
Surviving Childhood

Annual Review 2009


Barnardos



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These are the stories of children who are surviving childhood in Ireland today. They represent the thousands of children who have no-where to turn, no-one to listen to them and no-one to help them. Barnardos works to support these children and their families. We refuse to let them down.

“If your child had only one leg, you wouldn’t push them to run! I don’t know what Rachel is even capable of, intellectually or emotionally. Getting an assessment for her is like looking for hen’s teeth.”

Veronica, mother of Rachel, age 14.

Rachel is 14. She lives in HSE residential care in an open unit. Rachel moved here six months ago.

In the open unit, Rachel can come and go as she likes. Sometimes when she goes out, she doesn’t return for days...

When Rachel was nine years of age, she was diagnosed as having ADHD. Her mother had noticed that she had real trouble making and keeping friends and she would react to every little thing. The diagnosis helped to explain Rachel’s difficult behaviour and she was put on medication to help control it.

The diagnosis also meant that Rachel was entitled to extra support in school. While having a dedicated special needs assistant made a huge difference to Rachel, school was never easy for her.

And then a few months ago, her diagnosis was changed. A new psychiatrist determined that Rachel did not have ADHD, or any other condition. All her supports were removed immediately and the medication stopped. Her mother was told that the medication had not been enough to medicate ADHD, even if that had been the issue.

The change in diagnosis shattered Rachel’s world. Her mother didn’t know what to do.

Rachel started first year of secondary school as planned, but she quickly became labelled as troublesome. Her behaviour became more and more difficult to manage at home, and in school. She started to fall in with a bad crowd and taking drugs. Rachel wasn’t coping. She stopped going to school.

Social workers determined that Rachel’s behaviour was putting her at risk and recommended that she be placed in residential care.

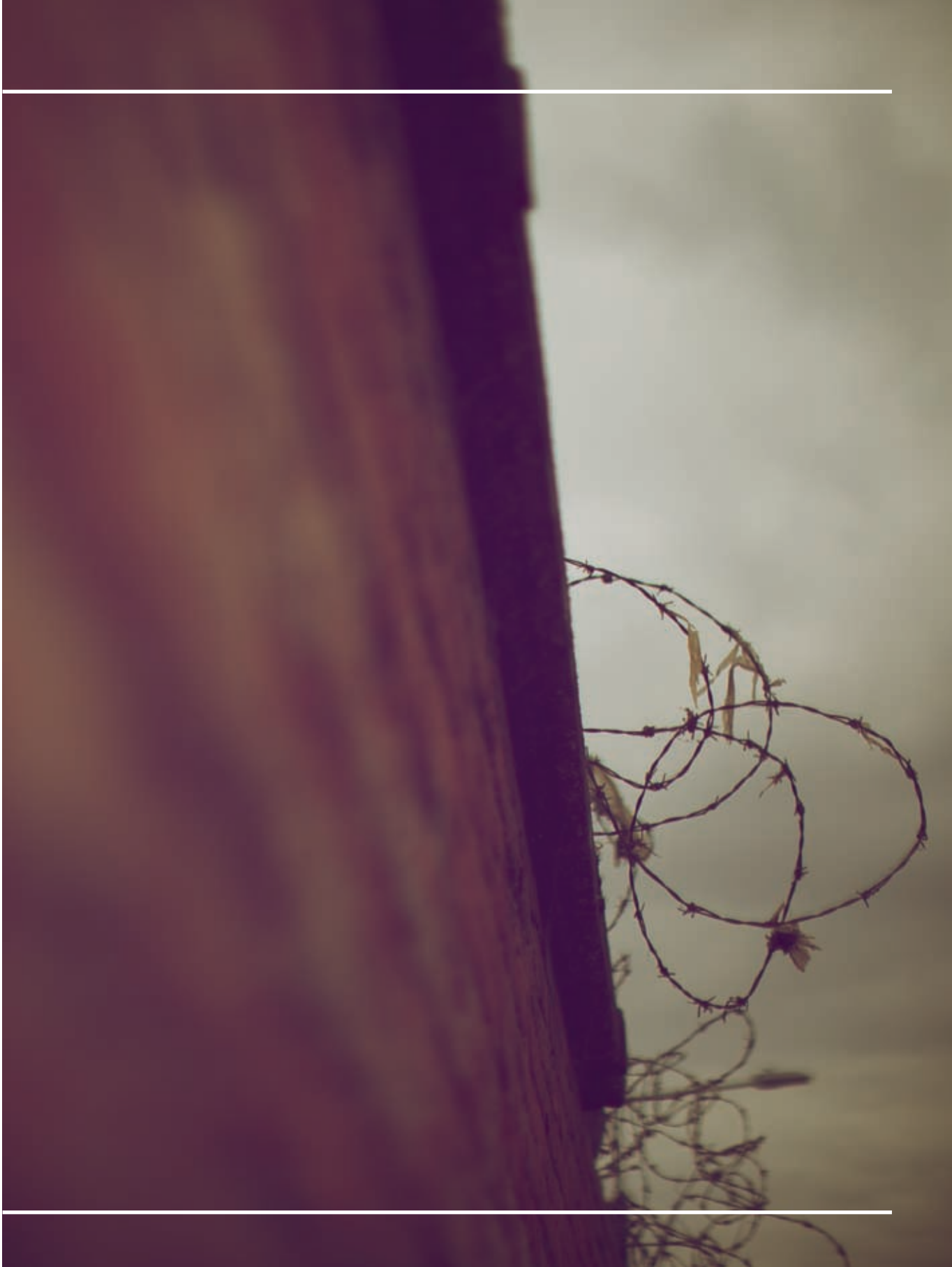
Rachel moved into residential care and her case was referred to Barnardos’ Family Welfare Conference service, to enable Rachel and all involved in caring for her to meet and design a plan to keep her safe. Rachel was assigned a Barnardos key worker, Anne, and they began to meet regularly. Rachel told Anne about her feelings of paranoia and frustration and how she felt that everyone was staring at her wherever she went.

Based on the input of Rachel and her family, Anne organised meetings between Rachel, her family and all of the professionals involved in her care so they could hear Rachel’s voice and work together to consider the options available to Rachel. These meetings are on-going.

Rachel’s family don’t want her to stay in residential care but there is no other service available to them at present, and they can’t manage her behaviour on their own.

Her mother is frustrated with the lack of services available and the lack of follow-up for Rachel after her ADHD diagnosis was removed. She’s fighting for a full and comprehensive assessment of Rachel’s abilities – emotional and educational so that her needs can be properly assessed and the right care and services provided. She says it’s like looking for hen’s teeth.

In the open unit, Rachel’s progress is very slow. She is surviving in a system that does not cater for her.



“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

Nelson Mandela

If Ireland were to be judged by how it treats its children I feel we would be found sadly lacking, on our past performance but also on our present.

As a country we have failed our children repeatedly. We have failed to listen to them and we have failed to provide for them. Over a year ago all were horrified to hear of the abuse and mistreatment of children as published in the Ryan report. It was followed by the Murphy report, and again there was public outrage.

We were aghast that children could have been so poorly treated, neglected and abused in a country whose own proclamation of independence talks of ‘cherishing all children equally’. We found it incredible that no-one listened to these children; that their voices were never heard and indeed were stifled. We took to the streets to mark our objections publically.

And yet more than one year on from the Ryan report, we are still not listening to children. We are still not caring for them and we are still not protecting the most vulnerable in our society.

In 2008, more than 65,200 children in Ireland were living in poverty. Since then, the impact of recession, and the resulting spending cuts, means that the lives of many of these children have gone from bad to worse.

