



Barnardos

No child gets left behind




Annual Review 2006

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Annie



Annie doesn't cry.

She often hides.

Annie doesn't ask for treats.

She gets ignored.

Annie cannot spell her name.

She was never taught.

Annie isn't always home before dark.

She is four.

Annie doesn't get bedtime stories.

She sleeps through raised voices.

Annie doesn't laugh.

She has no reason to.

Annie's sister, who is eight, was referred to Barnardos by her teacher six months ago. When Barnardos met with the family in their home we identified that Annie also needed our help.

Annie is withdrawn and anxious. She is due to start school in September, but her language skills are far below the level they should be at. She has no experience of interacting with children her own age and is ill-equipped to settle easily into a school routine.


Her local playground is a wasteland and her road is littered with boarded up houses. There are fights on the street and her home is full of friction and fear.

Annie is four and already the light in her eyes has dimmed. Annie represents thousands of children Barnardos encounters every year.

There are 300,000 children under the age of five in Ireland. Most are loved. Many are well cared for. Many are neglected and deprived of their right to a childhood.



Jack



“Nobody ever asked me what I wanted. And when I tried to tell them, they wouldn’t listen. They just kept shouting at each other. So I stopped trying to tell them.”

Jack’s parents are divorced. He was eight when they separated. He is now 11 and the battle over custody and access rights continues to rage. To date, there have been 15 court appearances, two school changes and three new homes.

Jack is struggling with the enormous change that has engulfed his life. He has lost contact with the friends he used to play with on the road, and he has fallen behind in school as he finds it hard to concentrate.

The losses in Jack’s life are profound. He desperately misses his granny, who he used to see most days when he lived with his mum and dad. His new house is fifty miles away, and they don’t have a car. Jack’s granny is sick and he worries that it is because he has stopped coming to visit. But he buries these thoughts as he doesn’t want to upset anyone.

Jack tries to keep both his parents happy. He hides gifts received by one parent from the other. He dreads planned days out with his mum or dad, as it is usually followed by a series of questions and recriminations when he returns. He always feels guilty and uneasy.

“It’s like they have taken hold of an arm each. They’re both pulling and I’m being torn.”

Children are not heard in family law cases because the relevant section of the Children Act 1997 that would allow courts the opportunity to get the views of the child through an independent Guardian ad Litem has not been enacted 10 years after it was first published.

Where Guardians have been appointed, at the discretion of the presiding judge, Barnardos’ experience is that solutions can be found for even the most contentious cases.



Ciara and Cian



Three years ago, Ciara's mum was hurt when a stolen car crashed into her. She has severe brain injury. She finds day-to-day tasks impossible. She can't walk without help and has moved into the living room. The toilet is upstairs so Ciara and her dad take turns to help her to the bathroom.

Ciara is 12, but already she has the responsibilities of a mother. She makes sure her brothers and sisters get up for school and gets them dressed. When her dad is busy she looks after her little brother Cian. He was only a baby when their mum got hurt.

Ciara doesn't want to go to school any more. It is the last place she wants to be. She has missed so many days in school that she feels stupid when the teacher asks her to read out loud.

The washing machine in the house is broken so she has to hand-wash her uniform. That takes ages. Sometimes the other girls say she smells. Ciara hates them for making fun of her.

The days Ciara makes it to school she finds it really hard to concentrate as she worries about her mum. Will she be OK by herself? Is her dad going to be home early to look after her? Will Cian try to run onto the road again, like he does when Ciara looks after him?

Sometimes Ciara wishes it was her that had been hit by the car. Then her mum could look after them all.

Children as young as five take on caring roles in families affected by disability, illness and addiction. These children and young people carry huge responsibilities that impact on every aspect of their lives, including their education. Nearly 3,000 people between the ages of 15 and 17 take on the role of carer in the home (CSO, 2002). The care work can include everything from household tasks, to personal, social and emotional care for parents or close relatives.



Seán

When Seán was eight years old his life changed forever.

Seán and his four younger siblings lived with their mum and dad in a small house on a council estate in a rural town in Ireland. There had been trouble between some families on the estate, but Seán's parents kept their heads down and didn't get involved.

One night two years ago, Seán's dad went to the local for a quiet pint. There was a row in the pub. Seán's dad tried to stop it. He was attacked and died from a single stab wound.

The trial that followed split the local community. There were fights and threats. People refused to testify. Seán's mum was so stressed she took an overdose and nearly died.

People threw rocks at Seán's house. The windows were broken. The family couldn't escape the area as there was no other house they could afford to move to. Money was really tight and his mum couldn't keep up with the bills.

Seán had nightmares and fell behind in school. He was so angry with the bad men who killed his dad he punched a hole in the wall at the top of the stairs.

