

# saoirse

SAOIRSE HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD

(Saoirse Women's Refuge)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019





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# Saorise



# SOME COMMENTS FROM SAOIRSE CLIENTS



*Everyone working here is so lovely and caring.”*

*“I have received more than expected, I felt like the universe and Angels are just at my doorstep.”*

*“I am less stressed now that it is easier to get help.*



# Our Background

Saoirse Women's Refuge officially opened in December 2006 providing short term crisis refuge accommodation and 24-hour support for up to six families. We operate a 24-hour helpline (01-4630000) offering support and a listening ear to women who may need someone to talk to about the abuse they have suffered in both past and current relationships.

Our aim is to provide a safe, comfortable and confidential space for women and children experiencing domestic violence to look at their options. We are open to referrals from all of Ireland and all sectors of Irish society.

Our focus is on empowering the women who contact us, and we work from the ethos that they know best for themselves and their children. Our refuge also provides a playroom and qualified Childcare workers to support the resident children and their mothers.

In addition, we have an Outreach Service for women who cannot or do not come to the refuge and also provide post settlement support for families who have moved on from the refuge. Our outreach service also provides court accompaniment to clients within and outside of the refuge, who are pursuing legal options for protection.

# Our Vision

Our vision is to reach and support an ever-increasing number of families in Irish society, who deserve respect, dignity, safety and freedom from domestic abuse. Through our team of professional, caring and committed people our primary focus remains our commitment to continuous improvement in all aspects of our operations and the services we offer to our clients and the community.

# Our Mission

Our Mission is to provide safe, supportive and confidential services for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.



# Our Principles



## **We believe that ...**

- Nobody deserves to be abused.
- No person should ever have to experience the torture of being abused by a 'loved one'.
- No one should be alone in carrying the burden of blame, shame and judgment perpetrated upon them.
- Early educational interventions with young people entering intimate relationships are key to combating domestic abuse in future generations and breaking the cycle of abuse.

## **We acknowledge that ...**

- Domestic abuse is a serious and life destroying crime for which the client is never responsible.
- Domestic abuse is a cycle of abuse that only escalates with time.
- Domestic abuse occurs in all walks of life – all classes, creeds, ages and races.
- Domestic abuse is an unequal balance of power and control that an individual holds over another in any intimate relationship – husband and wife, same sex partners, or adult children and an elder parent.
- Domestic abuse takes many forms including physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and financial abuse.

## **We commit to ...**

- Empowering our clients and facilitating them in having a voice.
- Listening, hearing, believing and respecting those who contact us for help whether they plan to leave an abusive relationship or seek support in staying safe in the relationship.
- Working in a non-judgmental environment supporting clients – only they know the reality of their abuse.
- Maintaining a confidential service for all our clients and ensuring that we always work according to Children First, to protect children, first and foremost.

# Our Values

## Respect

We will at all times respect and treat equally and with dignity all who come in contact with Saoirse.

## Child and Family Centred

We put the clients of our services at the centre of all that we do.

## Collaboration

We work in partnership with stakeholders in our community, with Tusla and with the wider NGO sector for the benefit of our clients.

