

THE CORK FOYER & BISHOPSGROVE SUPPORTED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Cork Foyer and
Bishoptsgrove are
Cork City Council
Transitional Supported
Housing Initiatives



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MISSION STATEMENT

Cork Foyer is a unique homeless service that offers quality affordable accommodation with education and training at the heart of the project. We strive to develop independent living skills through integrated training programmes and clear-cut Support Plans, empowering young adults to realise their full potential and take their rightful place in the community.



STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

As Chairman of two progressive and unique award-winning services, owned and managed by Cork City Council, I once again have the pleasure in introducing to you the Cork Foyer and Bishoptsgrove Supported Student Accommodation Annual Report. I hope you find this report both enjoyable and insightful.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and welcome the launch of the Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025 by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, on the 9th of November 2022. This is the first Youth Homelessness Strategy in two decades, and it sets out distinct actions to prevent young people entering homelessness, to improve the experiences of young people in emergency accommodation and to assist young people to exit homelessness.

The monthly homeless report, published in respect of September 2022, showed that 17% of adults accessing Emergency Accommodation were aged 18-24. The Strategy recognises that, while it is an absolute priority to both prevent young people from becoming homeless in the first instance and to ensure prompt exits for those who are in emergency accommodation, consideration must also be given to improving the experiences of young people currently accessing homeless services.

Following a consultation process with homeless young people, they advised that standard emergency accommodation can feel unsafe and unsuitable in some cases, largely due to sharing a space with people of different ages, who may be long-term users of homeless services and who may have complex mental health or addiction issues. The Strategy, therefore, supports the establishment of dedicated homeless accommodation for young people, such as the Cork Foyer, that has sufficient and appropriate designated spaces to allow for visits from family members, and that can facilitate the holding of workshops and information sessions tailored specifically to young people. The Strategy also sets out measures to help those exiting homelessness to move towards independent living, maintain tenancies and fulfil their potential.

Specific actions within in the strategy aim to help those at risk of becoming homeless and who are disproportionately represented in the young homeless population i.e., people who have left

formal care settings, people with disabilities, young parents, members of the Traveller Community, members of the LGBTI+ community and young people leaving prison. With this Strategy firmly in mind, it is reassuring to see that both of these Cork City Council services are so instinctively aligned to this Strategy in their mission, present operations, and direction.

As the financially difficult times continue, it is imperative that we take every step to minimise the financial impact on these services and protect their end users, by ensuring their licence fee remains affordable and their wellbeing remains paramount. The need to scrutinise our 24/7 operations and make the astute and necessary budgeting choices, whilst working very closely with our key stakeholders has never been so important. To this end, I would like to acknowledge the unwavering and generous core funding provided by the Health Service Executive, Cork City Council, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and Cork City Education and Training Board to which we are truly grateful. I also wish to thank the members of the Management Board and all the staff for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. Their advice and vision have been invaluable and continues to contribute enormously to these successful services.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the 5th anniversary of Bishoptsgrove Supported Student Accommodation. This wonderful service has provided an educational pathway for young people to exit homeless services, and arguably, it has potentially prevented up to **144** vulnerable young people from entering costly emergency accommodation in a time of housing need. Without Bishoptsgrove, some of these vulnerable young people would inevitably become entrenched in the longer-term cycle of homelessness which is hugely damaging and very costly on the state. I am sure that you will agree that this is a fabulous and well-founded service for the marginalised young people of Cork.

I hope you enjoy the celebrated achievements of our service users outlined in this report. They certainly continue to challenge and inspire all who are involved with the projects.

Dave Cody
Chair

SHAPING LIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY COHESION AND INTEGRATION

It is important to the Foyer and its residents that the service is viewed positively by the public, helping to break down any misconceptions about young people or the Foyer project itself.

The Cork City Council Foyer Project has invested extensively in fully utilising its natural assets, ensuring that it is more than just a building for young people out of home. The Foyer Garden Café, toddler play park, mini pet farm, allotments, and bicycle project appeal to people of all ages within the community, and especially during the summer months. Through a range of initiatives, these superb facilities allow Foyer residents and other service users to be creative in their thinking whilst bringing them into direct contact with the wider community.

Whether participating in a community event, helping in the café, working in the allotments with other community groups, or helping on the pet farm, a real sense of community spirit and belonging naturally grows, allowing all users to become more self-confident in their communication and abilities.

Providing a garden to kitchen table experience, the Foyer seasonal Garden Café operated by Churchfield Community Trust CLG, continues to provide delicious meals from their creative menu. This wonderful real working and learning environment provides service users from Churchfield Community Trust and our own residents with a great opportunity to improve a range of skills associated with catering, including food hygiene, food preparation, cash handling and customer care.



Garden before work



Garden after work



Garden Café



Feeding the pig



Café staff

Service users and local community participants have been as busy as ever during 2022, starting with a facelift in the toddler play park. One participant, KT, has kindly given up most of his free time to improve and maintain the garden in the playpark, for which we are truly grateful.

Growing Places for Wellbeing

The Grow Cook Eat program was supported by local community residents from Blackpool, Shandon and Roches buildings and across the wider city. It was established as a response to enable access to growing spaces in an urban setting for persons at risk of isolation or homelessness. This group now in its second year, gather twice weekly on Tuesday and Friday afternoons to learn about growing vegetables and plants, and to maintain the community garden space at the Foyer.

