCRC was able to increase its resources in support of the National Development Plan and the National Children’s Strategy. Other supporters include Irish Permanent, the Southern Health Board, Mid-Western Health Board, the Midland Health Board and the Rotary Dublin No 1 Club.

**Statistics of users of the NCRC**

**Membership:** 471

**Number of queries:** more than 7,000
There has been an increase in numbers and complexity of queries

**Users:** parents, professionals and providers, students, policy-makers and researchers.
Barnardos’ Adoption Advice Service provides independent confidential advice for all people with an interest in adoption, whether they have been adopted, they are parents with adopted children or birth parents. Many of the users of the service have also experienced separation from their birth parents and families through fostering or being placed in the care system.

The Adoption Advice Service has been in operation since 1977, and has dealt with over 25,000 enquiries over that time. Between 1977 and 2000, the nature of the enquiries per year has changed significantly and now 75% of all the users of the service have queries about post-adoption issues.

“We now receive almost as many enquiries from birth mothers as from adopted people. We have also seen an increase in calls from birth fathers of adopted children and children raised with ex-partners,” said Patricia White, Social Worker and staff member of the Adoption Advice Service.

In the past year, new adoption legislation has been drafted with potentially great impact on all those in the adoption “triangle” of adoptee, birth parent or adoptive parent. This new legislation will allow adopted people access to their own birth records. It is also proposed that adoption certificates be made available to birth mothers once their child has reached eighteen. These changes will underline the need for services such as ours to be expanded in order to offer counselling and support on a nation-wide basis to all parties involved in adoption. We are encouraged that, during the year, the Minister of State with responsibility for children, Mary Hanafin TD, provided the first ongoing Government funding the service has received since it was established.

The Adoption Advice Service offers help and support in a number of ways - through a telephone helpline, information evenings and face to face counselling, as needed.

A helpline is available on two days a week for people seeking information and advice on all aspects of adoption. The helpline is operated by qualified social workers with experience in adoption and fostering.

The Service runs information evenings which sets out to give information to adopted people on the process of seeking information about their families of origin.

Counselling is an important part of the work of the Adoption Advice Service. Counselling services are provided either to individuals by appointment or on a group basis. The Adoption Advice Service has been involved in arranging reunions between those raised outside their families of origin and their relatives. With the agreement of all those involved, the staff of the service can also act as independent mediators.

A major development of this aspect of the service is anticipated in the coming year through the establishment, with the support of the Department of Education and Science, of an information mediation service for former residents of institutions who wish to trace their personal records.

About two years ago 23-year-old Stephen from Dublin saw an ad in the Evening Herald advertising a meeting night at Barnardos for adopted people. This is his story:

“There was plenty of people at the meeting in Christchurch - they were young and old with different types of stories. At the time I had found out a lot of information about my birth mother, my name, where she lived in Ireland and details of her family. People that were there were giving happy stories and sad stories about their experiences. There were people there that had no information, but had so much hope of finding them. I learned so much that night from the different stories that were told.

At the present time I have met my birth mother and birth father. I am her only child and talk to her on the phone every two weeks. I also visit her, which is very good.”

“Many people raised apart from birth relatives experience a very strong need to know about the missing parts of their past. We try to help people cope with what is often a very difficult (but often joyful) emotional journey. The groups offer a very valuable way of obtaining much needed support and we have seen many people make lasting friendships with others who would have a deep understanding of their position.”

Christine Hennessy - Social Worker with the Adoption Advice Service
Sólás is a unique counselling service for children and their family who have suffered a painful loss of someone significant in their lives.

With staff based in Cork and Dublin, Sólás responded to 400 referrals during 2000. The Sólás phone line is the first point of contact for almost everyone. Accessible to families nation-wide, the phone line offers an immediate response. It provides information, advice and counselling, and links families to any local networks. During 2000, a professional phone line co-ordinator was appointed.