## Training

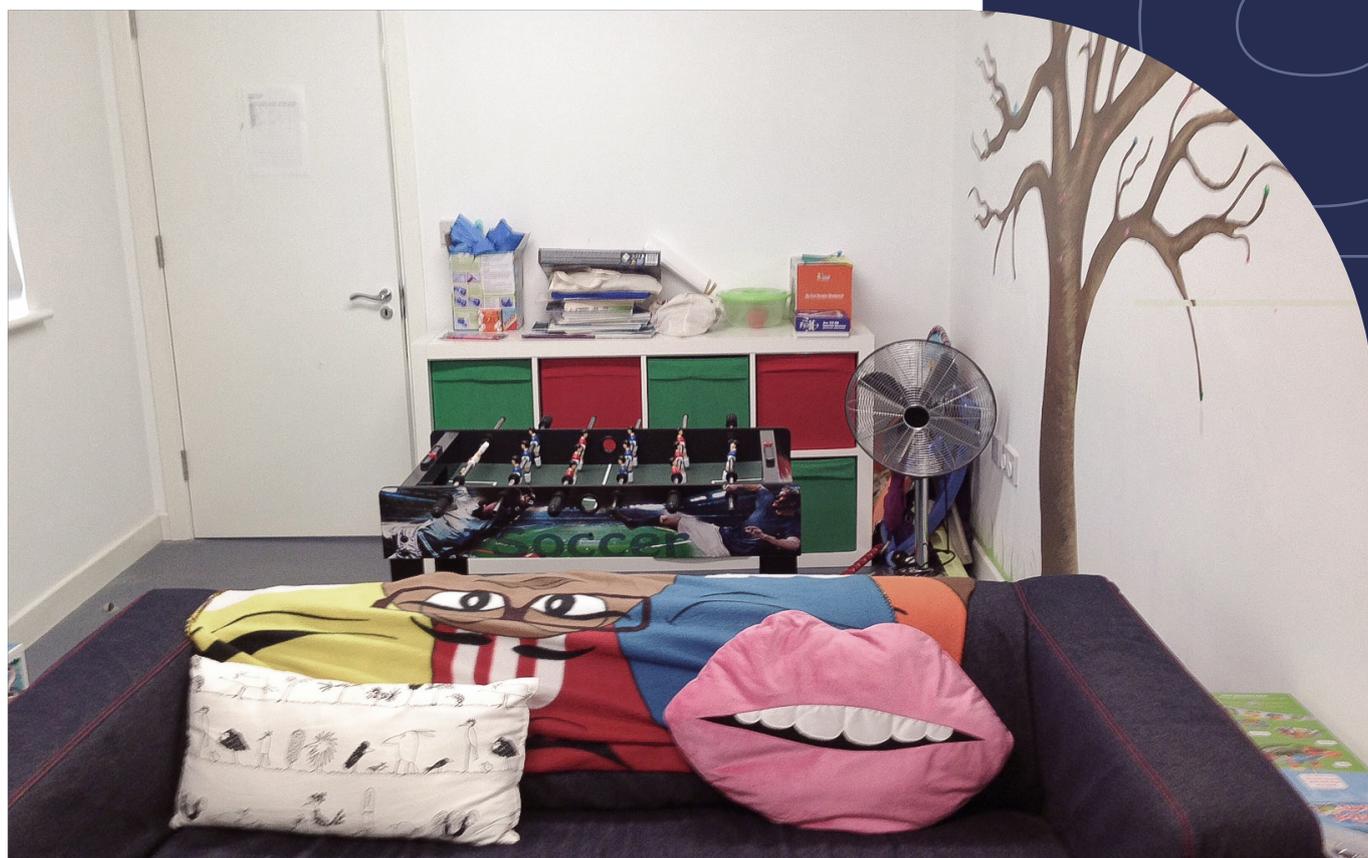
We invest in ongoing training for all management and staff to foster a culture of on-going learning and development.

## Integrity

As an organisation we are committed to be honest and accountable in all our dealings with each other, with our clients and with our funders.

## Confidentiality

We will continue to maintain the confidentiality of the families we work with unless we have concerns about child protection issues.



# Our Board



The Board of Management of Saoirse Housing Association Ltd is made up of a mixture of statutory, local community group representatives and local professionals and members from the private sector in more recent times. It met every 6 weeks and in 2018 the Directors of the Board were:

- Garret Byrne** ..... (Barrister – Chairperson)
- Lisa Glassett** ..... (Tallaght Probation Project – Company Secretary)
- Jacqueline Blanchfield** ..... (St Dominic’s Community Response - retired during 2018)
- Vikki Hughes** ..... (Tallaght CIC)
- David Laird** ..... (Management Consultant)
- Mark Brennan** ..... (Barnardos)
- Daren O’Neill** ..... (Tallaght West Credit Union)
- Kirsten Byrne** ..... (Senior Social Worker –PPFS Tusla) – Board Member not Director

**Garret Byrne**

**Chairman of the Board**



## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2019**

Since its foundation in 2006, Saoirse has operated from one refuge, based in Tallaght. Although this facility provides a vital resource for women and children experiencing domestic violence, we have always known that it simply was not sufficient to meet the demand for the services that it provides.

2019 was therefore a momentous year in the history of the organisation as, thirteen years after the first refuge was opened in Tallaght, we opened a second refuge in Rathcoole. This was the culmination of years of dedication and hard work on the part of the staff and management, and constitutes a lasting testament to the high regard in which they are held by both South Dublin County Council and Tusla, who entrusted this essential new service to Saoirse.