Attending every week over the past two seasons has enhanced community activism, local conversations, and new friendships. The program is kindly supported by Cork City Council, Cork ETB, Churchfield Community Trust CLG, and HSE Health Action Zone.

Some achievements during the past year include:

- Cookery workshops in the Foyer using produce from the garden
- Designed, built, planted and delivered 100 sensory boxes as part of the HSE winter initiative with Meals on Wheels
- Designed and made a wormery and successfully developed a worm farm at the Foyer which is digesting the local waste from the Garden Café and Foyer
- Some participants are now attending a training course in the development of North Side Local Food whilst engaging a growing network of Community Gardens - Meitheal Foilláine.

Engagement with these outdoor activities has helped significantly in the context of social inclusion, resilience post covid, developing positive mental health strategies and building a network of people to engage with in this community.

Babblebugs

Babblebugs is delivered by Connect Therapy Services Ireland, an independent speech and language therapy service recently established in Cork. It provides a universal health promotion group for babies, young children and their parents/carers.

Launched on 2nd June 2022, their service offers 2 sessions per week. One session targets younger children, under 18 months, providing advice and information on what to expect across the age range from 3 months – 18 months. Feedback from parents has been very positive and parents are returning on subsequent weeks.

The second session targets older children from age 18 months – 3 years. The children who have attended either present with speech and language needs or whose parents are concerned about their skills in this area. They have attended to seek advice from the therapists. Both sessions can be pre-booked by parents/carers in advance or on a drop-in basis, allowing for flexibility.



Community Group 1



Community Group 2



Planting

An advantage of the location at Cork Foyer is the setting. Parents like to attend a session with their babies and then go to the coffee shop and/or playground afterwards. The accessibility for prams and buggies is also a big bonus.

Women's Community Service Group

Each Friday morning a cookery group made up of Community Service ladies meet in the Cork Foyer between 10am and 12pm. Facilitated by Liz Quinlan and co-facilitated by Leona Lynch, the group plan and prepare whatever is on the menu for that week. Made from savoury and/or sweet ingredients, they always manage to come up with something different. Once the dishes are made, they can sit down together and eat it or take it away with them. The Foyer provides an uninterrupted safe space to relax and chat about anything whilst baking or cooking, for which the group is very grateful.

Christmas Market

Each year in December, Cork City Partnership organises an annual Christmas market at the Plaza community area in Blackpool. The Foyer was once again invited to have a stall and we were delighted to participate. The display included a range of products that would test anyone's bakery and sales skills!

Cork Community League

The Cork Community League organised by Foyer team member, Paul Carroll, continued to go from strength to strength during 2022. The league runs from 7.00pm-8.30pm every Friday for 42 weeks of the year at the Glen Resource centre and is a continuation of the Cork Street League which Paul Carroll also helps to run.

The Cork Street League is facilitated in co-ordination with The Big Issue, Irish Homeless Street League, FAI, Glen Resource Centre, Glenvera Direct Provision Centre, Cork Foyer, Cork Health Action Zone (HSE), Cork's Homeless Services and other marginalised groups.

With a busy schedule in 2022, the Cork Community and Street Leagues saw 64 different individuals aged between 16 and 45 years of age from 13 different countries participate in the events. While offering a sporting outlet for current Foyer residents, the different leagues continue to act as an ad hoc outreach and social event for former Foyer residents, and former addiction and homeless service users. The 2022 leagues featured participants from a variety of services in Cork city including; the Family Hub, Cork Simon Community, Traveller Visibility Group, Glenvera DP, Kinsale Road DP and Focus Ireland.

In April 2022, two Cork Street and Community League teams progressed beyond the All-Ireland Street League group stages. Glenvera Direct Provision Centre reached the quarter finals while Cork Foyer and Friends reached the final of the event. The latter featured players living in the Foyer during 2022, former residents and their friends. In three of the last four Homeless World Cups the Cork Street League has seen 3 players (1 former Cork Foyer resident) represent the Ireland team in Scotland, Mexico and Wales respectively.



Christmas Market



Cork Community League



Cork Community League



In June 2022 a team from a variety of backgrounds and ethnic groups including individuals from each Direct Provision centre, Cork Foyer, Traveller community, and former homeless and addiction service users represented the Cork Street and Community Leagues at SARI's (Sport Against Racism Ireland) Fair Play Cup in Dublin.

The event is Ireland's largest World Refugee Day event. It featured up to 20 teams both male and female from refugee and local communities, Direct Provision Centres, NGOs, Government and members of the media. The event sought to draw attention to the millions of refugees and internally displaced people worldwide who have been forced to leave their homes due to war, conflict, persecution, or natural disaster.

In September 2022, Cork Street and Community Leagues represented the Irish Homeless Street League (IHSL) at SARI's 25th anniversary of Soccerfest which took place as part of their Sportsfest event in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. In partnership with Sport Ireland, it marked the launch of the European Week of Sport and was a huge celebration of the benefits of sport-from keeping healthy to social inclusion.

Down through the years, the Cork Community and Street Leagues has featured players from varying social and marginalised groups; those in supported accommodation; those at risk of homelessness or formerly homeless; former addiction service users; members of two direct provision centres in Cork city; those formerly in direct provision who gained residency; members of the Travelling Community; members of the Polish, Italians, Croatian, Spanish Communities; unemployed young men from the northside of Cork city; members of the LGBT+ community; support workers; journalists and more.