He now looks after his mum and his younger brothers and sisters. He really misses his dad and wishes he could have his old life back. Seán stays awake when the little ones go to bed. He's often hungry and the house is cold. He usually sits on the stairs to make sure no-one is trying to get into the house to hurt him and his family.

One in nine children live in consistent poverty in Ireland. They are trapped in neglected communities that are under constant pressure from violence, drugs and wide-spread unemployment. Children are reared in damp, sub-standard housing and their families struggle to make ends meet.

Chairman's Review

Harry Slowey, Chair, Barnardos Board

Ireland has the highest percentage of children of any other EU member state – a quarter of our population. That's a million people whose lives are being determined by the decisions that are being made now on how we spend our new-found wealth; on the laws we make; and on the future we create.

How we treat our children is a powerful indicator of the health of our country as it highlights not only our current state, but also the state of the nation we aspire towards.

In 2006, the latest figures showed that one in every nine children lived in consistent poverty. That means that over 1 11,000 children in Ireland, at a time of unprecedented economic wealth, often went to bed without a hot meal and endured the winter in damp, unheated housing.

Another side-effect of consistent poverty is that children become invisible. They drift out of school, with one in five children in the most disadvantaged areas missing over 20 days in the school year. According to 2005 figures, approximately 800 vulnerable children dropped out of our education system completely as they failed to make the transition to secondary school.

Education is a key factor in the success of individuals and countries. International studies demonstrate that benefits to society from providing children with good quality education include a reduction in crime levels, better physical and mental health, less dependency on state welfare and increased economic growth. However, in Ireland almost one in three children from disadvantaged communities leave primary school unable to read, write or do basic maths.

In Barnardos we have a mantra, and it is that no child gets left behind. We want to break the cycle of poverty by severing the link between disadvantage and poor educational achievement. We want to ensure that every child in Ireland is given the resources, services and supports they need to help them achieve their potential.

In the past year, we worked directly with 4,859 vulnerable children, young people and their families and we played a key part in raising children's rights in the public and political arena. In 2006, under the stewardship of our Chief Executive Fergus Finlay, Barnardos stirred national debate and raised awareness of the issues faced by many thousands of children in Ireland who have been excluded from our economic prosperity. We led the call for a referendum to insert children's rights into the Irish Constitution, and we did this because children are being left behind and their voices are not being heard.

In Barnardos, we consider that one million children represent one million reasons to invest in childhood. Failure to do this comes at a huge social, economic and human cost. It is storing greater problems for the future that will find an outlet in crime, unemployment, binge drinking, drug use and mental illness.

Now is the time to give consideration to the future we wish to shape for the one million Irish citizens who cannot vote but whose voices deserve to be heard.

To that end, our staff work in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the country. They come to work every day because they believe in an Ireland where every child is given a fair chance, regardless of what they're up against. They work long and hard to ensure that children who have lost all sense of self-worth are restored their childhood, and given the skills to achieve their dreams. I pay tribute to Barnardos staff, and commend their professionalism and compassion.

Finally, I would also like to thank the Board. They have been unstinting in their commitment to developing Barnardos to ensure that we can do our work even better and reach even more children. I would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution of Declan Ryan who served as Chairman (2000–2006) and who will retire from the Board in 2007. Owen Keenan, former Chief Executive of Barnardos (1990-2005) and Board member since 2005, will also retire from the Board in 2007. They have both played a critical part in Barnardos' growth and displayed tremendous vision.

Chief Executive's Review

Fergus Finlay, Chief Executive

The stories you read in this Review are true. Not literally, of course, because we've changed the names and some of the circumstances, to ensure that no child or family is identified. But the picture they paint, a picture of hardship and disadvantage, but also a picture of resilience and growth, reflects the kids we work with.

I'd love to be able to say that there are easy solutions to every problem we encounter. But that wouldn't be true. Our experience does teach us one thing though. Every family has the resources to find its own solutions, with a bit of help and a lot of respect. That's what we try to bring to bear. We never tell anyone that "we know best". We do try to tell everyone "we'll never give up if you won't".

And the best thing about our work is that we have the opportunity to work with children and families that are determined to address and overcome problems. Disadvantage is caused by a great many things – it can be as simple as the name of the street you were born in, or as complex as a mix of issues causing pain and hardship within a family. Domestic violence, mental health, drug abuse – these are some of the toughest things any family can deal with. But all too often, the demands on parents created by the expectations of our national affluence, coupled with an inability to meet those demands because of the barriers that poverty creates, can be the real thing that grinds people and their families down.

Five years ago in Barnardos, we spent around €10 million on the best possible services we could offer to children and families. In 2007 we will spend around €24 million. We will invest it in better services for more children and families, in supporting those services as professionally as possible, and in trying to make the voices of children heard among policy-makers.

€10 million to €24 million in five years. That's a way of measuring change. But it's only one way. We've changed in all sorts of ways in that time.