The official opening of the new refuge in December, presided over by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone TD, was a bittersweet occasion. While the presence of so many colleagues from other organisations working with us to combat domestic violence was a welcome source of renewed determination, it was also a sad reminder of the scale of the problem we face. In this Annual Report, we record that we were forced to turn away very many of those who contacted us seeking accommodation for them and their families. We must hope that the new refuge in Rathcoole will help to ameliorate that terrible situation.

The achievement of that objective will be further supported by the fact that we have also taken significant steps together with Tusla in relation to the re-opening of the Rathmines refuge. This facility was the first purpose-built domestic violence refuge in Ireland and had for decades been operated directly by the HSE, but was unfortunately closed in 2016. Tusla decided to hand over the reins to one of the charitable organisations funded by it and, after a tender process, asked Saoirse to step in. We continue to work hard with Tusla to make the facility ready to provide its essential service.

We have also taken the important and necessary step of establishing our Outreach service on a standalone basis, separate from the refuges. This will enable the organisation to reach many more women and children experiencing domestic violence and will hopefully reduce the requirement for crisis accommodation. We recruited Nadine O'Brien to the newly created role of Outreach Manager to establish and develop this service, which comprises the outreach teams linked to the Tallaght and Rathcoole refuges, as well as the independent outreach workers for the Dublin 12 and West Wicklow areas. We hope that, once we have the Rathmines refuge up and running, the Outreach Service will be expanded to include a new outreach team linked to that refuge.

These developments have, of course, led to a substantial increase in the size of the organisation, which in turn resulted in some important changes in the management structure. The board carried out a recruitment process to fill the newly created role of CEO and were delighted that the successful candidate was Allison Graham, the manager of the Tallaght

refuge since the very beginning. It is a source of enormous comfort to us that the future of the organisation is assured in Allison's capable hands.

With additional funding from Tusla, we also significantly expanded our management team. We had previously operated with only a Refuge Manager and an Assistant Manager, supplemented recently by the addition of a Project Manager to support the opening of the Rathcoole refuge, but this was plainly insufficient to manage the growing organisation. In addition to the new CEO and Outreach Manager roles, we have been able to appoint Ade Ogundipe as our Financial Controller and Ehi Kenneth as our HR Administrator. Trish Cole, who was Saoirse's second ever employee, has now been promoted to Refuge Manager, assisted by Orla Kelly, new recruit Lesley Hill and Child care Team Leader Paula Garry.

There have also been some important changes at board level. We welcomed two new directors – Sandra Byrne of Kildare Youth Services and Maureen Carroll of the Merrion Hotel. However, in September, Lisa Glassett, our longest serving director, retired. The board will miss her unwavering and clear-eyed focus on the welfare of the women and children we serve.

Lastly, I want to express my profound gratitude to the staff and management and to my fellow board members. Their collective talent and dedication are reflected in the improvements they make to the lives of the hundreds of women and children who benefitted from our services this year.



**Allison Graham**

**CEO**

# **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT 2019**

As we come to the end of a decade which saw many challenging years of economic recession, funding cuts and an ever increasing demand for domestic violence services, it seems a fitting time to reflect on the ups and downs of Saoirse's path to date. The wheels started in motion for the development of a second refuge a number of years ago, but 2019 will be remembered as the year that real progress and achievements to fulfil this dream, came to fruition. Ireland has a serious shortage of refuge accommodation spaces for families forced to flee their home due to domestic violence. This is not just clear from the vast numbers of families that cannot be accommodated every year in Saoirse services or across services, the length and breadth of the country, but also according to minimum refuge provisions necessary per population, under the Istanbul Convention. Our aim was to bring 6 more family units on stream by the end of 2019.