Both leagues will continue in 2023 and will look to engage even more people from marginalised groups.

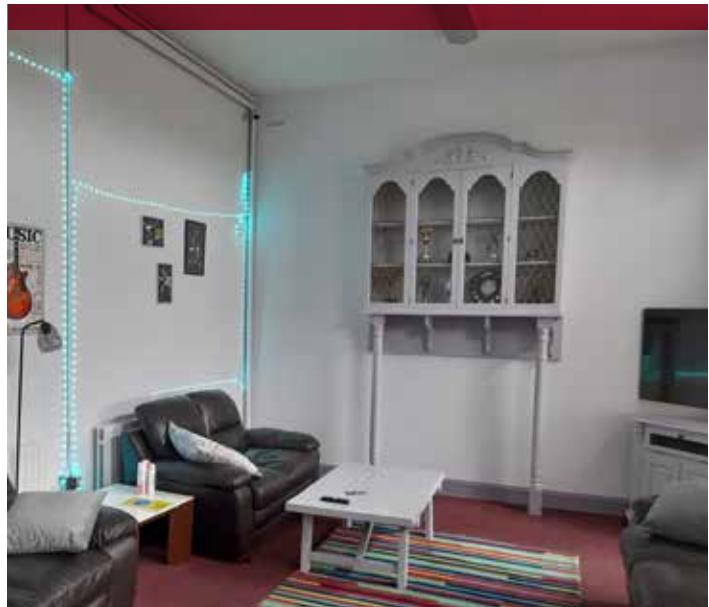
SHAPING LIVES THROUGH EMPOWERMENT AND HOUSING SUPPORTS

The Foyer works tirelessly to ensure that it is not confused with an emergency shelter or a hostel that accepts direct access for people off the street. All residents who live at the Foyer undergo an interview and rigorous assessment, ensuring that the Foyer is able to meet their support needs, and that they are willing to commit to their own future personal development goals.

Besides providing a comfortable home for young people who have found themselves homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, we assist them to rebuild and reshape their lives as they move towards independent living. The Foyer's integrated asset-based approach not only provides access to education, training and employment opportunities, but encompasses living skills, recreational activities, interests and hobbies and personal development support.

Maximising its housing, support and training services through strong partnerships and community integration, ensures service users receive the best possible service to meet their needs. The Foyer is extremely grateful to Cork ETB, ABLES Adult Literacy Group, Cork Drug & Alcohol Taskforce, HSE Mental Health Services, Churchfield Community Trust and Focus Ireland to name but a few. Their vital assistance provides Foyer residents with every opportunity to meet their short to medium term aspirations and personal support needs.

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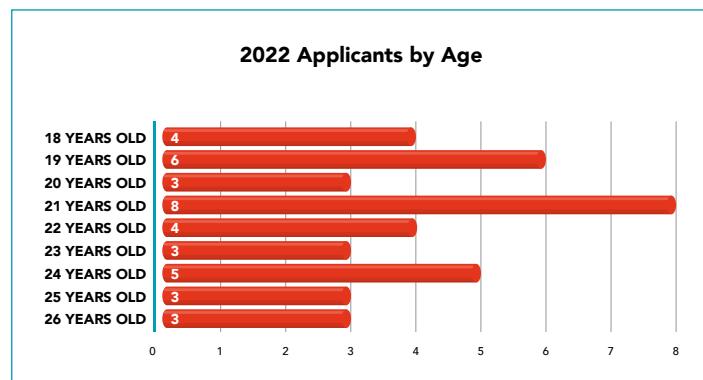
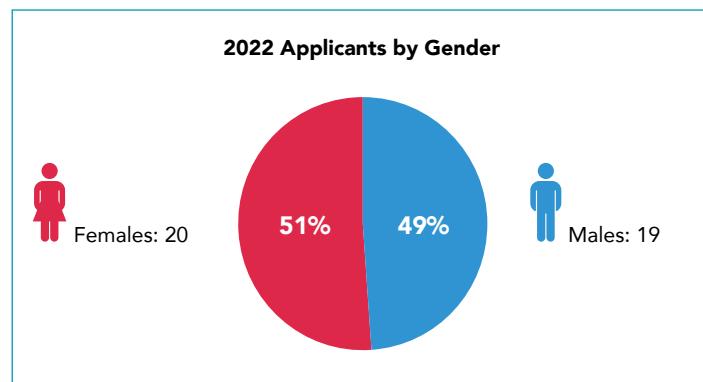
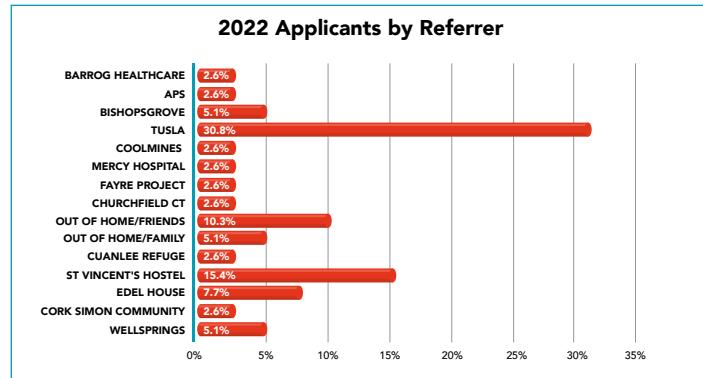
TV Room



Resident's Kitchen

About Applicants

During 2022, the Foyer received a total of **39** housing application forms:



The demand for the Foyer service has been consistently high since it first opened its doors in March 2006. To date, the Foyer has housed and supported **416** young people.