- Our new children's services strategy is complete and in place. We are helping more children and their families both directly and indirectly now than ever before. We've committed ourselves, not just to responding to need but also to trying to secure real and measurable outcomes for the children and families we work with. We're investing in research and in the design of new services, in training and in publications, to seek to raise high standards even higher.

- Barnardos' profile and reputation have improved and we have demonstrated a capacity not just to be heard, but to influence national policy towards children.

In the years ahead we will seek more and more to provide independent advocacy, based on our experience on the ground, for children who have no voice. We will praise where we can and criticise where we must.

- We are developing new and exciting partnerships with the HSE, with local authorities, with other organisations in our field, with philanthropic organisations, with government departments and public bodies, and with national and local public representatives across the political spectrum.
- We have worked hard to try to ensure that morale and team-work across Barnardos is as good as it can be, and have developed structures to maximise internal communication and efficiency. I believe the greatest asset Barnardos has is the dedication and commitment of a wonderful team of people who are willing to take on all sorts of challenges in the interests of the children we work with. I believe too that the quality of their work is widely recognised, as it should be.

We are determined, in Barnardos, to achieve the goal we set ourselves when we adopted an ambitious strategy for growth and development a few years ago. That goal is to do whatever we can to make Ireland the best place in the world to be a child. It will be achieved through constitutional, legislative and policy change, through better and wider provision of services, and through the introduction of the highest standards of care and accountability. In one of the richest countries in the world, there really is no excuse for failure.

We couldn't do any of what we do without a lot of support. I could fill pages of this Review by listing the companies and individuals who have supported us with time, effort, care and money. Instead, on behalf of all of us – and especially on behalf of the families we work with – can I just say thank you. And can I say thank you as well to the Board of Barnardos, each of whom has shown an immense dedication to the task of making children's lives better.

Our Services for Children and Families

Suzanne Connolly, Director of Children's Services

Barnardos' direct work with children and their families informs our practice, policies and our vision to make Ireland the best place in the world to be a child.

We continue to learn, evaluate and develop new programmes to meet the needs of children. Through our work, we gain an insight into the challenges faced by families. We also see the strength displayed by children, families and their communities, regardless of the barriers they face.

In 2006, Barnardos completed a Family Support Strategy. Working together with children, their families and our staff we set two main goals for children who come to Barnardos:

- To increase children's capacity to learn and develop.
- To improve their emotional well-being.

We work with children and their families to achieve these outcomes from over 30 centres throughout Ireland. The services we provide include:

- **Child focused services** that work directly with children e.g. individual work with children, group work and breakfast clubs.
- **Family focused services** that work mainly with the child but which also include support for parents e.g. early childhood development programmes, parent and toddler groups, direct work with families.
- **Parent focused services** that work with parents to help them meet their child's needs e.g. parenting programmes, parent coaching, individual work with parents.

During 2006 we also continued to work on developing the quality of our services:

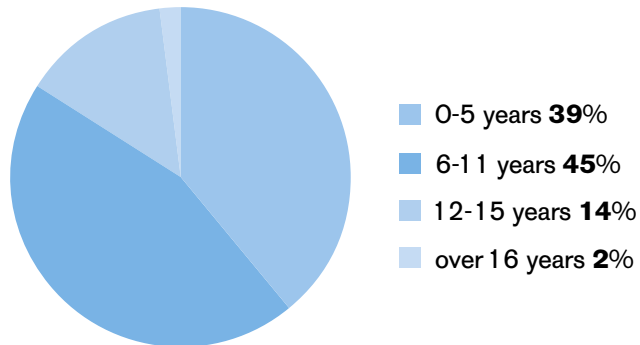
- In 2006 we asked children and families we work with what they thought of the services we provide. These views informed our Family Support Strategy.
- We developed and implemented a new record keeping system in line with best practice.
- We provided on-going training for staff, focusing specifically on assessing the needs of children attending Barnardos.
- A number of our services were positively evaluated by external agencies – including the "Da Project" in Cherry Orchard, Dublin, which works on increasing fathers' involvement in family support; Barnardos Family Welfare Conference in the North East; and the AIB funded Schoolmate programme, aimed at ensuring that children stay in school and learn.

In 2006, Barnardos directly supported 4,859 children, young people and their families:

- Family support projects 4,196
- Bereavement counselling 482
- Guardian ad Litem 181

Profile of children we worked with in our family support centres

Children's Ages



Range of Needs

99% of the children we worked with in 2006 presented with living situation needs.*

Living Situation Needs

- 37%** live in a disadvantaged community
- 17%** dependent on social welfare or a low income
- 7%** over-crowded conditions
- 7%** poor quality accommodation
- 7%** fear of anti-social behaviour
- 4%** money problems
- 4%** temporary accommodation
- 4%** no safe outdoor area or access to play/recreational spaces
- 3%** live in isolated community
- 2%** hazards in family home
- 2%** frequently moving neighbourhood or home
- 3%** other

91% of the children that came to Barnardos had family and relationship needs.