With the backing of South Dublin County Council and the Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence division of Tusla, work started on the renovation of the refuge building in Rathcoole, Co Dublin in summer 2019, after a number of frustrating delays with the building that were out of our control. A new organisational strategy and structure, included the expansion and development of departments and reporting structures, and the staff team more than doubling, which was agreed with the backing of Tusla funding. The new structure encompassed the new refuge in Rathcoole with 24 hour services, modelled on the existing Tallaght refuge, the development of our Outreach and Prevention services in

their own right with more area coverage. There was also the establishment of a Childcare Team Leader role to plan, nurture and steer the centralised development of children support services across Saoirse in a more structured and progressive manner, meeting the specialised needs of our young clients. In mid-2019, with the expansion of our outreach services already underway with staff covering South West Dublin and D12, the team moved to a new premises offsite from the refuge for the first time. We were also successfully allocated funding from Tusla to establish an outreach service covering West Wicklow, which started in March 2019. This service was a new venture for Saoirse in that it is serving a very rural population, with some different needs and challenges than our urban clients. We were honoured to be able to provide this much needed service to the families of West Wicklow.

The phased recruitment of the new key management roles commenced in summer 2019 with a mixture of successful internal promotions, as well as new members, with a wealth of experience and fresh ideas joining our team. Management and leadership coaching and team building was crucial in the latter months of 2019 ahead of the new services opening, to ensure a united and collaborative approach to staff and service management. Autumn/winter 2019 saw the expansive task of recruiting many key support roles across both refuges, outreach and childcare services. We faced some challenges filling all the support roles in a relatively short period of time, as the social care jobs economy has been quite buoyant. Staff induction and training of 30 plus new staff across all roles was a task in itself, which brought us to the decision in late November that the new refuge would open in

the first week of January 2020 rather than before Christmas. Christmas is a very busy and emotional time in refuge and Domestic services' life. Through all the development and expansion of Saoirse services over the past year, our Tallaght and existing services continued delivering the dedicated 24/7 services and meeting the needs of families.

Although we could not have achieved the expansion of our services to such a scale without the support and funding from SDCC and Tusla, as well as our Board of Management who give their time voluntarily and with such dedication, it is true to say that we could not have done any of this without the wonderful management and staff team we have in Saoirse. Change can bring lots of challenges, anxiety, apprehension and uncertainty to an organisation and its teams. 2019 brought the most change our organisation has ever seen, in a relatively short period of time and every member of our team worked with it to achieve the common goal of reaching more families and hoping to bring brighter, safer futures to many. 2020 will bring more changes and adjustments as the organisation beds down more completely but we look forward with much anticipation and pride to the doors of Rathcoole refuge opening in January 2020, and the next chapter and decade of Saoirse Women's Refuge.



**Trish Cole**

**Saoirse Refuges'  
Manager**



## **REFUGES MANAGER'S REPORT 2019**

2019 was an exciting and exceptionally busy year in Saoirse. The helpline, refuge and day caller services continued to be stretched to meet the needs of clients. Our Outreach and prevention services expanded exponentially throughout 2019 and as a result we were working desperately to have a second refuge open in order to meet the increased demand for spaces in the Tallaght refuge. The purchase of the Rathcoole property identified as the new refuge, met with some challenges and access to funding took longer than anticipated but works finally began on renovations in July.

The building, which was a former rental property, needed considerable work in order to house the five families that were going to be living in the communal setting. Each room would have its own en-suite shower room, and would provide from two to seven bed spaces depending on the needs for mum and children. Women without children would also be accommodated.

We designed the large space to have two kitchens, one at either end of the room so that at any one time two families could use this space which would have its own fridge / freezer and its own storage spaces for food.



Whilst building works were ongoing we began the recruitment drive for the new team to support the families who would be living in the new refuge.

Every member of the support team is qualified to degree level, to ensure the highest standard of professionalism is delivered across Saoirse's services. The induction and introduction of the new team was completed by the end of November in time for the official launch of the refuge.

The then Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone, officiated at the launch of the new refuge in December 2019 and a new chapter in the life of Saoirse began.

We were disappointed that the re-opening of the Rathmines refuge did not progress at this time also which was due to issues with the building which prevented us from moving forward with it having won the tender to manage Rathmines Refuge, but we are hopeful that it will be possible to progress this project in the near future.

Tallaght refuge continued to be the Refuge hub of the organisation throughout 2019. Plans to refurbish the refuge are ongoing with South Dublin County Council.

Of the Women and Children who availed of the Refuge service in Tallaght throughout 2019, the move on options were a bigger challenge this year as there appeared to be less available access to private rented accommodation as well as to affordable housing. This resulted in the unfortunate situation that a number of families were moved to homeless hubs for a period of time.