About Residents

During 2022, the Foyer provided **15** new lettings, of which **4** were registered with a disability.

The backgrounds of our residents vary so greatly including those who have had experiences of care and those with a history of offending. Many have experienced significant barriers to health and wellbeing, ranging from poor levels of nutrition, addiction, lack of physical activity and emotional and mental health challenges. Whilst good housing supports are crucial, supports that address health and low levels of education and qualification, poor basic skills, poor coping skills, a lack of social networks and more must be addressed if young people are to have a chance of succeeding in leaving homelessness behind them and connecting with the labour market.

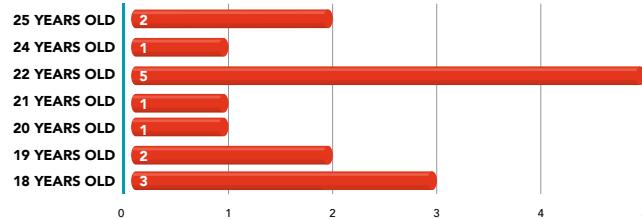
It goes without saying, that the ultimate aim of the Foyer is to resettle its residents back into the community successfully and at the soonest possible opportunity, and of course, when each resident feels ready and equipped for independent living.

To positively assist the transitional process into permanent or more appropriate housing, the Foyer taps into all available resources and co-operates closely with other housing and support providers in the public and/or the private sector. Using such a multi-agency approach allows the organisations concerned to offer a wider package of resettlement support and provides every opportunity for a tenancy to succeed. Throughout 2022, **14** residents moved on from the Foyer, **11** of which were planned with support from Foyer staff.

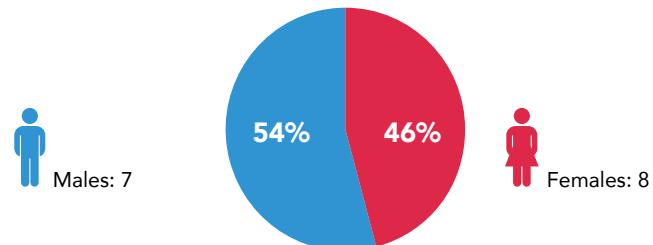
The average length of stay for those residents leaving the Foyer was **11** months.

The ultimate aim of the Foyer is to resettle its residents back into the community successfully and at the soonest possible opportunity,

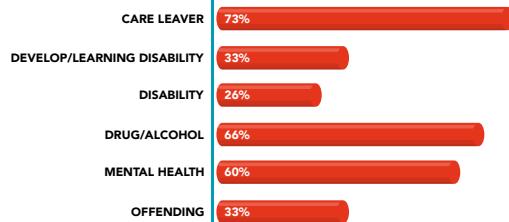
2022 Residents Age on Entry



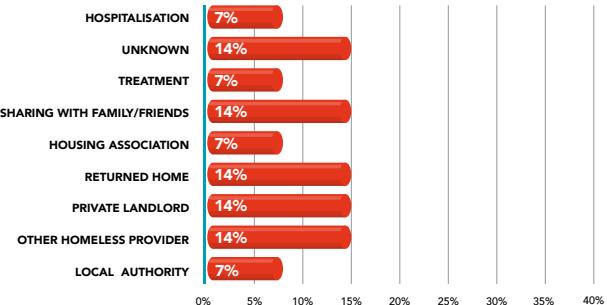
2022 Residents by Gender



2022 Residents Main Support Needs



2022 Ex-Residents by Move on Type



ALANAH'S JOURNEY



There is a lot to my life before I became homeless but the jist of it is due to my relationship with my fiancé ending. I had to leave my house and move back with my parents. That was never a good idea so that was short lived. I had to move out of there for my own mental health and due to domestic violence.

I stayed on friends couches for a week or so, but I felt like I was overstaying my welcome, so I had no choice but to move into my car. That was the longest few months of my life trying to find somewhere safe to park up but also somewhere that people wouldn't see me. I had to go to leisure centres to use the wash facilities and use the industrial machines to clean my clothes all while still going to work and not telling anyone the situation I was in. Until there came a point where I wanted to give up.

People from the youth centre where I ran a group asked me was I okay and that is when I received help, they brought me to the Accommodation Placement Service which I didn't even know existed,

and they obviously asked me to try make it up with my parents and move back home, which was not an option. So, I was then advised to go to Cuanlee Refuge and had to wait a week or so for a room to become available. The staff at Cuanlee saved my life, they helped me in ways that nobody ever had, and I was able to relax and be myself without worrying where I was going to stay or eat or if anything would happen. But I could never really settle because it is temporary accommodation, and my car was always packed to run. After 12 weeks my discharge date was up, and I had to return to APS to be placed in emergency accommodation.

APS sent me to a B&B which I was grateful to have a roof over my head, but there was no facility just a bed and bathroom. Not being ungrateful, but I might as well have been living in my car and the people that were also in the B&B I just didn't feel safe around. The staff from Cuanlee helped me apply for Cork Foyer and Focus Ireland Youth Project and put in a Housing Action Team referral on my behalf.

I went into the Foyer after doing my interview and once again I was able to relax and get back to being me. The people I met inside were really nice and helped me a lot. I moved in, in September 2022 and I was made feel so welcome by the other residents. I was able to relax and settle in a lot better in the Foyer as I knew I wouldn't just be thrown out the next week and I had a bit longer.