Family and Social Relationships Needs

- 16%** parent overburdened
- 13%** discord in the family
- 10%** little peer contact
- 9%** parenting difficulties
- 6%** domestic violence
- 6%** impaired parenting capacity
- 6%** poor peer relations/social/communication skills
- 5%** parental separation/parents never lived together
- 5%** impaired parent/child relationship
- 5%** socially isolated
- 3%** neglect
- 2%** emotional abuse
- 5%** other

Of the children we worked with in 2006, **30%** had physical health needs.

Physical Health Needs

- 7%** speech and language problems/delays
- 4%** poor physical care/self care
- 3%** poor nutrition
- 3%** developmental delay/delay in physical health
- 2%** failure to thrive
- 1%** physical disability
- 1%** health neglected
- 1%** hearing problems
- 1%** low take up of childhood developmental check-ups / immunisations
- 7%** other

* Living situation: children's needs relating to their living environment for example the condition of their accommodation or the incidence of crime or anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods.
Figures have been rounded to eliminate decimals. Exact figure is 98.6%

Working with Children and Families - Highlights of 2006:

Family Welfare Conference Service Opens in South Tipperary

A new Barnardos Family Welfare Conference (FWC) project opened in South Tipperary in March 2006. This service is funded by the HSE and is based in Clonmel. Barnardos Family Welfare Conference is a simple and effective way to support children and young people who are having problems – for example difficulties at home, missing out in school or getting into trouble.

A FWC brings together family members, who can include grandparents, uncles, aunts and other people who are significant to the child. It gives everyone who has an interest in the child's well-being a chance to have their voices heard and, most importantly, the child or the young person is at the centre of the process. The family makes their own plan, supported by a professional from Barnardos, giving them greater ownership of the solution to any problem they may be facing.

A New Springboard for Families in West Dublin

Barnardos launched a new project in the West Dublin suburbs of Mulhuddart/Corduff. The project operates under the National Springboard Initiative, funded by the HSE, and supports vulnerable children 0 to 12 years and their parents.

Building for Brighter Futures in Knocknaheeny

Building work commenced on a new Barnardos centre in Knocknaheeny, Cork. This purpose built centre, at the heart of the community, will be completed in 2007 and will support local children's learning and development.

Children's Centre of Excellence is Launched in Dungarvan

In December 2006, Emily Logan, the Ombudsman for Children, officially opened a new centre hosting the Dungarvan Family Support project run by Barnardos and the Waterford County Childcare Committee. The centre will play a vital role in supporting and promoting better futures for children in County Waterford and will create a centre of excellence for children in the county.

Case Study from a Family Welfare Conference

An underlying principle of the Family Welfare Conference model is that the child's voice is heard.

Sarah was referred to Barnardos when she was 11 years old as there were fears for her safety. She had stopped attending school and had begun to hang out with older, vulnerable teenagers, often staying away for several days at a time. At home her dad was violent to her mother, who struggled with her mental health.

A Family Welfare Conference (FWC) was organised to help Sarah and her family come up with a plan to keep Sarah safe.

The Barnardos FWC co-ordinator contacted key professionals to give relevant information at the meeting. The co-ordinator also worked with Sarah to identify who she wanted to attend the meeting.

An advocate was appointed to help Sarah prepare what she wanted to say. Sarah wrote a poem and drew pictures which highlighted what was happening for her at home and what she wanted to be different. The advocate accompanied Sarah to the family meeting and supported her throughout.

The family came up with the following plan:

- Sarah's mother agreed to contact her sister (Sarah's aunt) for support when she was feeling low and to attend mental health services.
- Sarah's father agreed to meet a worker from Men Overcoming Violent Emotions (MOVE).
- Sarah agreed to go to her grandmother's house every Saturday.
- Sarah's aunt agreed to help Sarah with her homework twice a week.
- Sarah agreed to ground rules on curfew and not running away from home.
- She agreed to go back to school and to link with the school principal as a support.
- If Sarah does not turn up for school, the principal agreed to contact Sarah's mother to let her know.

At the follow-up review meeting it was found that Sarah was happier, she was attending school and had better routines at home. There was less tension at home and the family felt more supported by their extended family.

Our Central Services

Bereavement Counselling for Children

We can't shield a child from the reality of death, but we can help them to understand, to grieve and to cope a little better.

In 2006, we provided counselling and therapy to 482 children, young people, parents and carers who had suffered a bereavement, some under traumatic circumstances, such as suicide, murder or a road traffic accident.

We also reached a milestone when Barnardos celebrated ten years of providing our bereavement counselling service for children.

Poem by a child who attended our bereavement counselling service:
Barnardos is the best place to go, If you have a family sorrow.
They will help you feel a ton better, Rather than your eyes getting wetter.