The opening of the second refuge created additional spaces for five women and their children, which in a time of rising numbers of Domestic Violence and a homeless crisis is a very welcome development.

We look forward to more positive developments within Saoirse for 2020.

**Nadine O'Brien**

**Outreach and  
Prevention Manger**

## **GROWTH OF OUR OUTREACH TEAM**



In 2019 Saoirse grew exponentially with the addition of a second refuge. As a consequence the Outreach Service also grew and I was employed as the Outreach and Prevention Manager. Further to this expansion we saw development within our Outreach team which grew to 4 outreach workers. The extension of this team enables us to provide domestic violence support to those residing in the area of West Wicklow.

Our team aims to deliver a community-based prevention and early intervention service whose goal is to empower those experiencing domestic abuse to live free from the crime of Domestic Violence. We support families to access the necessary supports required to remain safely in their own homes.

We cover a vast area ranging from West Wicklow, South to Midwest Dublin inclusive of Dublin 12 and surrounding areas. Similarly we provide post-refuge support to women

and children who return home or move elsewhere. Our service provision is not limited to a specific length of time for our clients and many families continue to engage with the service throughout the beginning middle and end of their recovery process.

Our team provides practical and emotional support to those who have or are experiencing physical, emotional, sexual and/ or financial abuse. We also provide advice and assistance on legal, housing, social welfare, entitlements, information, advocacy and referrals to appropriate services.

We also offer therapeutic supports to supplement our one to one and group work. One aim is to help those who have experienced domestic abuse identify and understand their experience by recognising the strategies, behaviours and beliefs of abusers. Secondly we support our clients to further identify the effects and impacts that domestic abuse has on them and their children.

With so much growth the outreach team outgrew its base in the Tallaght refuge which meant that we had to move out of the refuge to a new premises. Maro House was sourced as a temporary solution until such time as we could find a more suitable premises. Maro House allowed our outreach team to consolidate as an individual department operating within the community. It also meant that the team could meet clients in a safe secure and therapeutic one to one setting.

**Orla Greaney**

**Saoirse Refuge  
Assistant Manager**



# **INTERNATIONAL 16 DAYS OF AWARENESS RAISING OF DOMESTIC SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

Every year, from the 25th of November until the 10th of December, during the 16 days of action, Saoirse organises events to raise awareness of Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

In 2019, we delivered many educational workshops and we hosted a number of awareness campaigns, including information stands in local shopping centres and delivering Domestic Violence training to local community groups. On the 1st of December, we held a fundraising event: the 1K Family run (Jingle all the way).

In partnership with Tallaght Women's Together Network (WTTN) we set up an evening at the Tallaght Stadium, which included a presentation of our services and some stats from our annual report 2018. At that time there was also a presentation from the WTTN.

Domestic violence advocate Emma Murphy highlighted the new Vodafone Ireland app. This was followed by a Candle Vigil and the Musically Sound choir. This event was attended by the local community, staff from Saoirse, local Counsellors and the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone.

All events organised throughout the 16 days Campaign were well attended and supported by the community.

**Paula Garry**

**Childcare Assistant  
Manager**



## **CHILD CARE REPORT 2019**

In 2019 the childcare team supported 172 children in refuge. The children had access to many fun activities in the playroom and also one to one sessions as needed. Of these 172 children, mothers were also supported to enjoy creative activities with their children and create memories in our playroom. The tree of life has grown in the last year in our playroom as many of the women and children added their handprints to be held in a safe space by the childcare team.

Butterfly house, our playroom in Tallaght provides a safe, stimulating and caring environment where each child can reach their full potential. To achieve this we work in partnership with mothers/guardians, children and a multi-disciplinary team. We believe that all children have a right to play. It is recognised that play is a child's way of learning and coming to terms with the world around them. We use a range of activities and learning approaches, however the child's right to learn through play is at the centre of our ethos.

The childcare service recognises children as clients within their own right, and care planning for children is developed alongside Keyworkers. We work holistically with families to see each child within the context of their own family and advocate for children at team meetings and at other forums. The Childcare team promotes understanding and awareness of the effects of domestic violence on children and give children a voice across all our services.