The staff in the Foyer were so helpful and nice. I started off with a Key Worker that was lovely but I was fed up of telling my story to be honest. So, I just interacted with her when I was asked to, and I was a bit reluctant to letting someone else into my life and getting to know my life and me.

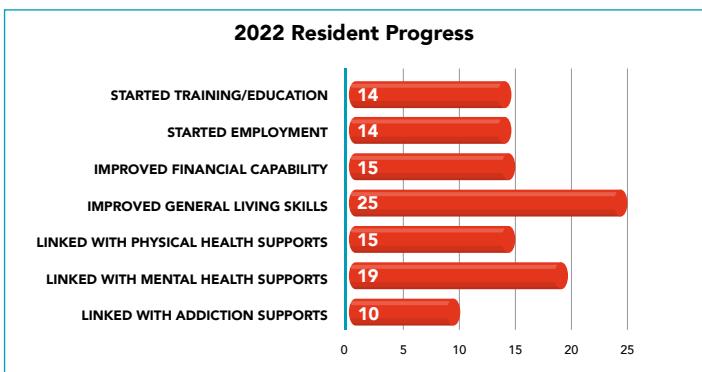
Halfway through my stay I was allocated a new Key Worker, Niamh, and I just clicked with her she really supported me throughout my stay, always checked up on me and always went out of her way to do what she could for me. She was one person I felt like I could open up to and didn't have to pretend with no judgement. Even after I moved out, she has been amazing in supporting me and doing what she can to help me get on my own two feet.

Then I met a staff member from Focus Ireland Youth Project and they accepted my application. After a few months of meeting my Support Worker every week he offered me a studio apartment. I cried like a little girl as I was losing all hope and thought I would be homeless for years.

I am now a few weeks in my new home, and I couldn't be happier. All you need is that one person to give you a break or a hand. If I look back at this time last year when I was couch surfing, I never in a million years would have thought that I would be in a rented apartment that I could call my very own, lock my door and feel safe in a place that I can now call my home. Something I never had a HOME.

Residents Progress

Using data captured throughout the year we can analyse the distance travelled by each resident living at the Foyer, the following outcomes were attained for 2022.



Resident Meeting

SHAPING LIVES THROUGH INVESTMENT & ACHIEVEMENT

On arrival at the Foyer, many young residents are disillusioned with the "system" and automatically excluded from mainstream economic activity because of the lack of appropriate work, skills, qualifications, and complex needs which are compounded further by homelessness itself.

We therefore work hard to provide programmes that are individually tailored to meet the needs of our residents, helping them to develop personally, and to achieve things they may not have previously thought they were capable of.

Internal training programmes include:

- FETAC Level 3 Personal Effectiveness
- FETAC Level 4 Personal Effectiveness
- FETAC Level 3 Communications
- FETAC Level 4 Communications
- FETAC Level 3 Career Preparation
- FETAC Level 3 Computer Literacy
- FETAC Level 3 Outdoor Vegetable Production



Computer Room

The learning experience of the residents who attend our internal training programmes is fundamentally shaped by ABLES Adult Literacy Group, and by our own internal ETB registered cooking and horticulture facilitators. Combined, the facilitators have a huge amount of experience of working with marginalised people and are able to adapt their sessions accordingly to accommodate changing group dynamics and the complex needs of some participants.

During 2022, **20 residents** successfully commenced external education or training or secured full or part time employment. However, it is essential that we continue to develop and deliver innovative training programmes that help to address the diverse leaning needs of those residents who are not engaging in any form of education or training. Therefore, in partnership with the Cork ETB, Cork Simon Community and Focus Ireland we have continued to secure funding from Cork Education & Training Board to implement our bespoke multi-agency employability development programme, Great to Train.

The Great to Train programme greatly enhances the existing Cork City ETB or Cork City Partnership funded training programmes within the homeless services, such as IT, Basic Skills, Personal Effectiveness and Culinary Skills. More importantly, it provides a wider range of work-related training options that have been designed specifically to meet the needs of homeless service users.

There is tremendous scope to integrate health initiatives, additional qualifications, employment initiatives and access to other services. Even though all four organisations have worked together in some capacity, the Great to Train development programme promotes stronger working relations and helps us to jointly advocate on behalf of the homeless young people that we serve, ultimately reducing potential barriers to learning, self-development and work in the future.

Great to Train 2022 Outcomes Include:

- Fire Warden Training 21
- Manual Handling 25
- HACCP 20
- Safepass 13
- Basic First Aid Training 3
- Abrasive Wheel Training 5
- Forklift Truck Driving 4
- Mobile Elevate Platform 4
- Working from Heights & Harness 6
- Working in Confined Places 5
- Warehouse Safety 8
- Vehicle Banksman 4

The listed workplace qualifications added to any CV will give an applicant a fighting chance of securing low skilled employment. For many, the qualifications are achievable, which will automatically provide a positive learning experience for the participants concerned. For some, this will hopefully provide the motivation they need to take up more sustained training and up skilling in the future. Others may solely concentrate on their personal wellbeing, coping skills and self-confidence which will undoubtedly benefit the individuals greatly and place them in a better place to consider using their time more purposely in the future.