Tonight in Ireland, thousands of children will go to bed hungry, scared, abused. Why? Because they have been born into a life that will dictate their future. They have no choice. There is no-one there for these children. No-one is listening. The institutions of the State, whose role is to protect these children, are so overburdened and under-resourced that they can only fail them. Why are we allowing the same mistakes to be repeated yet again?

When we marched in the streets for the lost childhoods of the past, did we not know that every day in Ireland thousands of children are suffering the same neglect, abuse, vulnerability as before? The children who are born into areas of neglect and deprivation; the children of families for whom poverty is a millstone around their neck, dragging them down year on year, generation after generation. These are the children who do not have a voice in Ireland today.

Sometimes Barnardos’ door is the only one that remains open to them.

The team in Barnardos led by Fergus Finlay, has worked hard to ensure that we can keep the doors of our projects open in the face of rising difficulties. Helping children and families step through those doors into a brighter future is our mission – the reason we exist. We refuse to let them down.

We listen, we help, we support. We work with the children and families to break the cycle of poverty and to create new futures. We work to ensure that each child is cherished equally and that children have a voice in this country. A voice that is not just heard, but listened to and not only by us, but on a statutory level.

Barnardos continues to campaign for a constitutional referendum to ensure that children are recognised and listened to. We hope this year that we will see a date set for that referendum and that Ireland can take a real step to becoming the best place in the world to be a child.

Harry Slowey
Chairman

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

Our volunteers support every facet of Barnardos, including our board. Every member of our board freely donates their time, their skills and their experience. We are truly grateful to have the support of a group of visionaries who are deeply committed to Barnardos’ ethos of excellence and our objective of making Ireland the best place in the world to be a child.

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

Barnardos Board 2009

Harry Slowey	Chair
Niamh Cleary	Vice Chair
Michael Mortell	Honorary Treasurer
Tony Crooks	Co-opted, 12 February 2009
Sheila Greene	
Deirdre Kiely	
Deirdre Mortell	
Jim Mountjoy	Co-opted, 23 April 2009
Michael Murray	
Alan Wyley	Elected, 16 July 2009
Owen O’Brien	Resigned, 12 February 2009
Dianne O’Kelly/ Niamh Kavanagh	Company Secretary

“I can still remember the smell, as he pushed my head into the pillow.”

That sentence haunts me still. I can't even remember which of the many reports it was in. All I can remember is that I had to stop when I read it. It brought me up short, to the point where I could hardly breathe. It seemed to me then, and still, that it captured all the suffering, all the scars, all the brutality and corruption about which we have had to learn so much in the last year or so.

Thousands of boys and girls were condemned to suffering of that kind. Generation after generation of them. They were different in all sorts of ways – different in where they came from, in their circumstances, in their ages, in their resilience, in their suffering. But they all had one thing in common.

The one thing that united every one of those children was that they weren't listened to. Thousands upon thousands of children sent to institutions run by religious orders, and paid for by the state, and not one of them was ever represented in front of the courts that despatched them.

They weren't listened to because it never occurred to

anyone in the system that they had a right to be listened to. In fact it seldom occurred to anyone that they had any rights at all. It was possible to mistreat and abuse thousands of children because they simply had no rights.

Of course, we listen to children nowadays. Sometimes, anyway. If a child has to appear in an Irish court charged with a crime, he or she has an automatic right to be heard. No judge would allow the trial of a child to proceed without proper representation. But if a child is to be removed from his or her family and placed in care, there is no similar obligation on the judge to ensure that the child is represented. Many judges do insist, but it's at their discretion. There is still no right to be heard.

And yet – thanks to yet another report – we now know that children have died in the care of our State. Not thirty or forty years ago. But this year. And we know that care, although it's often provided in happy and caring family situations, doesn't always work. And are children listened to in those situations? Yet more reports tell us that they're not.

And that unwillingness to listen, to recognise the right of children to be heard, is all too often the reason for lives that spiral out of control.

That's just one of the reasons – and one of the most pressing ones – why we need to change our Constitution, to give our children some express rights. When he was responding to the publication of the Ryan Report, our Taoiseach told the Dáil that the only possible response he wanted to consider was to make Ireland a model for the rest of the world about how children should be treated.

And since the Ryan Report, policy has developed considerably where children are concerned. But there is a huge gap, we are discovering, between the development of policy and its implementation. We are a long way from getting the structures, resources and legislation right, if we really want to be a model.

It begins, though, with our fundamental law, the Irish Constitution. All the groundwork has been done to develop a set of rights that would really change the way we think about children, and the

way public policy and the law would respect and prioritise them. The political system has reached broad agreement on a set of rights to put to the people. We know, from research we have published in association with other organisations committed to the welfare and protection of children, that there is a massive groundswell of support for change in this area. And still we are waiting for a government decision to give the people a choice in the matter.

The inclusion of rights for children in our Constitution would mean that in future, it would simply not be possible to make decisions about children without considering their welfare as a first priority. It would mean that children would be listened to, and respected. It would reflect the overwhelming demand that rose up after the publication of the Ryan Report – “never again!”

If we mean it when we say “never again”, then the people will be offered an opportunity to change the Constitution. Not someday. Now.

Fergus Finlay
Chief Executive



“I know if he’s had a good day, just by looking at his lunchbox. If he’s eaten it all, it’s been bad but if there’s lots left I know he’s been too busy playing with other kids and it’s been a good day,”

Paula , mother of Shane, age 8.

Shane lives with his mum Paula and her partner, Dave. He has two older sisters and one brother Liam, who is thirteen. Shane’s family home is a bit overcrowded but his mum is very good with money and they are never short for anything. Paula’s partner Dave has lived with them for almost five years.

Shane was just six years old when he was referred to Barnardos by his primary school teacher. His teacher described him as an incredibly frustrated little boy. He frequently had aggressive outbursts which scared the other children in his class.

Shane was being bullied in school and was regularly in trouble as the teachers would spot him lashing out at his tormentors in the playground.

Shane’s key worker at Barnardos, Aoife decided he would benefit from an intensive programme called Friendship Group. The purpose of it is to help children to understand their emotions and to learn appropriate ways of expressing themselves. Shane saw it as an opportunity to make friends and jumped at the chance.

During the sessions, Aoife noticed that Shane wouldn’t talk about home. He was really interested in talking about specific issues though, particularly how to deal with bullies. Half-way through the 22 week programme, Aoife felt that she was making very little progress with Shane.

Then one day Shane started to talk. He told Aoife that he wanted to die. He talked about having ‘dark, dark days’. He said he wanted to fight the bullies because he felt sure they were going to try and beat him up. He started talking about home and said he was often scared there too.

Aoife linked in with the school counsellor, and between them they were able to get a sense of what was really going on in Shane’s life. Shane’s mother’s partner, Dave, was a very strong and abrupt character and had become a very controlling force in their home. His manner frightened Shane. Coupled with the bullying Shane experienced in school, it became much clearer as to why Shane was so frustrated, confused and aggressive.

Aoife met with Shane’s mother. Initially Paula was in denial of the

situation but slowly she started to see how Shane was crying out. She vowed to take control of the issues at home and to challenge her partner.

Things started to change quickly. Paula and Dave agreed to attend parenting sessions with Aoife twice a week. Aoife also organised for them and Shane to sit together to discuss the bullying and agree a plan of action for Shane to take if he felt in danger. They all agreed that revenge was not the way forward.

Aoife also worked with Shane and his brother Liam, the closest sibling to him in age, to help them develop a relationship and have fun together, something that had been missing from Shane’s home life.

With the right supports, Shane is dealing with his emotions and his behaviour has improved. He is in a much better place. Shane is walking tall, with his head up and a new found confidence. His home life is much more structured and his family relationships are much healthier. He is starting to make friends at school too. His mum is delighted when she see’s his lunchbox is still full after a day at school. It means he was too busy playing.