Guardian ad Litem

Barnardos' Guardian ad Litem service works with vulnerable children in certain types of legal proceedings. A Guardian acts as an independent voice to represent the child's interests, wishes and needs to the court.

In 2006, the team expanded to 15 practitioners. We also extended our portfolio to include young parents (under 18) whose children were subject to care proceedings.

In addition, 2006 saw the Barnardos Guardian ad Litem team progress the rights of refugee children to fair treatment and procedure.

During the past year, Barnardos provided a voice to 181 children and young people engaged with the courts system. Work ranged from children involved in contentious custody and access disputes to children who were subject of a Care Order.

Mark has a long-term disability. He was four when our Guardian supported his adoption by his foster family, ensuring he would be raised in a stable, loving family.

"Barnardos' involvement speeded up the process. Mark is very well and is off his medication, the worst seems to be over. He will be five in June and the future looks great." Mark's adoptive dad

Origins Information and Tracing Service

Barnardos helps people who grew up in Ireland's industrial schools to trace their family of origin. We provide advice, support and mediation to a person looking to trace their parents, siblings or other relatives.

At the end of 2006 we had completed over 3,000 applications for personal records. Our information counsellors provided assistance and support with many issues, emotions and questions that arose for individuals during the process.

Barnardos' Origins service, which is funded by the Department of Education and Science, has been extended to December 2008 to deal with applications for family tracing and information.

"I'm getting answers all the time for questions I've had all my life. I now know who I am." Client

Adoption Advice Service (AAS)

AAS provides confidential, independent advice and support to adopted people, birth parents and adoptive parents. This is done in individual counselling sessions and in a group setting.

Following the launch of the National Adoption Contact Preference Register in 2005, the AAS had a busy year in 2006 with almost 450 new clients seeking advice and support.

Demand for our support groups was also high with over 100 people participating. During 2006, we also initiated our first support group for birth fathers.

"The shame and guilt I have felt for so long is at last beginning to lift. I am so sorry I didn't contact Barnardos years ago."
Birth mother, 64 years old

National Children's Resource Centre (NCRC)

In 2006, the NCRC's Library and Information service dealt with more than 12,000 enquiries on parenting, child welfare, childcare, bereavement and many other issues. We also enhanced our service, providing an on-line library catalogue.

We developed our Training and Consultancy service in the past year, to include new courses such as Diversity Awareness and Quality Childcare and School-age Childcare. 639 professionals and 74 parents took part in NCRC training throughout Ireland.

In addition, the NCRC produced a range of publications on topics such as child protection, school-age childcare and childcare management.

"The resources are practical, just what I need in my every day work."
Childcare worker

Advocacy Review

Norah Gibbons, Director of Advocacy and Central Services

Barnardos believes Ireland can be the best place in the world to be a child and that is why we advocate for the changes needed to make this dream a living reality for our one million children.

We campaign to increase awareness around four priority issues and the impact each has on children's lives:

- educational disadvantage
- poverty
- child protection
- the impact of alcohol abuse on children.

We advocate for early intervention and prevention initiatives for children, underpinned by the necessary developments and changes in policy, legislation, practice and resource allocation, in order that children can receive the quality accessible services they need to reach their potential.

In 2006, much of our work focused on child protection as we sought to rise to the challenges presented by the statutory rape crisis, a situation whereby children were rendered more vulnerable to sexual abuse when existing rape legislation was struck down following a successful Constitutional challenge.

Barnardos spoke out about the removal of this protection and highlighted the need for comprehensive child protection legislation, along with changes to the Constitution to include a statement of children's rights.

We highlighted the need for children to be adequately safeguarded with the disappearance from state care of unaccompanied minors (children migrating from abroad who arrive in Ireland without a parent or guardian). Barnardos advocated for these children to be housed in dedicated children's residences and cared for by appropriately qualified staff. We also recommended the creation of a database of all children in the country.

Barnardos provided an all-island perspective on child protection when we played a key role with statutory agencies in bringing together child protection specialists, police, civil servants and NGOs from both sides of the border for a North/South summit to provide a protection framework for all children on the island of Ireland. Work on this framework is currently being taken forward by the statutory agencies North and South.

Advocacy Highlights in 2006:

Making the case for children's rights in the Constitution

Barnardos launched our Children's Rights in the Constitution campaign in November 2006 with a national poll showing three out of four people would vote for children's rights in the Constitution. A national conference followed, with keynote speeches from the Head of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Jaap Doek, and leading Irish child rights expert Geoffrey Shannon.

To raise awareness of the need to change the Constitution, Barnardos created a national advertising campaign which centred on the image of a little girl sitting on a shelf in a lost property office. The campaign message was: 'Can you stand for a Constitution that forgets children?' with creative work being provided by leading advertising agency Cawley Neal TBWA. That message encapsulates our belief that children and their rights have been forgotten by the Constitution.