Sólás reflects the goals of the National Children’s Strategy by ensuring children have access to quality supports and services, by understanding their lives better through research, and by ensuring that children have somewhere they can voice their feelings during a critical time – bereavement.

Who uses Sólás?

Sudden death continued to dominate families contacting Sólás during 2000 (75%). The death of a parent (68%) and the death of a sibling (18%) feature most frequently. The circumstances of the death and the well-being of parents and children, both before and after the death, are all influential factors and have to be incorporated in Barnardos’ response.

Premature death of a parent or of a child is an issue for all of us who are in contact with children. During its five year lifetime, Sólás has had an increasing number of requests to provide seminars, workshops for teachers, health care professionals and voluntary groups – 31 this year alone.

In collaboration with the National Children’s Resource Centre, Sólás also provides books, booklets and videos, which deal with grief and loss.

In the aftermath of death, children need to voice their grief, their fears and anxieties. Teachers, professionals and carers alike have a vital role to play at this time. Not all children need counselling, but they do need to be listened to and their grief needs to be heard and acknowledged. Grief for each child, for each family is unique. We must always bear this in mind when understanding both the universal aspects and the specific experience of bereavement. The design and delivery of Sólás is greatly influenced by the needs of service users. This has been, and continues to be, one of the hallmarks of the service, a service influenced by and influencing policies and practices with bereaved children.

“I wish I could see Mammy for just two minutes, for one more time. I just want to touch her face and hold her hand and then I’d know that she is okay.”

(Sarah, 8 years)

Longing and yearning for her mother who died, for a way of life, for a future which has utterly changed, has become a major part of Sarah’s life. She worries about her Mam getting cold in the grave, whether her friends will still play with her. She looks out for her Dad who “is really worried a lot” but who doesn’t know “the food we like or the way Mammy used to talk to us.” Sarah is one of a family of four children, all of whom are grieving simultaneously and differently.
Courts are increasingly seeking to appoint this independent representative of the child’s welfare and wishes.

**Barnardos’ Beacon Guardian ad Litem Service**

Barnardos’ Beacon Guardian ad Litem (Guardian at law) Service provides children involved in family law proceedings with an independent voice in court. A Guardian ad Litem is an experienced and qualified person with expertise in working with children.

A Guardian ad Litem is appointed by the Court and advises on what is in the best interest of the child concerned. The Guardian ad Litem also makes the judge aware of the child’s own wishes. The Guardian ad Litem consults with the child, the child’s family, health board and any other statutory or non-statutory organisations who know the child and the family. These consultations are crucial to ensure that the child’s best interests are presented independently to the Court.

Beacon Guardian ad Litem Service supports the goals of the National Children’s Strategy through ensuring that children’s voices are heard in court proceedings that have a profound effect on their lives.

The Barnardos Beacon Guardian ad Litem Service was launched in 1999, and staff are based in Dublin and Cork, but accept cases from all over Ireland. The role of the Guardian ad Litem is relatively recently established in childcare legislation in Ireland, and courts are increasingly seeking to appoint this independent representative of the child’s welfare and wishes.

In the last year, a total of 36 children were represented in this service. For the majority of these children, the issue to be decided by the court related to whether they should remain within their family or be taken into the care of the health board. The Guardian ad Litem can also be appointed in judicial matrimonial and separation cases where the issue for the child relates to parental custody and access.

Encouraging the appointment of Guardians ad Litem

In May 2001, Beacon Guardian ad Litem Service held a conference “Getting it Right – Promoting Good Outcomes for Children in Family Law Proceedings” to debate the real outcomes for children of court proceedings, and to raise the profile of the role that a Guardian ad Litem can play. Speakers included experts from the judicial, legal, social work and psychiatric services, and the conference was extremely well received by the participants.

