

annual report 2010



Limerick
Social Service
Council Ltd

Comhairle Sheirbhís Sóisialta Luimnigh Teo



Crèche

Pre-school Service

Services for Older People

Pre-natal and Post-natal Service

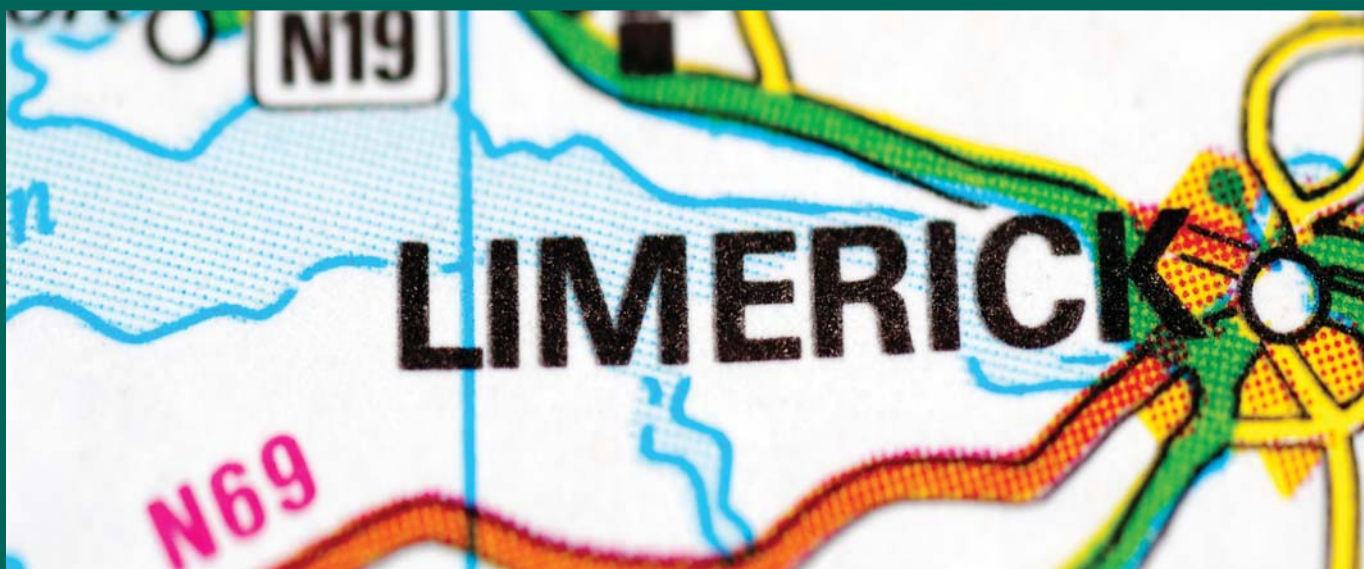
Childminding Initiative

Counselling Service

Parent Support Programme

Family Advocacy Service

Family Welfare Conference



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Centre Philosophy

Charitable enterprises can and should reach out to absolutely every person and every need. Wherever there are people in need of food and drink, clothing, housing, medicine, education: wherever people lack the facilities for living a truly human life, or are tormented by hardships, poor health, or suffer exile or imprisonment, Christian charity should seek them out.



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General Manager's Report

2010 was a very challenging year for Limerick Social Service Council and one in which significant progress was made in services delivered by the Council. We remain committed to the delivery of high quality services and seek to do so in accordance with our ethos and philosophy.

To the people of the Diocese of Limerick, I would like to thank you for your continued generous support through the various collections throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge the partnerships we have developed over the last number of years which have assisted us greatly in delivering services, in particular I would like to commend the Health Service Executive West, Office for Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Pobal, Health Service Executive Crises Pregnancy Programme, Family Support Agency, Limerick Regeneration Agency for their continued support.

As the economic uncertainty continues we have witnessed an increased demand for our services. Where possible our services are free of charge, and when charges are levied we strive to make them affordable and accessible to those most vulnerable and with least resources.

Again this year our counselling service has witnessed a huge demand for its services. In 2010 we offered 4305 sessions which was an increase of 19% on the previous year. It would not have been possible for us to deliver the increased number of sessions without the assistance of the professional qualified volunteers who work with us.

This year also saw an increase of our involvement in the Incredible Years Programme. This is an international early intervention programme targeting children ranging in age from young infants to ten year olds who are exhibiting social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. We deliver programmes both in the Social Service Centre and in various communities across the city. I would like to thank PAUL Partnership for their guidance in assisting us in the rollout of this programme.

In December 2010 we embark on a new Family Support Initiative in partnership with the Holy Family Parish Southill, Limerick Regeneration Agency and the Health Service Executive. The initiative works with the community in Southill to identify needs and to connect and support individuals and or families to access appropriate services in the area. We look forward to developing this service in 2011.

Limerick Social Service Council would not function without the hard work and commitment of its staff together with the many volunteers who are committed to delivering a quality service and I would like to thank you for your commitment and dedication.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Executive Council members and in particular to Mr. Flann O'Neill for his commitment and guidance throughout the year. There is no doubt that 2011 will present further challenges but I'm confident that Limerick Social Service Council will continue to deliver a high quality service.