Our campaign to insert children's rights into the Constitution continues, with the addition of many other voices now calling for change.

Educational disadvantage – sending the Government a report card

One in three children from disadvantaged communities cannot read, write or do basic maths on leaving primary school. That shocking and startling fact was one of six that Barnardos included in a report card to Government which told politicians that they "must do better". The other key areas where disadvantaged children are being failed by the education system are: high drop-out rates; low pre-school rates; high school costs; lack of out of school activities and minimal support for children and teachers.

Over 2,000 people have sent the Minister for Education and Science the report card calling for the Government to do better for children. Our pre-school recommendation, that every child receive a year's free quality pre-school before joining primary school, captured the political imagination. By the end of 2006, we began to see that pre-school commitment reflected in the policies of all the major political parties.

We will continue to work to make sure no child gets left behind.



Our People - Staff

In 2006, Barnardos employed 320 staff across Ireland.

Human Resource (HR) Strategy

Barnardos believes in providing a rewarding work experience to staff and volunteers.

During 2006, we continued to implement our HR strategy, which includes employee recruitment, retention and development, as well as risk management and employee welfare and HR systems.

We developed and implemented a number of initiatives, which included: a review of our recruitment process; a reward and recognition strategy; a worker protection system; a stress management strategy and the installation of an integrated HR and payroll system.

Diversity was also a priority with the implementation of a work/life balance policy and the diversity proofing of all policies.

In addition, we carried out a training needs analysis for Barnardos and a plan was completed and implemented, meeting the training needs of staff in line with our strategy.

To ensure the highest standards of child protection Barnardos secures Garda clearance of all staff. As well as being registered with the Garda Vetting Unit, Barnardos has registered with an umbrella organisation for the Criminal Records Bureau in the UK and with the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults service in Northern Ireland.

A family support worker discusses Barnardos' work:

"Oftentimes children are referred to Barnardos because they are missing school. When we meet with the family it becomes clear that school attendance is an outward symptom of what's happening at home. There may be issues such as alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, separation and loss. Also, it may not be a priority to get children to school as the parents' experience of education was really negative. When you work with the whole family, you can make changes in the home and have a major impact on a child's life."

"Sometimes families are in despair and can't see the next logical steps that will lead them out of the hole they're in. Our work with families is about helping them see that they have choices. It's not just us coming in with the answers. It's about helping people to see their potential to change and to have a better quality of life."





Our People - Volunteers

Barnardos would not be able to provide its vital services for children and families across Ireland without the dedication, commitment and skill of our many volunteers. In 2006, Barnardos was supported by 280 volunteers.

Our volunteers range in age from 15 to 75 and over. They work in our children's services, on our Board, in our fundraising efforts and they help in our chain of charity shops. Our volunteers also reflect the growing diversity of Ireland – we have volunteers from many different backgrounds and countries, including Italy, France, Spain, America, Romania, Nigeria, Kenya, Japan and Germany.

Highlights of 2006:

President Mary McAleese presented our top volunteers with “Barnardos Volunteer Awards”. We also ran the “Helping Hands Young Volunteer Awards”, sponsored by Softech, to reward young people for their commitment to their community.

In 2006, Barnardos was assisted by a number of school volunteers. They played a key part in many of our initiatives, e.g. the FM104 Help A Dublin Child street collections; events, such as the 10th Anniversary of Barnardos bereavement counselling service; Christmas gift-wrapping; and the annual Carlow Glam Night and fashion sale.

Companies also took on team challenges for Barnardos. We received support from Vodafone, the German Irish Association, Barclays International and Bank of Ireland.

In his own words – the volunteer

“I enjoy volunteering because the children, their parents and the staff are really supportive and appreciate what I do. They really value the work of the volunteer. At the same time I feel I have done something worthwhile for the community and I hope I can set an example to others,” says Tommy Deere, a long-term volunteer in Barnardos Centre, Carlow.

“Many children in Ireland today grow up in a one parent family and don't have any male figure in their lives. The children - boys and girls - seem to appreciate that I am a man helping them out in the after-school group,” Tommy concluded.



Fundraising Review

Ruth Guy, Director of Fundraising and Marketing

Every euro we raise is essential to funding the work that Barnardos does right across the country. And the stark reality is that every year we need more money just to keep our services going and ensure no child in Ireland gets left behind. To do that we call on the support of the general public, companies, trusts and many other sources of private funding.

In 2006 we saw support for Barnardos grow, resulting in an increase of over 48% in private income raised over the previous year – a record for Barnardos.