Children in family law proceedings remains an area of continued debate. The Beacon Guardian ad Litem Service can make a real difference -- in the best interests of children and in the interests of justice in promoting better outcomes for children who are subjects of legal proceedings.
The Blanchardstown Centre donated a minibus to Barnardos in the Blanchardstown area. The brand new minibus will be used to transport children to and from Barnardos’ services in the area.

Catherine Bond, Barnardos and Mercy Prendergast, Blanchardstown Centre with Tommy Walsh, Barnardos, at the bus handover in February 2001.

Sponsored by Tipperary Crystal, Barnardos commissioned a special sculpture by artist John Behan to mark the millennium for children and families in Ireland. ‘Millennium Child’ was unveiled by Barnardos’ Patron, President McAleese on 8 November 2000. Located in Christchurch, Dublin, it marks the neighbourhood in which Dubliner Dr Thomas Barnardo grew up. Dr Barnardo was born in Dame Street and attended St Patrick’s Cathedral School for his early education.

Over 60 women ran, walked and puffed their way through the Dublin Mini Marathon for Barnardos in June 2001. A special thank you to the ‘clown’ women from Mulhuddart in Dublin.

National Irish Bank customers supported Barnardos’ after school groups when they opened new accounts during a special promotion in spring 2001, raising €10,000 in all.

Barnardos’ Dun Laoghaire shop took the highest ever sales in one day at £1,500 in May 2001, as they changed from winter to summer clothing and the demand exceeded all expectations!
Fundraising

Children are our future...

Voluntary income made up a vital £1 in every £5 Barnardos spent in 2000, ensuring that Barnardos can maintain an independent voice in public debate and can invest in new services or build on the quality of existing services, in line with the needs of children and families.

Public support for Barnardos increased by 5% over 1999 to total £436,000 in 2000 (m553,000). Both fundraising and Barnardos’ charity shops raised more money to support services for children and families. Voluntary income this year included donations from the public and companies, profits from eight charity shops, events, school fundraising, grants from foundations and trusts, as well as profits from training and publication sales.

Highlights of 2000 included:

Ericsson and Barnardos joined together to initiate a brand new programme exploring technology to work with disadvantaged children and parents in the Dun Laoghaire and Loughlinstown areas of Dublin. Ericsson has funded the computers and staff needed to start the programme, but in addition Ericsson staff will volunteer as mentors over time.

Children’s Hour was a unique fundraising initiative that asked everyone in Ireland to donate their last hour’s wages of the millennium to children’s charities. Barnardos was allocated a generous grant of £259,000 (m329,000) to support projects with children in Galway, Carlow, and Dublin.

Minister for Finance, Charlie McCreevy, introduced new measures to increase tax effective giving to charities. Both individuals and companies can now give - tax effectively - over £200 (m254) in any tax year. Barnardos congratulates the Minister for this welcome measure.

Children are our future.

Barnardos’ work with vulnerable children and their families is an investment in the future of our country.

A special thank you to Barnardos’ Fundraising Board who worked all year to raise £500,000 in 2000 -

Declan Ryan (Chair), Mary Broughan, Niamh Cleary, Michael Duffy, Edwina Fitzmaurice, Louise Kennedy, Maeve Kneafsey, Paul MacGowan, David McGeough, Stephen Murray.
To mark the United Nations Year of the Volunteer in 2001, and to recognise the tremendous contribution that volunteers make all over Barnardos, a new post of Volunteer Co-ordinator has been created in 2001.

The Volunteer Co-ordinator will work with staff and volunteers all over Barnardos to ensure that volunteers have a positive experience of volunteering, that training is available to volunteers, that we maximise the contribution that volunteers can make to our fundraising and children’s services, and to ensure that staff are equipped to support volunteers in their work.

Barnardos’ volunteers work directly with children in a number of our Family Support Services throughout the country, and help in all eight of the Barnardos shops. Fundraising volunteers also run events and fundraising campaigns to help raise funds to support our work with children and families.

Finally, Barnardos’ Council Members give their time and expertise entirely voluntarily.