Independent Living & Wellbeing Modules

In addition to the above, the Support staff successfully delivered **29** individual Independent Living Skills modules addressing areas such as:

- Talents, Skills, Education, Employment & Planning
- Debt, Budgeting, Bills
- Rent, Rent Allowance, HAP
- Being a good Neighbour and Part of your Community
- Identifying Ways to Minimise Risks to Your Tenancy and Getting the Right Support
- Understanding a Tenancy Agreement
- Finding a Property
- Getting Ready to Move Out and Move In

Whilst concentrating on the above, we have also prioritised the wellbeing of Foyer residents by completing **23** individual Wellbeing modules as follows:

- Healthy Eating
- Food Shopping
- Cooking and Meal Ideas
- Room Cleanliness
- Laundry
- My Wellbeing & Mental Health
- My Physical Health
- Physical Health & Exercise
- Registering with a Doctor & Applying for Medical Card
- Smoking
- Drugs
- Alcohol Consumption
- Personal Hygiene & Appearance
- Sexual Health & Relationships
- Values, Strengths & Leadership

Healthy Talent Bonds

Thanks to the generous funding support from the ESB Energy for Generations Fund, we have been able to continue the Healthy Talent Bond initiative throughout the whole of 2022. This superb initiative helps young people to explore new interests, develop their existing talents and overall improve personal wellbeing. To date the Foyer has issued a total of **63** talent bonds to the value of **€12,364.90**, not only to Foyer and Bishopsgrave residents, but to some residents from Cork Simon Community.

Adding structure, routine and purpose, examples of talent bonds issued are:

- Gym membership
- Driving lessons
- Culinary tools
- Boxing memberships
- Fees for a training course
- Musical instruments
- Swimming lessons

What Chenyse had to say

It's a known fact that exercise is an extremely important aspect towards positive mental health, so I really appreciate I was able to use my talent bond to get a gym membership for the year. I go to the gym around 4/5 times a week. Being in recovery, I find the gym really helps me stay motivated and just have a more positive outlook on my life. I use the gym as an outlet of energy as well as part of my daily routine to support my sobriety. My talent bond allows me to stay fit and healthy as well as mentally stronger as I find physical exercise supports my overall daily life. I am very grateful for the fact I have been given the support to better my recovery, physical and mental health.

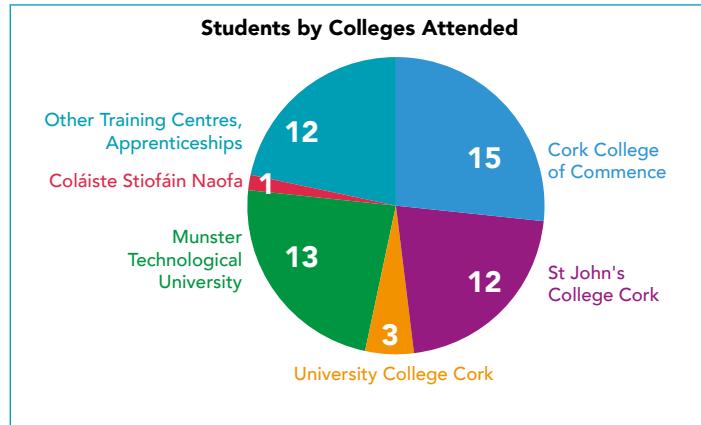
What O.K. had to say

As we all know, getting on the road is a major challenge for many people these days. I also believe that the biggest inhibitor to people getting their driver's licence is the financial cost. Many lessons on average cost €50 to €60 per lesson. To apply for your driving test, one must complete 12 mandatory lessons with an RSA instructor. For me, this was the largest barrier as I am in third level education and living and renting on my own. The funding I got towards my lessons were the sole reason I was able to get my full driving licence. The reality is, I would not have been able to afford the cost of the lessons on my level of income. It was a huge weight lifted off my shoulders. My hope is that other students would have the same opportunity and support I received, in getting their driving licences.



A Snapshot of Bishopsgrave

Throughout 2022, a total **56** young people were housed and supported by Bishopsgrave and its multi-agency team. Students are at varying levels of development and are attending a wide range of colleges and centres.



Note: Several students attended more than one college or centre.

What Veronika had to say.

My name is Veronika, and I am from Ukraine. Because of the war, my family and I had to come to Ireland, where we were welcomed by the Irish people. I decided to return to education while in Ireland. After I got accepted on a music course in The Academy of Music, my search for housing began. I was lucky enough to find a place in Bishopsgrave Student Accommodation. I felt like it was a miracle. I am very grateful for all the help and support from my Support Worker Ruth. The accommodation here is very comfortable and cosy. I feel that the staff at Bishopsgrave really care about the students that live here. I am nearly finished my course now and I am looking forward to progressing with my education in music.

25 new lettings were offered during 2022, **13** male students and **12** female students.