This endorsement came to us in various guises. Our corporate partners continued to support us, notably AIB through the Better Ireland Programme and the AIB Toy Appeal; and Danone through continued sponsorship of the Danone Big Toddle for Barnardos, Ireland's largest fundraising event for the under fives. FM104 launched their Help a Dublin Child Appeal with a street collection on a very wet December 18th, kicking off a series of incredible fundraising events.

More individuals than ever before chose to become supporters of Barnardos and committed to giving us a monthly donation; others organised events, ran marathons, swam miles or convinced others to do so on our behalf.

And, once again, the year finished on a high with the largest ever response to our Christmas mailing and a hugely successful Spirit of Christmas gala in Dublin Castle.

Our work throughout the year was supported by the energy and commitment of our Fundraising Board, led by Paul McGowan who succeeded Harry Slowey as chair.

Every year we keep asking people to listen to what we are telling them about the challenges children and families in Ireland are facing. We keep asking because the barriers are still there, poverty exists and we need to continue our work. We never take the support we receive for granted, because we see every day the difference it makes. Thank you for listening and for supporting us. We hope you continue to do so, and tell others to, because together we can make Ireland the best place in the world to be a child.





Barnardos Retail

Barnardos charity shops raise funds to support our services for children and families. Their high-street presence also plays a crucial role in raising awareness of our work and the difficulties faced by children in Ireland. For shoppers they are a veritable treasure trove, stocking the best in second-hand bargains, as well as cut-price brand new goods.

Barnardos Retail is leading the field in the charity shop sector. In 2006 we launched Barnardos Brand New – where we offer exciting new goods that have been donated to Barnardos by a wide range of manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers. Our shop in Liffey Street, at the heart of Dublin's shopping district, is dedicated to brand new goods which are sold at a fraction of their shelf value.

Barnardos Brand New Bridal Boutique, located above our shop in Dún Laoghaire, Dublin, received wide-spread media attention in 2006 for the quality and value of the gowns on offer. It carries a wide range of new wedding dresses at a fraction of their original cost.

To support the further development of our retail network, which currently consists of seven shops, a shops advisory board was established in the last year. The advisory board, chaired by Fiachra Nagle, played a critical role in hosting our high profile retail business briefing in September 2006, which we used to show-case developments in the charity retail sector.

The work carried out in the shops is dependent both on the generosity of the public who donate goods and bag bargains and those in the retail sector who support our Brand New initiative. The smooth and profitable running of our shops is made possible by our committed team of staff and volunteers.

Internal Services and Financial Review

Jacki Conway, Director of Internal Services

We are now in the third year of our 12 year strategy and investment programme and we have grown significantly in recent years, and at a rapid rate. This pace continued during 2006.

Internal investment

In the past year we invested in the training and development of our staff to ensure that they are well equipped to tackle the challenges they face in their work. In addition, we implemented a number of initiatives to improve conditions of employment for our employees and volunteers.

We also updated our payroll system and continued to upgrade IT equipment over five years old.

Our investment in 2006 was focused on ensuring that we are positioned to carry out our work as effectively and cost efficiently as possible.

Our finances

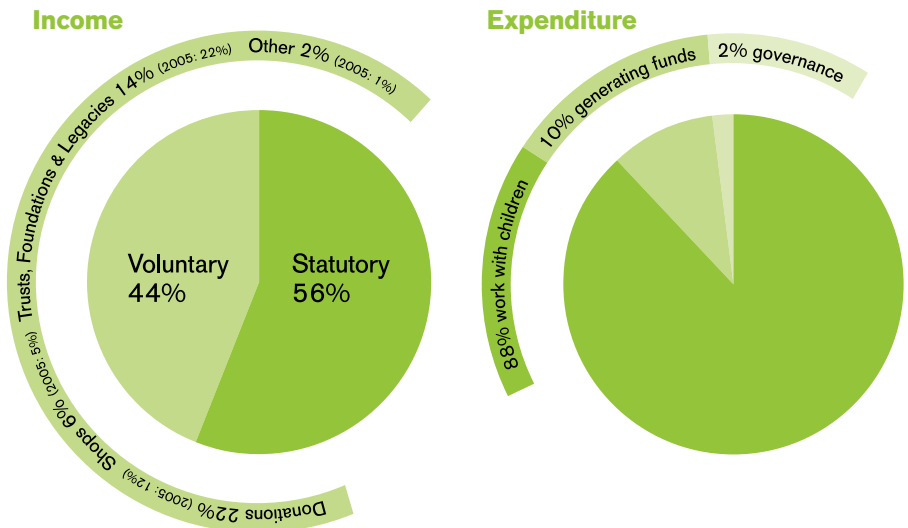
Barnardos' work is supported through a combination of statutory and voluntary funding. In 2006, we raised a total income of €19.5m. 56% of the cost of our child and family support services was funded by a variety of statutory sources, mainly the Health Service Executive and a number of government departments.

In the past year we also invested both in the provision of services for which no statutory funding is currently available and in management and professional supports, which are important in supporting effective and enduring outcomes for the children and families using our services.