We thank you all for your huge contribution in time, energy and support this year.
The audited accounts for the financial year 2000 continue the exceptional growth shown in the 1999 accounts as services continued to expand rapidly. Operating expenditure increased by 22% while income increased by 29% resulting in a net surplus for the year of €410,417. This reflects the ongoing development of our Family Support Services and the establishment of a further Springboard project in Tullamore, the expansion of the Beacon Guardian ad Litem service, the opening of a National Children’s Resource Centre in Limerick and continued development of our charity shops with the opening of a new outlet in Carlow.

While income from statutory sources increased by 48%, a significant portion, 20%, (€571,382) related to a once-off payment to address a funding deficit, which had accumulated over several prior years. This finalises the correction of the historical shortfall in statutory funding reported in previous years. Barnardos is endeavouring to ensure that agreements are in place with statutory bodies, in particular, to ensure funding at satisfactory levels is received for this year and future years.

We are still very much on track to meet our Corporate Plan (1999 to 2002) target of £5m (€6.35m) investment over and above statutory income. At the end of 2000 we have reached £3.4m (€4.3m) or 68% of the target.

To ensure the highest possible level of accountability and transparency, we strengthened our financial and governance capacity by appointing a Director of Finance mid year. We are also researching the new Statement of Recommended Practice – SORP 2000, recently issued in the United Kingdom and intend complying with it for the 2001 financial statements.

Mary Broughan
Honorary Treasurer
The following are extracted from the accounts of Barnardos for financial year 2000, full accounts are available on request from Barnardos' National Office (see page 24).

**Income and Expenditure Account**

*BARNARDOS REPUBLIC OF IRELAND LIMITED*  
(A company limited by guarantee)  
For the year ended 31 December 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-funding from statutory sources</td>
<td>3,565,234</td>
<td>2,794,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional statutory grants relating to prior years</td>
<td>571,382</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>6,367,791</td>
<td>4,926,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare Services</td>
<td>5,446,521</td>
<td>4,423,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising and promotion</td>
<td>302,858</td>
<td>312,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>207,995</td>
<td>166,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total operating expenditure</strong></td>
<td>5,957,374</td>
<td>4,902,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net surplus for year</strong></td>
<td>410,417</td>
<td>23,726</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no gains or losses in either year other than those included in the net surplus recorded above.

Approved by the Council on 25th May 2001  
Mary Broughan, Honorary Treasurer  
Leslie Andrews, Honorary Chairman  
Council Members

This (summary) Income and Expenditure Account has been extracted from the statutory financial statements of Barnardos Republic of Ireland Limited for the year ended 31 December 2000. The statutory financial statements, on which the auditors (Ernst & Young) expressed an unqualified opinion, will be filed with the Registrar of Companies following the Annual General Meeting.
## BARNARDOS REPUBLIC OF IRELAND LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Balance Sheet

at 31 December 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>2,422,307</td>
<td>2,297,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock</td>
<td>5,363</td>
<td>11,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>1,372,602</td>
<td>718,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank</td>
<td>713,915</td>
<td>726,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>3,743,868</td>
<td>3,333,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)</td>
<td>(770,319)</td>
<td>(420,969)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>1,321,561</td>
<td>1,035,697</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REPRESENTED BY**

General Fund 3,743,868 3,333,451

Approved by the Council on 25th May 2001
Mary Broughan, Honorary Treasurer
Leslie Andrews, Honorary Chairman
Council Members
Contacting Barnardos

BARNARDOS NATIONAL OFFICE
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.
Tel: (01) 453 0355 Callsave: 1850 222 300
Fax: (01) 453 0300
E-mail: info@barnardos.ie