“We work together with children and parents to recognise each child’s unique strengths, abilities and to help them reach their full potential.”

In these difficult social and economic times, the demand for the services Barnardos provides to children and families in the heart of communities is increasing. In many of the areas in which we work, Barnardos is the only door left open to vulnerable children and parents. Our services provide hope to families that their lives can be improved.

We work together with children and parents to recognise each child’s unique strengths, abilities and to help them reach their full potential. We aim to ensure that children are supported to have increased emotional well-being and improved learning and development.

We work in partnership with other agencies with the aim of supporting parents in providing for their children the best childhood they possibly can.

During 2009 we reached the following milestones:

Wizards of Words (WoW) is a literacy improvement programme for children in 1st and 2nd class delivered by older volunteers. A total of 91 volunteers delivered the programme to 80 children during the school year 2008/09, and to 94 children during the school year 2009/10, in four schools in the Dublin area and to four schools in the Limerick area.

The process evaluation of the WoW programme which started in 2008, concluded in May 2009. The purpose of this evaluation was to consider the implementation and take up of the programme and the findings were very positive. The evaluation was conducted by the Child and Family Research Centre, National University of Galway. In September 2009 we commenced an outcomes evaluation of WoW to show the impact of the programme on the participating children’s reading ability, enjoyment of reading and their reading confidence.

Friendship Group; a proven model designed for children aged six to nine years who have difficulties making and maintaining friendships, was implemented in 11 projects nationally. A process evaluation of the programme highlighted that the Friendship Group is a very positive experience for participating children with both schools and parents noticing positive improvements in the social skills of the children.

Tús Maith; an early year's service for children aged three to five years, was piloted in three sites at the beginning of 2009. The programme was rolled out to a further two sites in September 2009. The programme combines the High/Scope approach, with REDI, a proven programme from the United States. REDI enhances the High Scope curriculum with additional social and emotional and emergent literacy components. A process evaluation of Tús Maith is planned for 2010.

During 2009 we began the service design process for **Partnership with Parents;** a targeted one-to-one intervention with parents who are overburdened and have poor relationships with their children. We also began service design for **Parent Coaching;** one-to-one work with parents to improve their problem solving skills in which we focus on a specific difficulty they are experiencing with their parenting.

We made great progress on the development of a new state of the art purpose-built child and family centre in Mulhuddart, Dublin 15. This is a significant investment in an area which has high levels of disadvantage in many communities, and the highest population of children and young people in the country. This project is funded through the National Childcare Investment Fund, Dormant Accounts Fund and Barnardos. The building

is due for completion in mid 2010.

In September 2009, Barnardos commenced provision of service design and development consultancy to Young Ballymun in relation to the design and implementation of their early year's service. Young Ballymun is a ten-year, community based strategy, to improve mental well-being and learning outcomes for children and young people living in Ballymun, Dublin.

We opened a pilot Family Welfare Conference in the Waterford area. A unique feature of this service is that it is focused on referrals from the disability sector.

Barnardos recognises that supporting staff is key to delivering quality services to children and families.

Our Best Practice Framework (BPF) was written and published at the end of 2009. The BPF outlines Barnardos' core beliefs and knowledge, and the skills and approach which underpin our needed, outcome focused services.

We began to revise our best practice standards for supervision and child protection to ensure clarity and accessibility. This is to facilitate their integration into daily practice across our services.

During 2009 training and support was provided to staff implementing the Wizards of Words, Friendship Group and Tús Maith programmes. Other training, provided on an ongoing basis as required, includes - Child Protection, Supervision, Shared Language Training, Barnardos Assessment Framework, Engaging Families and Active Case Management.

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

In early 2009 we completed an audit of child protection practice across Barnardos. The audit included all of our family support, early years and central services and its purpose was to examine how we are implementing our Child Protection Policy.

Our Best Practice Advisory Committee, comprising of a range of experts from Ireland and the UK, continues to be an important resource and support to us. Throughout 2009 their support focused on the WoW evaluation, evaluation plans for the Friendship Group and the service design of our parenting programmes.

We completed an evaluation of our Brighter Futures service in Knocknaheeny (Cork). The overall message of the evaluation was a positive one – that the project provides a high quality children's service in the centre of an extremely disadvantaged community, and that extremely high satisfaction levels have been recorded among parents and children.

Suzanne Connolly

Director of Children's Services

Use of Barnardos services during 2009

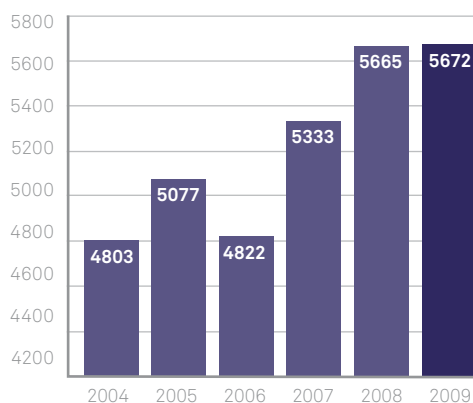
During 2009 a total of 5,672 children and parents directly participated in Barnardos services around the country, nearly two-thirds, or 3,737, were children.

The figures below compare the total number of children and parents/carers using Barnardos services between 2004 and 2009.

Table 1: Total direct work with children and their parents, 2009

Type of service	Children	Parents/ Carers	Total
Targeted Family Support and Universal Services	3,188	1,751	4,939
Guardian Ad Litem Service	311	N/A	311
Bereavement Counselling for Children Service	238	184	422
Total	3,737	1,935	5,672

Figure 1: Total Direct Work with Children and their Parents: 2004-2009



Family Support and Universal Services

The following describes in more detail the profile and circumstances of children participating in targeted family support and universal services in Barnardos. Family support services include projects that provide targeted early years support and intensive family and individual support and family welfare conference services. Universal services include services such as toy libraries, playground facilities etc. that can be accessed by all members of the local community in which Barnardos works.

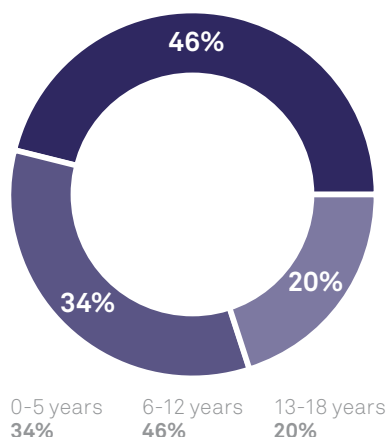
As noted above 3,188 children and 1,751 parents/carers participated in targeted family support and universal services during 2009. We know from family information that another 1,973 children benefit indirectly from Barnardos targeted family support and universal services through their parents' involvement in our services

and programmes e.g. parenting programmes, one-to-one work with parents and/or family work.

The majority of children who attended targeted family support and universal services are aged between six and twelve years, with just over 34 per cent of children aged from birth to five years. Almost 20 per cent of children and young people are aged between 13 and 18 years.