The childcare role in Saoirse involves working directly both in group and individually with child clients, supporting mothers around parenting needs and referring to other services where appropriate. We also provide support to outreach families where there are children living in the community in homes where there is domestic violence. We also link in with other agencies around domestic violence and we provide advocacy for child clients who are affected by this crime. We also provide school talks and prevention work.

Over the past year, the childcare team has worked extensively within the community working alongside schools, social work teams, public health nurses, (to name but a few of the community workers we work alongside) in order to ensure the children at Saoirse get the vital wrap around supports they need.

The childcare team planned many fun days for families but in particular we organised the Christmas party which is always a highlight of the year. It was held at a local play centre this year where outreach families and refuge clients were treated to a special Christmas lunch with a visit and present from Santa for all the children. Although this is a difficult time of year for families, the childcare team ensure that it is fun and magical for the children as it should be.

The childcare team also played a huge part in fund raising this year, not only forming the committee for our "Jingle all the way" event but also organising schools to come and sing at the event. Over the years we have made strong links with not only local schools but schools all over Dublin, such as Alexandra College. Every year we run school talks in Alexandra College to coincide with their appeal for our families. Each year the girls take on a different project.

This year we received over 100 wash bags with products. We are very grateful for this support. Not only have our prevention talks been delivered in schools but we have also engaged with community groups and clubs. This year the childcare team were even asked to judge the Easter Bonnet competition at a local scouts group!

We look forward to 2020 and to the opening of our new refuge in South Dublin. Although there isn't a playroom, we are excited to have a full time childcare worker in post who will facilitate play and creative activities for the women and their children when it is needed the most. We are very grateful to the children who we have met this year, who have shared their stories and their lives, their resilience, strength and courage which always amazes us on the childcare team. Thank you!

"We don't stop playing because we grow old.....we grow old because we stop playing."

*George Bernard Shaw*



# GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE WORK ON THE GROUND AT SAOIRSE

**Keyworkers** are assigned to each new resident family on admission and they work Monday - Friday providing advocacy, accompaniment and referral supports to clients. Their care planning with clients offers a range of supports in line with the needs of the clients and we aim to meet these ever-changing needs. Our **Contact Workers** provide invaluable support alongside Keyworkers to resident clients, helpline callers and day callers including as lone workers out of office hours, allowing us to maintain 24 hour refuge support and admissions for families around the clock.

Our **Childcare Workers** team support the families through care planning with the mothers and their children as a family unit during their time in refuge and enable the children to have a voice around their experiences. They provide group play and one to one sessions in the playroom, Monday to Saturday, for the children ranging in ages from infancy to late teens. They also support child clients of outreach families in our Safe Houses.

Our **Outreach and Court** accompaniment staff spend a lot of their time supporting women out in the community and through the courts, who are suffering domestic abuse. The outreach team provide supports and care planning with the residents of the refuges and of our Safe Houses. They have an important role in networking, sourcing referral paths and making links with other services supporting families in crisis, as well as part of prevention work. On occasion, we also support men suffering domestic abuse through this service when requests are received.





Our **relief teams** provide emergency and staff leave cover for full time staff, on our 24-hour and childcare services. They are often called on at short notice and are long term contributors to running our services. The support we provide every day to families in crisis is only possible with such commitment and passion.

Our **outreach staff** continue their visibility in the community, meeting women on a one to one basis in clinics, libraries and community services. All the while recognising the need to work towards societal change. We deliver specialist training to statutory & non-statutory organisations, community services, women's groups, homeless and addiction services. All training is provided by our team and is developed in a bespoke fashion to ensure we meet the needs of those requiring the training.

Our **Court support worker** provides a court preparation and accompaniment service to women who need to access Advice on legal orders, court process, and court application process. In 2019 this services supported 120 women through the legal process. We also have a **Financial Administrator and Receptionist** providing essential administrative support to our Management team and services in general, to keep all the wheels moving. We have a **housekeeping staff** who help keep our refuge clean and tidy for everyone.

# WHAT 2019 BROUGHT

The following data collection provides some insight to service provision in 2018.