National Children’s Resource Centre
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.
Tel: (01) 454 9699
Fax: (01) 453 0300
Email: ncr@barnardos.ie
Open to members of the public:
Monday-Friday: 9.30am to 1pm
Open to members of the NCRC:
Monday-Friday: 9.30am to 4.30pm
Late opening Wednesday: 9.30am to 7.30pm
Saturday visits can be arranged by appointment with the Information Officer.
Charity Registration number 6015

Adoption Advice Service
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.
Helpline number: (01) 454 6388
Open Tuesday: 2pm-5pm; Thursday: 10am-2pm
Fax: (01) 453 0300
Email: adoption@barnardos.ie

Beacon Guardian ad Litem Service
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.
Tel: (01) 453 0355
Fax: (01) 453 0300
Email: beacon@barnardos.ie

Sólas Bereavement Counselling Service
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.
Tel: (01) 453 0355
Helpline number: (01) 473 2110 (Mon - Fri: 10am - 12 noon)
Fax: (01) 453 0300
Email: solas@barnardos.ie

www.barnardos.ie

EASTERN REGION.SOUTHWEST
Regional Office
8 Tower Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
Tel: (01) 403 0900
Fax: (01) 457 6222
Email: info@clondalkin.barnardos.ie

Teenage Parenting Support Project
8 Tower Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
Tel: (01) 403 0900
Fax: (01) 457 6222
Email: info@clondalkin.barnardos.ie

Barnardos Family Support Project
21 Cherry Orchard Ave, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.
Tel: (01) 626 1985
Fax: (01) 626 1986
Email: info@cherryorchard.barnardos.ie

Barnardos Pre-school
Labrè Park, Kylemore Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.
Tel/Fax: (01) 623 4425
Email: info@clondalkin.barnardos.ie

EASTERN REGION.DUBLIN NORTH
Regional Office
Main Street, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.
Tel: (01) 820 4033
Fax: (01) 820 0446
Email: info@mulhuddart.barnardos.ie

Barnardos Family Support Services
Main Street, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.
Tel: (01) 820 4033
Fax: (01) 820 0446
Email: info@mulhuddart.barnardos.ie

EASTERN REGION.COASTAL
Regional Office
14 Tivoli Terrace South, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.
Tel: (01) 284 2323
Fax: (01) 280 6271
Email: info@dunlaoghaire.barnardos.ie

Barnardos Family Support Centre
14 Tivoli Terrace South, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.
Tel: (01) 284 2323
Fax: (01) 280 6271
Email: info@dunlaoghaire.barnardos.ie

Cottage Childcare Project
The Cottage Home, Tivoli Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.
Tel/Fax: (01) 280 0586
Email: cottagep@gofree.indigo.ie

Barnardos Family Support Centre
Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive,
Loughlinstown, Co Dublin.
Tel: (01) 282 0328
Fax:  (01) 282 1594
Email: info@loughlinstown.barnardos.ie

Cottage Childcare Project
The Cottage Home, Tivoli Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.
Tel/Fax: (01) 280 0586
Email: cottagep@gofree.indigo.ie

Barnardos Family Support Centre
Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive,
Loughlinstown, Co Dublin.
Tel: (01) 282 0328
Fax:  (01) 282 1594
Email: info@loughlinstown.barnardos.ie

EASTERN REGION.DUBLIN NORTH
Regional Office
Main Street, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.
Tel: (01) 820 4033
Fax: (01) 820 0446
Email: info@mulhuddart.barnardos.ie

Barnardos Family Support Services
Main Street, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.
Tel: (01) 820 4033
Fax: (01) 820 0446
Email: info@mulhuddart.barnardos.ie

Barnardos Family Support Centre
Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive,
Loughlinstown, Co Dublin.
Tel: (01) 282 0328
Fax:  (01) 282 1594
Email: info@loughlinstown.barnardos.ie

Special Needs Service
56 Avonbeg Gardens, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
Tel: (01) 452 3755
Fax: (01) 462 1368
Email: info@tallaght.barnardos.ie