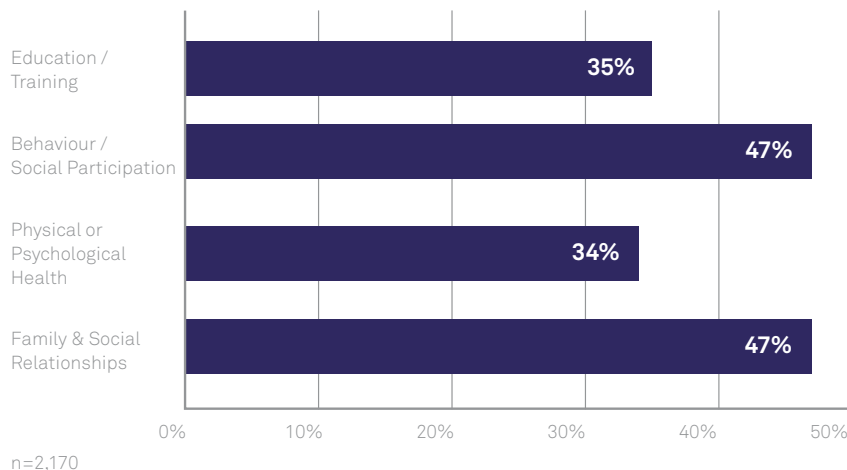
Slightly more than four out of every ten referrals were self or parent-made during 2009. 17 per cent of those referred to family support or accessing universal services were referred by social workers or other HSE child and family services. Another 15 per cent were referred by their school. The remainder of referrals came from a variety of sources including other Barnardos projects, other non-statutory community services, and health professionals (public health nurses, speech and language therapists etc).

Figure 2: Age Range of Children attending Family Support or Universal Services



* excludes age information for 96 where this data is missing

Figure 3: Needs of Children Attending Targeted Family Support Services



Of those children who accessed targeted family support services (excluding family welfare conference services) our assessment process showed that:

- 47 per cent had a need in the area of family and/or social relationships, for example dealing with family conflict or poor peer relationships.
- 47 per cent of children were assessed as having a behavioural or social participation need e.g. poor social skills or aggressive or age inappropriate behaviour.
- 35 per cent of children were assessed as having an education or training need e.g. poor school attendance, poor school readiness or low academic achievement.
- 34 per cent of children were assessed as having a physical or psychological health need

e.g. poor nutrition or speech and language delay.

Project/Service Enquiries

During 2009, project teams began to formally record the number of enquiries that they received from parents, professionals and community members; a total of 2,123 enquiries from more than 1,700 individuals were received. Almost 41 per cent of the enquiries were made by parents and 37 per cent were received from professionals. Common reasons for getting in contact with Barnardos included: learning more about our services, learning about the availability of other community services, and getting information about parenting courses.

Just over 60 per cent of enquiries were made by telephone. Nearly one-third of all enquiries were received from parents, neighbours or professionals who dropped into their local project.

Information Services

During 2009, our information services dealt with more than 8,457 face-to-face or telephone enquiries, while our Barnardos Training and Resource Service (BTRS) dealt with 6,762 online enquiries.

Table 2: Enquiries During 2009

Information Services 2009

BTRS	4,884
BTRS Online	6,762
BTRS Training Places	1,772
Adoption Advice Service	558
Bereavement Counselling for Children Service Telephone Help-Line	250
Origins Enquiries	993

“The Friendship Group programme focuses on building skills for positive social interaction and appropriate self-regulation.”

The Friendship Group is a 22-week proven intervention for children aged six to eight years that seeks to:

- Increase positive peer relationships
- Increase emotional understanding
- Increase social problem solving and negotiation
- Increase social interaction and cooperation

The Friendship Group programme supports children who may experience peer neglect or peer rejection, to develop the skills they need to interact appropriately with their peer group.

The Friendship Group programme uses a coaching model to intervene with the children. Coaching fosters gradual skill development in children and consists of three basic instructional components:

- Describing the principals and strategies of socially appropriate behaviours
- Providing opportunities to practice the strategies
- Providing supportive and corrective feedback so that children can build their competence and efficacy over time

The programme focuses on building skills for positive social interaction and appropriate self-regulation. The parallel goals are to increase positive behaviours and

decrease negative behaviours. The programme consists of four units, ordered developmentally. Each unit is made of up of between five and six sessions, each lasting for between approximately one hour and one and half hours.

During 2009, 90 children participated in the Friendship Group. 30 children took part in seven groups that started in September 2008 and finished in April 2009. Another 63 children started the programme in 11 groups in September 2009 and will finish the programme in 2010.

An evaluation of the programme during 2009 found that the experience of running the Friendship Group during 2008-2009 was a very positive experience for participating children, their parents and Barnardos' staff. The evaluation found that the participating children's pro-social behaviour improved. Typical skills that were developed included an increased capacity to name and talk about their feelings and emotions, greater confidence, sharing with others and cooperative play.

“She was shy before the group, but she’s able to blend in now. She plays with them and can talk to anyone now.”

“I find he’s able to talk more about his feelings and I think that’s a result of him coming here”



“He uses what he learned at the friendship group about sharing and shows his sisters how to share...”

“There was an atmosphere you could sense as soon as you walked into the house. You’d just never know what was going to happen next,”

Alan, Barnardos project worker.

Louise is 6. She is an only child and she lives with her mum and her aunt in a council house in a housing estate. An atmosphere of tension hangs over them. Louise’s short life has been full of conflict and violence.

Louise’s dad passed away almost two years ago. While he didn’t live with her, she was close to him and misses him a lot. The relationship between her parents was very troubled and now that her dad is gone, she has no contact with his extended family.

Louise’s mum has a physical disability and suffers from depression. Her aunt lives with them as her mum’s carer. Louise’s mother and aunt fight all the time. They never agree on anything, particularly when it comes to Louise.

Their views on parenting and discipline are poles apart. Louise’s aunt grounded her for three weeks for not brushing her teeth. While her mother uses violence to enforce discipline, often biting and hitting Louise.

Louise is very confused by the adults in her life. She never knows where she stands and spends hours by herself in her bedroom, often crying.

Louise was referred to Barnardos by a social worker in the mental health service after her dad died. When she first came to Barnardos, Alan, her key worker helped her to make a Memory Book where she stuck in photos of her Dad and drew pictures of the memories she had of him, the times when he read to her before going to bed and their day trips to the beach... But not all the memories were positive.

Louise is a likeable child. Her attendance at school is good and she is doing alright. She receives help with her homework at an after school club and is keen to do well. It is clear that she loves the special attention she gets at Barnardos and at the after school club. But at home, she is often lonely, and feels very isolated.

Louise is a huge fan of Man United, just like her dad was. She has a jersey that she bought out of the money she got for her birthday earlier this year. She loves wearing it. Every chance she gets to go outside, she practices her football skills; pounding the ball off the wall at the front of the house. Louise would love to join a team but she always plays alone.

Alan has been working with

Louise’s mum and her aunt in family counseling sessions, helping them to see the impact of their aggressive behaviour on Louise, helping them to consider Louise’s needs and showing them how to have some fun as a family.

Previously, Louise’s aunt would never let Louise and her mum out of the house alone together, but Alan has organised some safe activities away from the confines of the small house so that Louise and her mum can spend some quality time together. He has encouraged the adults to actively involve Louise in family decision making and the planning of activities, such as trips to the cinema.

Life at home has improved for Louise, she smiles a lot more. Both adults have made a noticeable effort to reduce the verbal abuse and shouting matches that were a constant feature of their life. And the physical violence for the purpose of discipline has ended.

While the family will require ongoing support, huge steps have already been taken to ensure that Louise has happier memories of her childhood in the future.



“We believe that children have a right to have their best interests placed at the core of all policy decisions that affect their lives so that every child is given the opportunity and protection to enjoy their childhood and prepare for adulthood.”

Barnardos’ advocacy aims to influence national policy, practice and legislation that have an impact on children and families, using the knowledge and experience we have gained through our work with children and families. In 2009 our advocacy work prioritised three main areas - child poverty, educational disadvantage and child protection.

**Advocacy Highlights:
Educational Disadvantage:
Written Out, Written Off campaign,
May 2009**

The Written Out, Written Off campaign set out to highlight serious gaps in the education system affecting those children living in disadvantage and the solutions needed to fill them. The campaign did this by evidencing the issues facing children using Barnardos’ services and proving the long term consequences of under investing in education for these children through research conducted by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI).