<b>No. of women in refuge in 2019</b> .....	89
<b>No. of children in refuge in 2019</b> .....	172
<b>No. of women in Safe House in 2019</b> .....	8
<b>No. of children in Safe House in 2019</b> .....	10
<b>Total residents in 2019</b> .....	279
<b>No. of Outreach clients in 2019</b> .....	322
<b>No. of helpline calls in 2019</b> .....	3238
<b>No. could not accommodate as refuge full</b> .....	453 families
<b>Average length of stay for 2019</b> .....	21 days

(from 1 day to several months)

The number of families in refuge 89, was notably up from 72 in 2018. The number of children was also up from 133 to 172. The average length of stay was down from 26 days to 21 days. There was also a notable increase in the number of helpline calls from 2,627 in 2018 to 3,238 in 2019.

The average length of stay of 21 days is directly linked to the lack of safe, accessible housing and move-on options for families, often in need of ongoing supports with mental health, addictions, family crisis, compromised parenting, etc., asides from domestic abuse.

A number of women staying in the refuge presented without children due to a number of factors including having no children, adult children or their children staying with family or in social services care.



# 24 HOUR HELPLINE

## Helpline Calls Breakdown 3 238

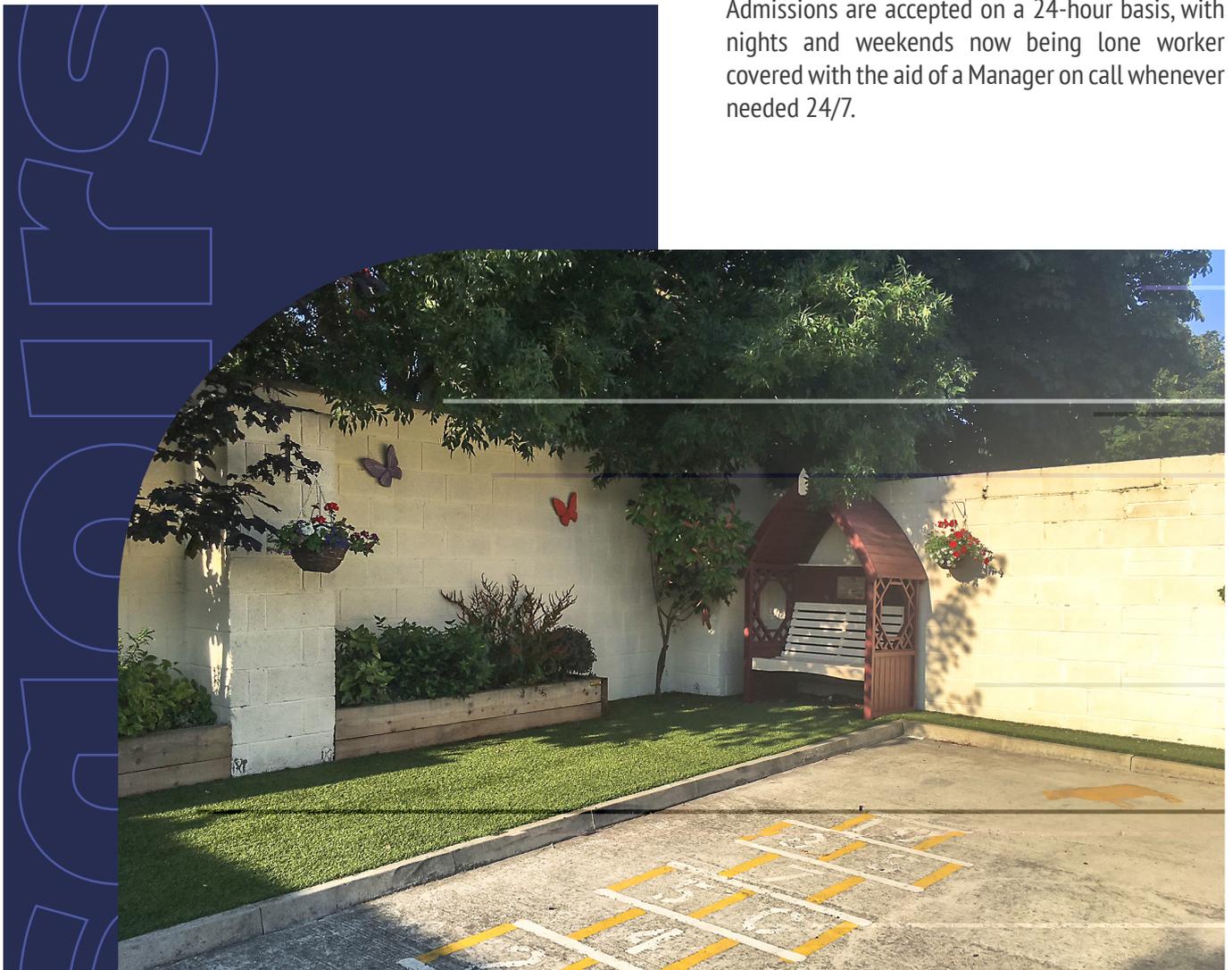
Accommodation .....	17% (569)
Client Care .....	19% (629)
Information .....	12% (386)
Support .....	10% (313)
Outreach .....	12% (400)
Administration .....	23% (777)
Other .....	7% (164)