Youth Action Project
31 Bawnlea Green, Jobstown, Dublin 24.
Tel: (01) 459 8035
Fax: (01) 462 7753
Email: info@bawnlea.barnardos.ie

Adoption Advice Service
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.
Helpline number: (01) 454 6388
Open Tuesday: 2pm-5pm; Thursday: 10am-2pm
Fax: (01) 453 0300
Email: adoption@barnardos.ie

Beacon Guardian ad Litem Service
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.
Tel: (01) 453 0355
Fax: (01) 453 0300
Email: beacon@barnardos.ie

Sólas Bereavement Counselling Service
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.
Tel: (01) 453 0355
Helpline number: (01) 473 2110 (Mon - Fri: 10am - 12 noon)
Fax: (01) 453 0300
Email: solas@barnardos.ie
contacting Barnardos

**MID-WEST REGION**

Regional Office
6 St. Brendan’s Road, Woodquay, Galway.
Tel: (091) 565058
Fax: (091) 565060
Email: info@galway.barnardos.ie

**Family Support Project**
367/368 O’Malley Park
Southill
Limerick
Tel: (061) 319290
Fax: (061) 319291
Email: info@southill.barnardos.ie

NCRC
10 Sarsfield Street
Limerick.
Tel: (061) 208680
Fax: (061) 440214
Email: ncrc@midwest.barnardos.ie

**Barnardos Family Support Services**
27 Castle Park
Moyross
Limerick.
Tel: (061) 328420
Fax: (061) 325577
Email: info@limerick.barnardos.ie

**WEST / MIDLANDS REGION**

Regional Office
6 St. Brendan’s Road, Woodquay, Galway.
Tel: (091) 565058
Fax: (091) 565060
Email: info@galway.barnardos.ie

**Athlone Family Support Project**
7 Ashdale, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Tel: (0902) 76422
Fax: (0902) 76424
Email: info@athlone.barnardos.ie

**Edenderry Family Centre**
Edenderry Business Park, St. Mary's Road, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.
Tel/Fax: (0405) 32463
E-mail: info@edenderry.barnardos.ie

**Barnardos Family Support Project**
128 Clonard Park
Ballybeg
Waterford.
Tel: (051) 844140
Fax: (051) 844141
Email: info@ballybeg.barnardos.ie

**Barnardos Family Support Project**
24 Askea Lawns
Tullow Road
Carlow.
Tel: (0503) 32868
Fax: (0503) 32870
Email: info@carlow.barnardos.ie

**SOUTHERN REGION**

Regional Office, 18 St Patrick’s Hill, Cork.
Tel: (021) 4552100
Fax: (021) 4552120
Email: info@cork.barnardos.ie

**Sólás Bereavement Counselling**
National Children’s Resource Centre
Beacon Guardian ad Litem
18 St Patrick’s Hill, Cork
Tel: (021) 4552100
Fax: (021) 4552120
Email: Sólás: solas@cork.barnardos.ie
NCRC: ncrc@cork.barnardos.ie
Guardian ad Litem: gal@cork.barnardos.ie
NCRC open to public 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday.

**Barnardos Family Support Project**
8-9 Orchard View, Ringmahon Road, Mahon, Cork.
Tel: (021) 435 7679
Fax: (021) 435 0157
Email: info@mahon.barnardos.ie

**BARNARDOS CHARITY SHOPS**
8 Upper Georges Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.
Tel: (01) 280 1246

**Barnardos Family Support Project**
17 Castle Street, Carlow.
Tel: (0503) 32918

7 Main Street, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
Tel: (01) 457 0933

**Barnardos Family Support Project**
39 Mayor Street, Cork.
Tel: (021) 4528477

33 Lower Liffey Street, Dublin 1.
Tel: (01) 873 0937

5 Upper William Street, Limerick.
Tel: (061) 400380

206 Lower Rathmines Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6.
Tel: (01) 497 4717

1 Pearse Street, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.
Tel: (044) 84973