The campaign succeeded in a number of its goals, resulting in the reversal of 2009 Budget cuts to education in the Revised Programme for Government and the resultant funding for services in Budget 2010. Key successes included the Government decision to reinstate funding in areas such as class size, the School Book Grant Scheme, the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) and the School Transport Scheme among others.

**Child Poverty: Yes/ No campaign,
November 2009**

The Yes/ No campaign was an important voice ahead of Budget 2010. Barnardos took the policy decision to call for no cut to or compensatory increases to the Qualified Child Allowance and Family Income Supplement, rather than to lobby simply for no cuts to Child Benefit. This was in recognition of the fact that children living in families already facing poverty were most vulnerable and could least afford cuts to their family income.

While there was a cut to Child Benefit in Budget 2010, the Yes/ No campaign contributed to the Government’s decision to increase the Qualified Child Allowance by €3.80 per week and to introduce a €6 increase to the income disregard for Family Income Supplement to compensate families on low incomes. Due to these compensatory measures, these families did not face the full loss of this income although they did suffer the 4.1% cut to basic social welfare rates. However, 2009 remained a difficult year for children and families reliant on social welfare as they faced this 4.1% cut on top of a 2% in the form of a cut to the Christmas Bonus.

Barnardos will continue to work on this in the coming years to ensure that vulnerable children do not bear the brunt of the recession.

Child Protection

2009 saw a significant number of reports that indicated serious gaps in the child protection system in Ireland. The scandal in the Cloyne Diocese, the report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (Ryan report) and the Dublin Diocesan (Murphy) report all highlighted the serious abuse of children over many decades in Ireland. Barnardos' advocacy did significant work following the publication of the Ryan Report and the subsequent Implementation Plan in collaboration with seven other organisations including CARI, the Children's Rights Alliance, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, Irish Association of Young People in Care, ISPCC, One in Four and the Rape Crisis Network of Ireland. This work aimed to assess how the measures outlined in the Ryan Implementation Plan will influence policy work on key areas over the coming years.

A number of issues that Barnardos has long advocated for were included in the Ryan Implementation Plan including: a commitment to put the Children First child protection guidelines on a statutory footing, increase in the number of social workers for child protection, the provision of aftercare for children in the care system, equity of care for separated children in Ireland and the inspection of all residential facilities for children.

Barnardos' advocacy continued to be a credible voice across the range of issues affecting children in Ireland in 2009. We continued to promote children's best interest across a range of issues through submissions to various statutory and political bodies over the year, including:

- Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform - Criminal Justice (Public Order) (Amendment) Bill 2008



- Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform - Management of Sex Offenders
- The Expert Group on Resource Allocation and Financing in the Health Sector
- Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children
- Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure Programmes
- Office of the Minister for Children - Implementation of the Ryan Report Recommendations
- Joint Oireachtas Committee for Education and Science - Staying in School: The Way Forward
- Law Reform Commission - Legal Aspects of Family Relationships in Ireland
- Joint Oireachtas Committee for Health and Children - Adoption Bill 2009

Norah Gibbons

Director of Advocacy and Central Services



Above, left: Actress Sarah Bolger is pictured at the launch of Barnardos' report on educational disadvantage *Written Out, Written Off*.

Above: Three year old Jack joined Barnardos Chief Executive Fergus Finlay at the gates of Leinster House to launch the Yes/No campaign in advance of Budget 2010.

“Barnardos also provided support and services to more than 8,900 children and families through our national services including support at challenging times of bereavement, and law proceedings and when families need support and information about childcare or adoption.”

Barnardos Bereavement Counselling for Children

Barnardos Bereavement Counselling for Children supports children and families as they adjust to the impact of the loss of a loved one on their day to day lives.

In 2009 the Bereavement service worked with 238 children and young people and 184 parent/carers from 173 families in our centres in Dublin and Cork. The Bereavement Helpline responded to 291 calls from members of the public concerned about a bereaved child or family. In addition to this direct work, the Bereavement service also continued to engage in research, and to provide training and consultancy to other groups and organisations working with children to develop and distribute bereavement related resource materials.

Many families and children manage their grief without the need for bereavement counselling but sometimes grief can be especially difficult, and in these circumstances counselling is provided. Barnardos employs a range of counselling models in our work with children such as story-telling, art, sand, and

drama therapy. The priority is to work with the individual child to help them find a ‘new normal’ in their lives. Children benefit greatly when they are helped to express their loss and grief, especially if the death has been particularly difficult or traumatic.

Barnardos Guardian ad Litem Service

Our Guardian ad Litem service gives a voice to children involved in court proceedings and ensures that their interests are at the centre of the decisions that are being made about them. In 2009 we worked with 300 children. The children we work with are among Ireland’s most vulnerable.

The majority of our work is with children coming into the care system and with children who come before the High Courts as a result of an application being made for their admission to a Special Care facility which restricts their liberty.

Some have experienced extreme poverty and deprivation, some have been through horrific abuse, while others have experienced exceptional trauma at a very young age. Our work reporting on behalf of children caught in legal family breakdown

conflict has increased significantly.

Barnardos’ Guardian ad Litem team continued to advocate for the rights of children subject to legal proceedings during 2009. The team made a significant contribution to the publication of guidelines by the Children Act Advisory Board. ‘Giving a Voice to Children’s Wishes, Feelings and Interests: Guidance on the Role, Criteria for Appointment, Qualifications and Training of Guardians ad Litem Appointed for Children in Proceedings under the Child Care Act, 1991’ was published in May 2009.

Barnardos Origins Service

Barnardos Origins service has been supporting people who spent their childhood in Ireland’s industrial schools to trace their family history and discover their origins since 2002. The service is funded by the Department of Education and Science.

The Ryan Report published in May 2009 recommended that family tracing services continue to be provided and the Ryan Implementation Plan published in July 2009 recommended that the service should continue to be funded.

The publicity which followed the Ryan Report resulted in an upsurge of applications for our family tracing services. By the end of 2009, Barnardos received 168 applications, an increase of 66 applications on 2008 and an increase of 78 on 2007. In total, we have dealt with 1033 applications since 2002 and 875 of these are complete. Of these, over 50 per cent have resulted in either a family reunion or information about a family successfully traced.

Barnardos Post Adoption Service

During 2009 Barnardos Post Adoption Service continued to support birth-mothers, parents

who have adopted children born in Ireland, parents who have adopted children from abroad and adopted adults. A total of 576 new enquiries were made to the service from all client groups. Many workshops and support meetings were facilitated and plans are underway to organise the 38th course of birth-mother support meetings.

In 2009 we concentrated our focus on developing the service we provide to parents who have adopted children from abroad. We received 164 new enquiries to the service from parents by email and our telephone helpline seeking advice on different aspects of raising their children and from parents seeking a direct therapeutic service for their children. We facilitated 108 individual sessions with parents and children.

Most of the parents we supported have adopted children from Eastern Europe. We also provided a service to parents who have adopted children from Vietnam, Guatemala, Taiwan, China, Romania, India and Thailand. The issues that we are working to support include post institutionalisation, attachment, understanding background information, dealing with racism and many more.

Training workshops have been offered to parents on the topic of race, ethnicity and sensory integration, with more than 100 people attending each. Smaller support meetings have also been facilitated on attachment and ways of talking about adoption.

The Barnardos Post Adoption Service team has undertaken training in the latest international methods and approaches to help their work with children who have not had their early emotional or physical needs met. Training has included work with the Post Adoption Centre in London, with US based attachment



specialist Holly Van Gulden, and with Eadaoin Bhreathnach, a specialist in sensory attachment intervention. The Post Adoption Service project leader is also undertaking training in an attachment based play method called Theraplay, under the supervision of the Theraplay Institute in Chicago.