For **17** of these students, it was their first time starting a college course. Some of the courses started by new students include:

- Culinary Arts
- Biological & Chemical Sciences
- Youth Work
- Visual Communications
- Engineering Technology
- Hospitality Studies
- Nursing Studies
- Software Development
- Nutrition Health & Wellness
- Civil Engineering
- Acting for Stage & Screen
- Music
- Home Economics & Business



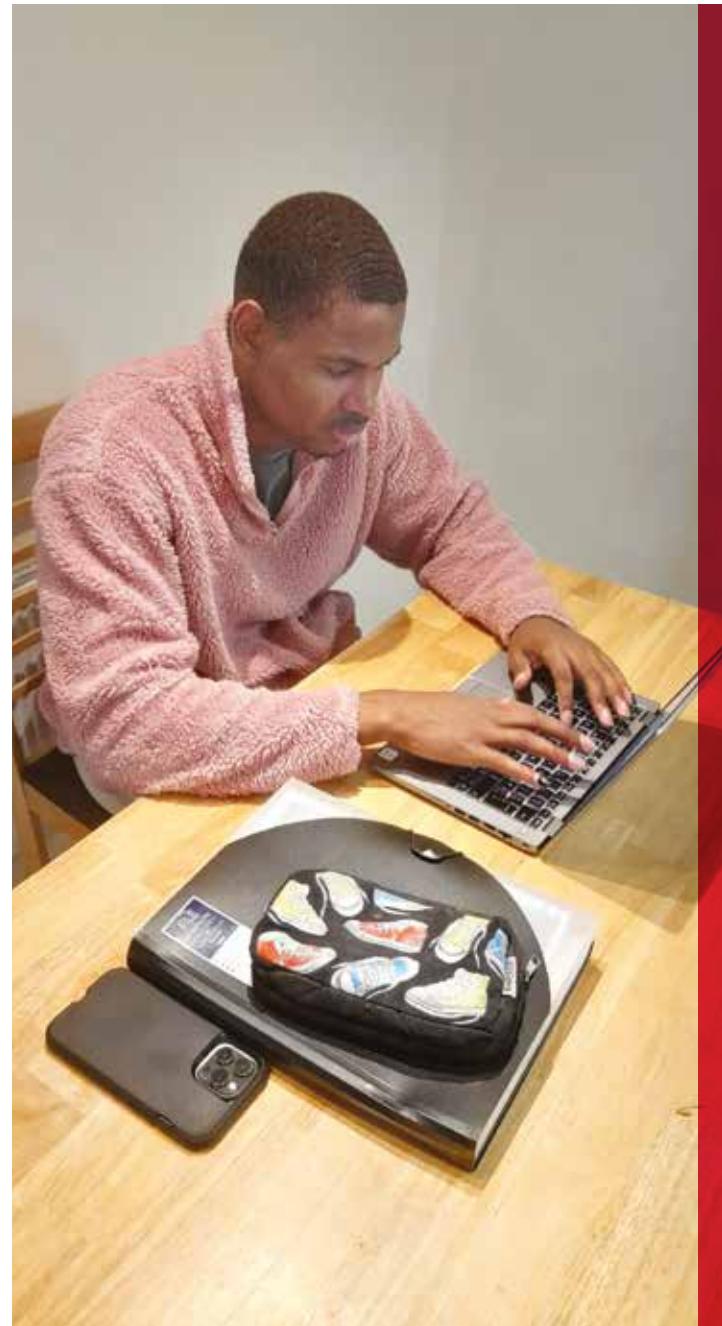
From the students living at Bishopsgrave, and despite all the restrictions to learning the pandemic imposed, a total of **11** students fully completed their course and the remaining **10** moved onto the next level in their education. Of the **11** students that fully completed their courses, a wide variety of educational levels were achieved including:

- Bachelor of Business in Hospitality Management (Level 7)
- Cartoon Animation (Level 6)
- Software Development (Level 7)
- Leisure & Recreation (Level 5)
- Hairdressing (Level 5)
- Healthcare Assistant (Level 5)
- Holistic Therapies (Level 5)
- Furniture Making & Restoration Skills (Level 5)
- Science & Lab Techniques (Level 5)
- Garda Training
- Music (Level 4)

In relation to moving on, **19** students moved on successfully, **6** of which secured their own private rented accommodation. The vast majority of the remaining students moved into accommodation with a friend, family member, or secured accommodation with another housing provider.

On the employment front, and as a means of paying the bills throughout the year, **15** students worked part-time in a variety of roles including:

- Sales Assistant
- Waitressing
- Cheffing
- Food and Beverage Assistant
- Healthcare Assistant
- Cleaning
- Hotel Porter
- Security
- Production Operator in Pharmaceuticals
- Labourer in Construction





Staff Feature

Maureen Walsh

Maureen Walsh, Bishoptsgrove Student Accommodation

I started work as the Administrator at Bishoptsgrove Student Accommodation last September 2022. I had previously worked in the pharmaceutical industry, initially in Quality control as I had studied Chemical Technology at college, and I then moved to a Health & Safety role at the same company. I took a career break for a few years and then returned to work as an Administrator and Safety & Health Co-Ordinator in a commercial Helicopter operation that supported the Kinsale Gas fields, located at Cork Airport.

The role at Bishoptsgrove Student Accommodation appealed to me. It was an opportunity to work more directly with people and learn new skills in a very different environment. I had no prior knowledge of the Cork Foyer or Bishoptsgrove Student Accommodation. I have received great support and training from everyone in both Cork Foyer and Bishoptsgrove, especially as I am new to the social care environment.

I now know that Bishoptsgrove & Cork Foyer provide vulnerable young people in danger of being homeless, a room to call their own and the vital supports and skills to live on their own. At Bishoptsgrove Student Accommodation, all residents must be in full time education to live here. These young people have all had issues, beyond their own control, but to see these young resilient people attending education and giving themselves options for a better future has been very positive.

Ruth McGuane, our project worker is the driving force, ensuring that residents are well, co-ordinating with all the other support services and helping the students with any problems and issues that may arise. Since January, there has been a huge increase in demand for rooms at Bishoptsgrove, highlighting the necessity of this vital service.