(incl. Silent calls and hang ups).

Of the 3,238 calls made to our 24-hour helpline during 2019, accommodation and existing client care are among the most frequent requests, while the seeking of information on the helpline were similar to previous years. Information calls come from a mixture of women seeking practical help for themselves or family as well as professionals supporting families in domestic abuse.

Support calls refer to emotional support being sought. Our endeavors to get the refuge in Rathcoole opened in 2019 and providing 5 additional refuge spaces, was our top priority.

Admissions are accepted on a 24-hour basis, with nights and weekends now being lone worker covered with the aid of a Manager on call whenever needed 24/7.





# WHAT SAOIRSE PROVIDED IN 2019

We operate a key-working / family working system which means every family is allocated a keyworker and (if children involved) a childcare worker when they arrive to the refuge. These staff commence a care plan which is client-lead, to ensure all aspects of support are offered and in time, options and moving on to a safe home can be addressed.

Support to residents and helpline callers is provided 24 hours / 365 days a year with onsite staff. The outreach and court accompaniment services operate Monday – Friday and childcare services are Monday-Saturday.

In 2019 we experienced an increasing array of issues that clients presented with in addition to suffering domestic abuse, including chronic mental health, homelessness, immigration restrictions, child protection and welfare issues, addiction issues and compromised parenting. The increasing demand on the service, alongside the challenge of supporting more families with deepening issues requires us to continually review how we respond to these needs effectively. Ongoing and refresher training for staff is key to maintaining a quality service and these continued in 2019 including a mix of standard and bespoke team trainings, for all staff to experience.

During 2019 we progressed negotiations with SDCC and Tusla to work towards the provision of a second refuge location Rathcoole, South Dublin. This goal was part of our vision in our current Strategic Plan and we fulfilled our aim and opened the second refuge and associated services in December 2019.

Like Irish society and the services external to Saoirse, the landscape of our services, the families' needs presenting to us and our processes are constantly changing to respond positively and keep as many families as safe as possible.

2020 will no doubt bring many challenges like those we have experienced over the past 12 years at Saoirse, but we take our energy, resilience and drive from the families we meet every day in Saoirse, and strive to always provide a quality support service to all our clients. We are positive that with funding negotiations continuing with Tusla to deliver more services, now our focus can shift to investing in the future, including our staff, with the hope of multi-annual stable funding going forward. We will continue, in parallel with other organisations, to raise the issue of domestic abuse in Irish Society, and to break the silence for those who experience it every day. We hope for a brighter day for more families who are suffering at the hands of domestic violence.





# RON QUINN

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## RIP

While we had lots of growth and positive changes during 2019 we were all very shocked by the untimely death of Ron Quinn. Ron was the go to man in Saoirse for all our maintenance needs. He was gifted with his hands and no problem was too difficult for Ron, whether it was a broken down car, tyre repairs, or painting and decorating.

He was also a great storyteller and there were many days when life seemed very difficult in the Refuge and Ron would tell you one of his stories and your day became brighter again. He loved his work in the Refuge and he was passionate about the work of Saoirse.

He will be sorely missed.

*Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.*





**Saoirse Women's Refuges**  
**PO Box 10819**  
**Tallaght, Dublin 24**

**24hr Helpline:** 01 4630000

**Email:** [helpline@saoirsecwomensrefugeie](mailto:helpline@saoirsecwomensrefugeie)

**Web:** [www.saoirsecwomensrefuge.ie](http://www.saoirsecwomensrefuge.ie)