Our work with adoptive and birth families throughout the life cycle of adoption is invaluable in informing our developing service model to meet the needs of the new generation of adopted children.

Barnardos Training and Resource Service

Barnardos Training and Resource Service (BTRS) works with parents and practitioners to help improve the quality of children's lives in Ireland. 2009 was a busy and exciting year and some of the highlights include:

1,397 practitioners participated in our training courses on topics like child protection, child care, bullying, domestic violence and more. 235 parents took part in parenting programmes across the

Transition year students from St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School in Dublin 8 pictured at the launch Teenhelp, a new online resource for teenagers.

country and a range of publications for practitioners and parents on supporting children were produced.

BTRS, together with the Family Support Agency, launched a new series of Parenting Positively booklets specifically for the parents of teenagers focusing on general wellbeing, death, separation and domestic abuse. A new online support called www.barnardos.ie/teenhelp was launched dealing with the same topics and aimed at teenagers.

Almost 5,000 people used the Library and Information Service and BTRS handled more than 100 telephone calls from parents, extended family and the general public with child protection and welfare concerns. These callers were given information and guidance and many were referred to the HSE and other services.



“Martin has changed so much in the past few months, it’s hard to even describe! He’s got so much energy and enthusiasm and he just loves the playgroup on Saturdays,”

Jane, Barnardos project worker.

Martin is seven. He can learn the words of a song just from listening to it and he is a talented swimmer. But as yet he cannot read or write. Last year he transferred from mainstream school to a special needs class.

Martin lives in a crowded house with his mum and her new partner, Ray. He has an older brother, Ethan who is 12, and a sister Michelle, who is eight. And last year his mum and Ray had a new baby.

Life at home can be chaotic. Martin’s mum is busy minding the baby and finds it hard to cope with Ethan and Michelle’s behaviour. The children stay up as late as they want and are often hanging out on the street after dark.

Their behaviour is a regular source of conflict amongst the neighbours. As are Martin’s frequent outbursts and ear-piercing screaming sessions, which can last for hours.

Martin shares a room with his brother Ethan but he finds it hard to sleep at night and he often wets the bed.

Martin is a very shy and unhappy child, with low self-esteem. His brother and sister have little time for him and the children on his street tease him because he goes to a special needs school. At seven years of age, Martin prefers to be alone because it is easier than trying to mix with the other children.

When Martin was referred to Barnardos, it was because of his behaviour. But after an initial meeting, his Barnardos key worker Jane organised to work with the whole family. Jane worked with his mum in one-to-one parenting sessions, helping her with practical things like establishing routines in the morning to help the children get to school on time.

Jane worked together with Martin and his mum to help him become more independent. Martin now has his own room and a bedtime routine. He has stickers on his drawers to help him find things and he is starting to gain more independence, choosing his own clothes and dressing himself in the morning. Having his own room has given him a space to go to when he needs to calm down and rest, and he has started to sleep through the night.

Barnardos has helped Martin’s mum to look past the label of ‘special needs’ and see Martin’s potential. She has begun to take steps to actively link in with his school and other health professionals to ensure the best education and opportunities are available for Martin.

Barnardos is also working with Martin and his sister Michelle to help them bond and have fun together. Michelle now includes Martin in her games and if mum cannot find them, it’s usually because they are in the park playing with the other kids.

Martin’s confidence has really grown as a result of the support and the independence he has been given. He now makes his way to Barnardos every Saturday to join the playground group, which he loves. He is a much happier child.

His mum has seen the impact of her improved parenting on Martin and on the other children too. The entire family is benefiting.

“In all of our locations around the country, you’ll find Barnardos staff working to improve the lives of children and families.”

They work hard, often in difficult circumstances, to ensure that we know the needs of our service users and engage with them to deliver the best possible outcomes. Behind these dedicated people, we have a committed team of support staff working to ensure that Barnardos operates to quality standards in all that we do.

At the end of 2009, Barnardos employed more than 400 staff (52% full-time, 48% part-time) working across areas of services and support such as Advocacy, Research and Evaluation, Fundraising, Finance, Human Resources and IT.

2009 saw a reduction in our base statutory funding of 3%. This reduction meant that a salary freeze was put in place for 2009 and the salaries of senior managers were reduced. Our people have continued to work hard with the same level of commitment and dedication to ensure that we deliver the best quality services to children and families that respond to their needs.

Despite the financial challenges, we have recruited staff as needed to ensure that our services can continue to provide support in the

communities in which we work. We have continued to provide training to our staff to underpin the quality of services that we deliver. In 2009 we delivered over 100 training courses to ensure that training and development needs across Barnardos were met. Particular highlights included the completion of Child Protection Training for all of our staff and the continued rollout of Family Support Strategy

related training, and a variety of Health and Safety related courses.

In 2009, we continued to implement suggestions from our staff survey conducted in late 2008. In particular, we put in place a Staff Council with elected nominees from across the organisation whose specific aim is to enable all staff to contribute to the development and success of Barnardos and to continue to promote mutual trust and co-operation between Barnardos and its employees.

Our Vetting Service for those seeking Garda vetting, provided at the request of the Office of the Minister for Children, expanded its role in 2009. In addition to our existing role in relation to childcare providers, under the Preschool regulations and other groups working with children, we now provide a clearing house for vetting applications for host associations and families who bring children from Belarus to Ireland under the bilateral agreement between the countries.

Jacki Conway,
Director of Internal Services



Project manager Jenna Russell and Assistant Director Stephanie Whyte are pictured with the staff of Barnardos' Brighter Future Centre, Knocknaheeny, Cork city. The centre was officially opened by Minister for Education Batt O'Keeffe in January 2009.

“On average each volunteer contributed just under 100 hours of volunteer time. The total time contributed reached an impressive 26,604 hours or 3,547 days, that’s an increase of over 6,600 hours on 2008.”



Pictured at Barnardos' annual Volunteer Awards: MC Ray D'Arcy, national Volunteer of The Year Award winner, Kevin Higgins and Barnardos Chief Executive Fergus Finlay. Kevin has volunteered with one of Barnardos' projects in Tallaght for five years.

Volunteerism is vital to Barnardos and truly appreciated. Not only do Barnardos volunteers provide vital services and precious time to the children and families we work with in communities all over Ireland, they also provide bedrock assistance to the support teams in Barnardos.

In 2009, we received a record number of volunteer applications and by the end of the year, Barnardos had 267 consistent volunteers and

45 occasional volunteers working with us.

Their contributions included time served as Board members, in administration, as researchers, as fundraisers, working in our network of shops and directly working with children and young people in our services and projects.

On average each volunteer contributed just under 100 (99.7) hours of volunteer time. The total

time contributed by our volunteers reached an impressive 26,604 hours or 3,547 days, that’s an increase of over 6,600 hours on 2008.

Each hour represents opportunities like a child receiving extra one to one reading support, having new experiences in learning and play, homework support and so much more. In practical terms, the time contributed by volunteers ensured that Barnardos can continue to provide high quality services and supports to those who need it most.

The commitment of our volunteers was recognised at the Annual Volunteer Awards held in December with Ray D'Arcy as MC. At this event, Barnardos continued to encourage the spirit of volunteering amongst young people aged under 25 by presenting the Helping Hands award, sponsored by Softech.

We wish to thank each and every volunteer for the commitment and dedication they have shown in 2009.

“We want to say Thank You to all of you who support us in whatever way you do. We seriously couldn't do it without you.”