These investments were made possible through the support of our philanthropic partners, notably The Atlantic Philanthropies and The One Foundation; corporate and individual donors; and our many supporters among the public at large. We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of individuals and companies who offered their expertise on a pro bono basis.

Financial Highlights

Barnardos raised a total income of €19.5m in the year ended 31 December 2006, an increase of 11% on 2005. Total expenditure amounted to €19.4m, resulting in a modest surplus for the year.



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

10 cent was spent on generating funds, and in 2006 Barnardos achieved a record increase of 48% on private income raised on the previous year.

2 cent was spent on governance.

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 2006. The statutory financial statements, on which the auditors (Ernst and Young) expressed an unqualified opinion, have been filed with the Registrar 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 2006

Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account

| | 2006 | 2005 |
|---|---------------|----------------------|
| | Total | Total |
| | Funds | Funds |
| | €000s | (as restated) |
| | €000s | €000s |
| Incoming Resources | | |
| Voluntary income | 5,293 | 5,454 |
| Incoming resources for charitable activities | 10,040 | 9,565 |
| Activities for generating funds | 3,964 | 2,379 |
| Investment income | 198 | 139 |
| Other incoming resources | 11 | - |
| Total Incoming Resources | 19,506 | 17,537 |
| Resources Expended | | |
| Cost of generating funds | 2,821 | 2,293 |
| Charitable activities | 16,263 | 14,353 |
| Governance costs | 281 | 306 |
| Total Resources Expended | 19,365 | 16,952 |
| Net incoming resources before transfers | 141 | 585 |
| Transfers between funds | - | - |
| Net Incoming Resources | | |
| Before Other Recognised Gains and Losses | 141 | 585 |

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. The surplus for the year for Companies Act purposes was €141k (2005: €585k).

Summary Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2006

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses For the Year Ended 31 December 2006

| | 2006 €000s | 2005 €000s |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Net Incoming Resources for the Year | 141 | 585 |
| Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension scheme | 613 | 284 |
| Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the Year | 754 | 869 |

Reconciliation of Movement in Reserves For the Year Ended 31 December 2006

| | 2006 €000s | 2005 €000s |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Net Incoming Resources for the Year | 141 | 585 |
| Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension scheme | 613 | 284 |
| Total recognised gains and losses for the year | 754 | 869 |
| Reserves at the beginning of the year | 6,792 | 5,923 |
| Reserves at the End of the Year | 7,546 | 6,792 |

Summary Accounts for The Year Ended 31 December 2006

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2006

| | 2006 €000s | 2005 €000s |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Assets Employed | | |
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Tangible assets | <u>2,288</u> | <u>2,598</u> |
| Current Assets | | |
| Debtors | 1,322 | 1,585 |
| Cash at bank and short term deposits | 6,692 | 6,289 |
| | 8,014 | 7,874 |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Creditors (amounts falling due within one year) | 2,556 | 2,920 |
| Provision for liabilities and charges | 116 | - |
| | 2,672 | 2,920 |
| Net Current Assets | 5,342 | 4,954 |
| Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Liability | <u>84</u> | <u>760</u> |
| Net Assets | 7,546 | 6,792 |
| Represented by | | |
| General fund | 6,546 | 5,986 |
| Restricted income fund | 1,000 | 806 |
| Total Funds | 7,546 | 6,792 |

Barnardos Board

The support of our Board is an invaluable contribution to Barnardos. We wish to thank them for volunteering their experience, expertise and time to help us achieve Barnardos' vision.

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Harry Slowey | Chair | Appointed 29 June '06 |
| Niamh Cleary | Vice Chair | Appointed 27 Sept '06 |
| Michael Mortell | Hon. Treasurer | Appointed 29 June '06 |
| Owen Keenan | | |
| Declan Ryan | | |
| Michael Murray | | |
| Shalini Sinha | | |
| Fintan O'Toole | | |
| Deirdre Kiely | | Appointed 30 March '06 |
| Deirdre Mortell | | Appointed 29 June '06 |
| Owen O'Brien | | Appointed 29 June '06 |
| Sheila Greene | | Appointed 30 Nov '06 |
| Resigned: | | |
| Mary Broughan | | Resigned 29 June '06 |
| Olivia O'Leary | | Resigned 29 June '06 |

Barnardos Fundraising Board

Fundraising is crucial for our continued work with children and families and the dedication and commitment of our Fundraising Board played a central role in achieving our fundraising targets in 2006.

Paul McGowan, Chair
Roy Barrett,
Martin Dobey,
Michael Dowling,
Seamus O'Tighearnaigh



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:

Barnardos,
Christchurch Square,
Dublin 8.

T: 01-453 0355
Callsave: 1850 222 300
E: info@barnardos.ie

Registered charity 6015

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.