CORK FOYER & BISHOPSGROVE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY AS OF 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Foyer & Bishops Grove General Accounts

Income:	Total	Foyer	B'Grove
Rent	€285,062	€75,535	€209,527
Health Service Executive	€291,745	€291,745	-
Health Service Executive Pandemic Special Recognition Payment	€5,000	€5,000	-
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government	€226,923	€226,923	-
Miscellaneous Income	€8,702	€8,647	€55
Total Income	€817,432	€607,850	€209,582
Expenditure:	Total	Foyer	B'Grove
Payroll	€527,811	€477,196	€50,615
Transfer to Capital Budget Provision	€28,990	€1,240	€27,750
Cleaning/Waste	€27,127	€11,264	€15,863
Heating & Lighting	€45,236	€28,934	€16,302
Maintenance Repair, Parks, Materials	€62,888	€44,418	€18,470
Non-Capital Equipment Purchases/IT	€19,025	€11,210	€7,815
Miscellaneous	€661	€640	€21
Other Operational Expenses/Minor Contracts	€7,941	€1,388	€6553
Professional Fees	€3,495	€3,495	-
Telephone, TV & Postage	€9,482	€8,297	€1,185
Design, Printing, Stationery	€5,580	€4,925	€655
Travel, Training & Subsistence	€1,131	€1,004	€127
Night Security/Security Property	€68,094	€3,955	€64,139
Minibus Costs/ Other Vehicle & Machinery Expenses	€9,971	€9,884	€87
Total Expenditure	€817,432	€ 607,850	€209,582

Capital Accounts:

Resident Hardship / Participation Fund:

Balance as at 31st December 2021	€17,399
Income	€0.00
Total Income	€0.00
Expenditure	
Participation, Activities, Equipment, Talent Bonds & Hardship	€5,275
Total Expenditure	€5,275
Balance as of 31st December 2022	€12,124

Capital Replacement / Development Account:

Balance as at 31st December 2021	€256,316
Income	
Transfer Capital Budget Provision	€28,989
Total Income	
	€28,989
Expenditure	
Refurbishment & Safety Work	€7,609
Total Expenditure	€7,609
Balance as of 31st December 2022	€277,696

Certified By:



Barry O'Hare
Management Accountant, Cork City Council

STAFF TEAM

Barry Waddingham	Foyer Manager
Ruairí O'Farrell	Senior Project Worker
Jessie Feehan	Project Worker
Ruth McGuane	Project Worker
Niamh Heelan	Project Worker (Maternity Cover)
Julia Seitz	Foyer Administrator
Maureen Walsh	PT Bishopsgrove Administrator
Vacant	PT Life Skills Worker & Talents Coach
Conor McManus	PT Maintenance Caretaker
Vacant	Night Premises Supervisor
Patrick Fitzsimmons	Night Premises Supervisor
Paul Carroll	Night Premises Supervisor
Vacant	Night Premises Supervisor

The core staff team are supported by a dedicated Bank of Relief Support Workers:

Trish Jones	Paul Carroll	Declan Geraghty
Eric O'Neill	Stewart Hartery	Brid Breathnach
Patrick Fitzsimmons	Danny Bullman	



Niamh Heelan

Staff Feature

"Working with people face to face has always been a passion of mine. To broaden my horizon, I completed my Level 5 in 'Early years education' in 2019 and moved on to do my bachelor's in social care work straight after. During my studies, I came across the Cork Foyer project which sparked my interest and I decided to do my placement here from November 2021 to February 2022.

I enjoyed my time working in the Foyer so much that, when the opportunity arose to cover my colleague's maternity leave, I had to grab it. I feel very lucky for all the experiences I have gained and to continue working for such a great organisation."

Social Care Student Feature

"Being in my final year of studying Social Care in M.T.U, I wanted to do my placement in a homeless service as this would personally be the most challenging area to work in. I am currently 6 weeks into my placement, and I am really enjoying it. There is honestly no other organisation like the Foyer, it is such a unique service that deserves way more recognition than it gets. I have been shadowing my supervisor Niamh and she has given me great opportunities to further my education. I have sat in on an assessment interview with a possible resident, conducted an induction with a new resident along with many other things. I feel as though I am treated like staff and have learned lots of new skills while on my placement in the Foyer."

Clodagh

FOYER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Cody

Chairman
CEO (Retired)
Cork City Enterprise Board,
Union Quay, Cork.

David Lane

Drug and Alcohol Services Co-ordinator
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Health Service Executive,
Kinvara House, Dublin Hill, Cork.

Teresa O'Sullivan

Further Education & Training Area Co-ordinator
21 Lavitt's Quay, Cork.

Barry Waddingham

Cork Foyer Manager
Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.

Invited Resident Representatives

Cork Foyer
Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.

Joanna MacCarthy

Admin Officer
Housing Department, Cork City Council, Cork.

Aideen O'Dwyer

Admin Officer
Homeless Officer
Housing Department, Cork City Council, Cork.

Denis Manning

Admin Officer
Housing Department, Cork County Council,
County Hall, Cork

John Hartnett

Member of Blackpool Community
Co-operative Service Centre Ltd.
90 Great William O'Brien Street,
Blackpool, Cork.

Garda Jacqui White

An Garda Síochána Community Policing
Watercourse Road, Blackpool, Cork.