For an organisation like Barnardos a key requirement is that we build a long term, sustainable and predictable funding stream to support the work we do on the ground day in, day out. Having a predictable income stream helps us to plan our services and to ensure that we can continue to meet our commitment to the children and families that need us most.

When we talk to people about the work we do and ask them to support us, we always ask them to consider making a long term commitment to Barnardos. Whether it is an individual or a multinational company we are talking to, we repeatedly say to people that this is how you can best help us.

We have been incredibly lucky with the supporters we have who have made that long term commitment. From the thousands of individuals who give us a monthly standing order or direct debit or a gift of cash each year to the companies who have supported us for many years. Companies like Danone, who in 2009 sponsored our Danone Big Toddle for Barnardos for the sixth year running; Rabobank who have supported us for two years already, as part of a three year partnership; Meteor who have been behind us all the way for over four years, Sweets for Life, Select Hotels, Londis and the many others that we work with day in, day out.

It is with their support that



we can continue to work with the thousands of children and families we do every day.

In 2009 we saw cuts in our funding streams, as did everyone else. Statutory funding was cut and fundraising income was down in the early part of the year. We were looking at a potential funding crisis and the long term security of our projects was under threat. Having done all we could internally to reduce costs and protect services, we launched what in essence was our first major fundraising campaign in the 47 years of Barnardos history. The Change a Child's Future campaign launched in October and used various media channels and methods to engage the Irish public and ask for their support.

2009 was a very tough year for everyone. We knew that.

So many people were facing their own financial crisis with the loss of jobs, pay cuts and the collapse of the property market.



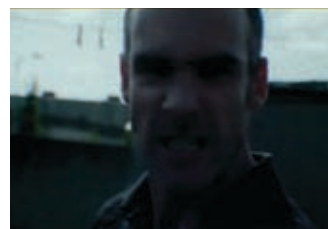
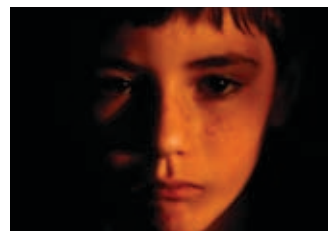
Above, left: Fergus Finlay is joined by a budding writer from St Brigid's National School, Dublin 8 at the launch of Londis' Write Up My Street campaign. School children were invited to submit stories about their community for a specially commissioned book, with all proceeds from sales going to Barnardos.

Above: Staff from Rabobank pictured after a day's volunteer work at the Barnardos centre at Buckingham Street, Dublin 1. Rabobank staff selected Barnardos as their charity partner for 2009.



**CHANGE A CHILD'S
FUTURE NOW**
CALL 1850 216 216


Barnardos
www.barnardos.ie



Barnardos first ever major fundraising campaign 'Change a Child's Future' launched in October 2009 using various channels and methods to engage the Irish public and ask for their support. The response was phenomenal. Thank you!

We knew we were asking people who effectively already had enough on their plate to give to others, but we had to. We had to for the sake of the children we work with, because without these funds the services we provide to them were under threat.

And the response? It was phenomenal. People supported us

25 trekkers from all over Ireland travelled to northern India in October 2009 to scale the dizzying heights of the Himalayas. They raised more than €60,000 for Barnardos.

Pamela Flood was joined by big toddlers, Barra Lynch, Sophie McCarty, Ashling Nyhan and Harrison D'Arcy to launch the Danone Big Toddle for Barnardos. 2009 was the sixth year of the annual fun sponsored walk with 22,000 children aged five and younger participating.

2010 and 2011 are going to be even tougher years but we know that with the support of all of those who give to Barnardos and the hard work of the Fundraising team we will make it through these hard times and we will keep our services going. We will continue to ask for support because we do need it. We need it for children like Kirsty who by age three had been taken into care as a result of a violent and abusive family situation. A three year old who wouldn't speak when we met her, she is now six and making amazing progress in big school. Her life might have been so different without Barnardos... and that's why we keep asking!

Ruth Guy

Director of Fundraising
and Marketing



in all kinds of ways - they signed up to monthly direct debits, they gave us cash donations. Companies chose us as their charity of choice for Christmas. A nine year-old emptied his money box and sent us in the contents. A boy from Cork gave us his birthday money because he wanted all children to have enough to eat and to have a Mum and Dad like his that loved him and were there for him – his words not mine.

We want to say Thank You to all of you who support us in whatever way you do. We seriously couldn't do it without you.

And we couldn't do it without the Fundraising team here in Barnardos who give commitment and dedication a new meaning. Thank you all.

We are aware already that



Members of the Dublin Fire Brigade undertook the 708KM cycle challenge from Mizen to Malin Head in July 2009, raising more than €11,000 for Barnardos.

“Barnardos has a network of seven shops around the country, including two bridal boutiques in Carlow and Dun Laoghaire, which help in raising money to fund the work we do with children and families on the ground every day.”

Our shops simply could not operate without the scores of volunteers who consistently give their time and energy to help with sourcing and sorting stock, dealing with customers and making sales. Many of our retail volunteers have been with us for a long number of years and have established a great rapport with customers and the local communities in which the shops are located.

In 2009 our successful Community Employment (CE) scheme provided employment to 34 people across Barnardos' retail network. Through the scheme, they receive ongoing work experience and training, enabling them to develop their skills and ability and prepare to return to the workforce. Many of those who joined Barnardos through the CE scheme have become shop managers and assistant managers.

Each and every one of these people is vital to Barnardos. They are the ones who open the doors of our shops each morning. They are the public face of Barnardos on the high street. And in our current environment with retail sales falling nationally, it is not an easy job.

Barnardos shops are finding it increasingly difficult to compete with mainstream retailers who are using heavy discounting and repeated sales to drive income. While those retailers can choose and plan their stock and seasonal ranges and create demand through marketing and advertising, for the Barnardos shops there are no such luxuries!

Our shops operate on a shoestring budget. The stock is always dependant on donations, so you never know what will come through the door next. To drum up sales, the shops have become incredibly inventive in their marketing and promotions.

We now run a series of special events throughout the year whereby the shops specialise in select items for a period of time such as 'Handbags and Shoes', 'Kid's Clothing', 'Glam wear', books and linen and homeware.

The availability of brand new stock, donated to us by retailers



TV3's glamorous news anchor, Elaine Crowley, and presenter of The Morning Show, Sybil Mulcahy are joined by model Daniella Moyles at the Barnardos Shop and Bridal Boutique, Carlow.

and designers, has also been of great assistance in driving sales and making the stock attractive to customers, particularly those who are not regular charity shoppers.

As a result of heavy promotion in the media, more and more brides-to-be are now making appointments to try our brand new bridal wear in our Dun Laoghaire and Carlow shops. Our promotion of bridal wear has spread online with a dedicated page on Facebook highlighting deliveries of new stock to our bridal shops available at a fraction of the high street price. Check it out on www.facebook.com/barnardosbridalrooms

Barnardos shops continue to do a great job in these challenging times under the guidance of Shops Development Manager Colette Miller and her team.

“Barnardos is financed by a mix of statutory and voluntary funding. In 2009 we raised a total income of €26.1m, an increase of seven per cent on the previous year. The income was generated through various channels. 62 per cent was statutory funding, primarily allocated through the Health Service Executive; and the remainder was raised through our fundraising activity.”

In 2009 fundraising income generated €5.1m (actual cash income was €5.4m), a growth of 6% on the previous year.

Our investment in supporting children and families in 2009 was made possible both through the statutory funding we received through the HSE, government departments and agencies, and the significant support of our voluntary funders. We would like to pay tribute to the generosity of all our donors – who ranged from businesses engaged with social responsibility to individuals who brought their communities together to host an event for Barnardos.

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

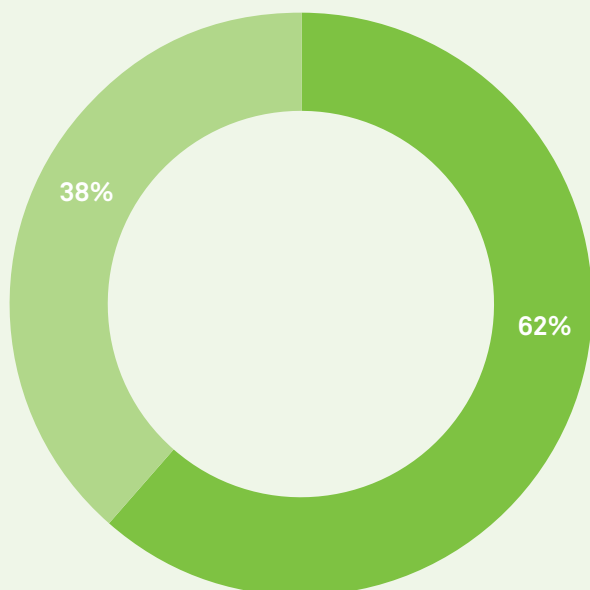
We continue to strive to make Ireland the best place in the world to be a child.

Financial Highlights

We are committed to best practice, and that is reflected in our ethos and all our activity across Barnardos. Our financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with best practice as recommended by the Companies Acts and, voluntarily in the absence of statutory reporting standards for charities in Ireland, in accordance with best practice (Statement of Recommended Practice revised 2005), as recommended by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Dianne O’Kelly,
Director of Finance

Income



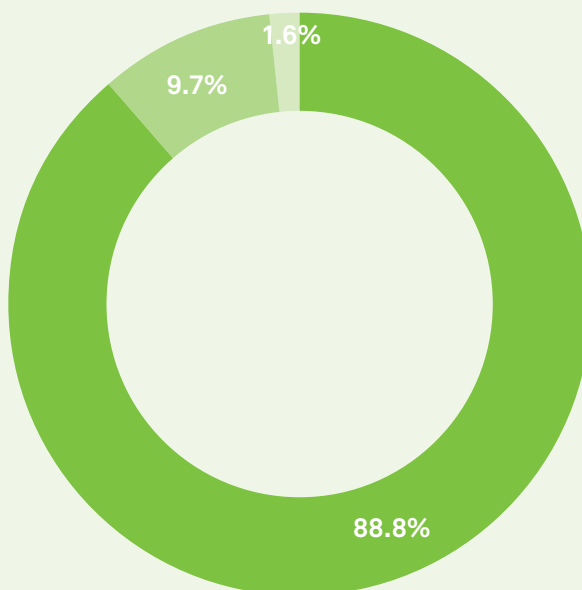
2009: €26.1m (2008: €24.4m)

- Statutory - 62%
- Voluntary - 38%

broken down as follows:

- Donations – 21.2%
- Shops – 4.4%
- Trusts, Foundations and Legacies – 11.4%
- Other – 1.1%

Expenditure



2009: €24.7m (2008: €24.1m)

- Service Delivery - 88.8%
- Generating Funds - 9.7%
- Governance - 1.6%

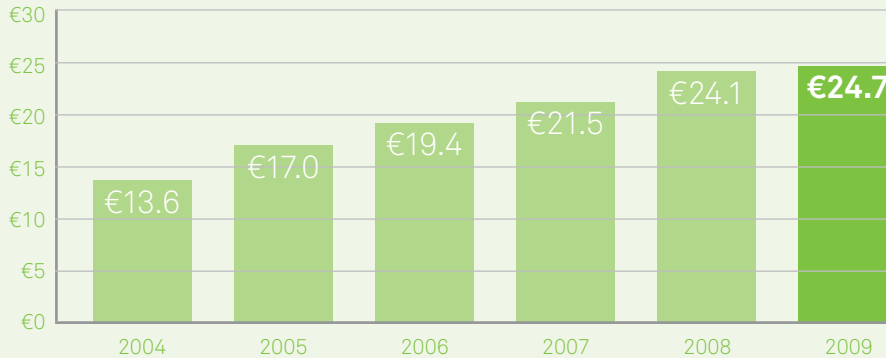
89 cent of every euro raised was spent directly on our work with children and families.

10 cent was invested in generating funds, for which we received an excellent return as fundraising income grew 6% on the previous year.

1 cent was spent on governance.

Investment Growth Chart

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



Treasurers Report

The following summary accounts have been extracted from the statutory financial statements of Barnardos Republic of Ireland Limited for the year ended 31 December 2009. The statutory financial statements, on which the auditors, KPMG, expressed an unqualified opinion, have been filed with the Register of Companies following the Annual General Meeting.

The detailed auditor's report and accounts are available.

Michael Mortell,
Honorary Treasurer

Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure

For the Year Ended 31 December 2009

	2009 Total Funds €'000	2008 Total Funds €'000
Incoming Resources		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
- Voluntary income	8,500	7,415
- Income from trading activities	1,147	1,356
Income resources for charitable activities	16,162	15,286
Investment income	277	329
Incoming Resources	26,086	24,386
Capital gain on disposal of a property	1,496	0
Total Incoming Resources	27,582	24,386
Resources Expended		
Cost of generating funds		
- cost of generating voluntary income	2,247	2,112
- cost of trading income	1,390	1,381
Charitable activities	20,650	20,331
Governance costs	364	242
Total Resources Expended	24,651	24,066
Net income resources before transfers	2,931	320
Transfers between funds	0	0
Net Incoming Resources Before Other Recognised Gains and Losses	2,931	320

Summary Accounts

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses For the Year Ended 31 December 2009

	2009 €'000	2008 €'000
Net Incoming Resources for the Year	2,931	320
Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	3,429	(3,197)
Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the Year	6,360	(2,877)

Reconciliation of Movement in Reserves For the Year Ended 31 December 2009

	2009 €'000	2008 €'000
Net Incoming Resources for the Year	2,931	320
Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	3,429	(3,197)
Total recognised gains/(losses) for the year	6,360	(2,877)
Reserves at the beginning of the year	4,402	7,279
Reserves at the End of the Year	10,762	4,402

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2009

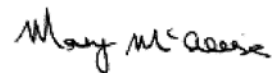
	2009 €'000	2008 €'000
Assets Employed		
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	4,073	2,124
Current Assets		
Debtors	809	1,691
Cash at Bank and short term deposits	9,536	8,032
	10,345	9,723
Current Liabilities		
Creditors (amount falling due within one year)	(3,390)	(3,879)
Net Current Assets	6,955	5,844
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	11,028	7,968
Provision for liabilities and charges	(65)	(60)
Net Assets before pension liability	10,963	7,908
Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Liability	(201)	(3,506)
Net Assets	10,762	4,402
Represented by		
General fund	8,324	3,326
Restricted income fund	2,438	1,076
Total Funds	10,762	4,402

“It is said that what is written in childhood is engraved in stone and so it is crucially important that groups like Barnardos are there to identify and work to resolve problem, situations and to research, advocate, listen to and speak on behalf of children. Your commitment, care and compassion have made a real impact on the lives of children and families throughout the country.”

I am delighted, as Patron of Barnardos, to congratulate the organisation once again for its wonderful work, as documented in the 2009 annual report.


The past year was a challenging one for all those who are involved with children, with the Ryan and Murphy reports sparking public discussion about how we deal with childcare in Ireland. Your wise and insightful contributions to policy debates will help ensure that children growing up in Ireland have the best possible supports to achieve their full potential.

I thank each of you for the wonderful work you are doing; I am very proud of Barnardos and wish you continued success in the year to come.



Mary McAleese,
President of Ireland





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