Brian Ryan
General Manager



General Manager's Report

"The crèche continues to have a high staff retention rate, the low turnover of staff ensures consistency of care for the children and parents"
Crèche

"Our goal is to work with the children's primary carers/parents to ensure that the children enjoy their childhood and are encouraged to develop" Pre-school

"434 childminders/parents contacted the Service in 2010"
Childminding Initiative

"We are a needs led service, always listening and responding to what older adults are asking us for" Older Adults

"2010 was a challenging year, referrals were up by 56% from 2009"
Counselling

"a mother completed her Leaving Certificate with the support of three LSSC programmes and obtained a college placement" Parent Support Programme

"Clients were experiencing increasingly challenging situations, largely influenced by the recession"
Counselling









"To protect the privacy of the young person and family members involved, all Family Welfare Conferences are confidential"
Family Welfare Conference

"Over the course of the year the Family Advocacy Service worked with 34 parents/families who have children in care"
Family Advocacy Service

"389 families engaged with Parent Support Programme in 2010"
Parent Support Programme

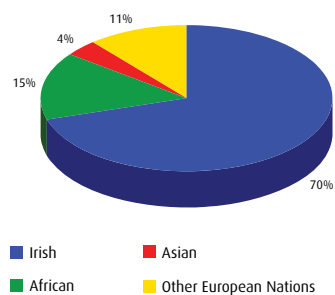


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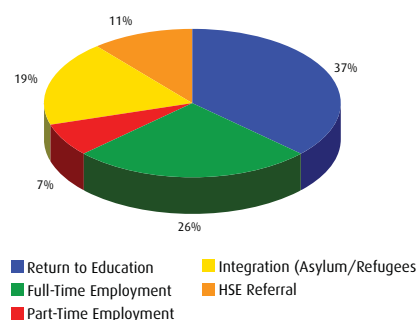
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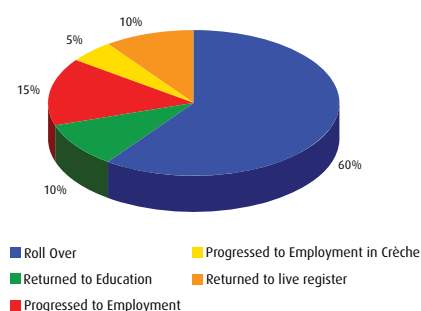
Ethnicity of children



Current parent profile



Community Employment Scheme



Who we support and the support we provide

Children:

The Crèche is approved to cater for 30 children aged 6 months to 3 years. We have experienced staff delivering quality care for the children who attend the Crèche. Consistency of care for this age group is vital, and due to the low level of staff turnover in the Crèche consistent care and developmentally appropriate practice is delivered on a daily basis.

Parents:

We work very closely with the parents of the children who attend the Crèche. We provide an open door policy in which parents are welcome to visit their child at anytime during the day. Working in partnership with parents and supporting them in their role as primary carers ensures that the service meets the needs of both children and parents.

Incredible Years Infant Programme:

The Incredible Years Infant Programme was implemented in 2010. This programme is designed to mentor parents in the early development of their children. Results from the parental survey were positive. Parents requested that this initiative is introduced in 2011 for the Toddler Programme.

Students:

We continue to provide training placements for the students of Mary Immaculate College studying the BA degree course in Early Childcare Care and Education as well as for the other local training colleges involved in FETAC levels of Childcare training.

Limerick Social Services Centre Crèche aims to provide a quality, affordable and developmentally appropriate childcare service. We advocate working in partnership with parents, recognising parents as the primary carers of their children.



Crèche

Positive developments of 2010

- In 2010 the government sponsored the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS) and the Childcare Employment and Training Support (CETS) Scheme for childcare provision, which widened the option of childcare to families within the catchment area of the Crèche
- Completion of the Incredible Years Infant Programme within the service
- We are currently in the process of recruiting a parent representative to sit on the Crèche Committee. Interest has been high among the parents; this will provide a positive and valuable insight into the parents needs
- 3 Community Employment staff progressed to employment
- Successful application and renewal of the Community Employment Scheme.

Looking to the future

- Work in partnership with parents and support them in parenting their children
- Continue to meet standards set out by the Health Service Executive West to ensure that we deliver a quality childcare service
- Engage in ongoing evaluation of our service
- Operate and comply with the Government Community Childcare Subvention Scheme/The Childcare Employment and Training Support Scheme
- Retain staff with qualifications and relevant childcare experience to provide personalised, responsive care
- Provide a supportive and professional work environment for staff.

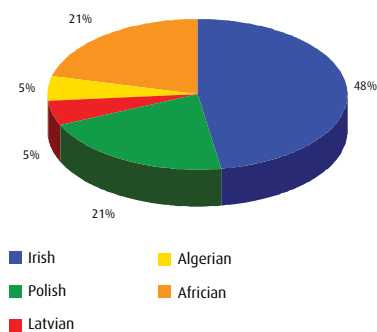
“The staff at the crèche are outstanding people, very friendly, always there to listen and give advice”

“The service has benefited me as I can now peruse a degree in education while knowing my son is cared for properly. Without this service I would be at home dreaming about bettering myself and providing a good home for my son on the future”

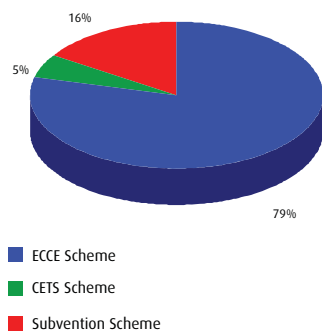




Ethnicity of children



Schemes



Who we support and the support we provide

Children:

The Pre-school caters for children between 3 to 5 years. The Pre-school is approved to cater for 20 children each morning. We believe the Pre-school experience is a very important time in a child's life and hugely beneficial before starting primary school. Therefore we strive to encourage all aspects of the children's development through play and meaningful interaction. The children currently attending the Pre-school do so under three schemes, the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, the Subvention Scheme and the Childcare Education and Training Support (CETS) Scheme.

Parents:

We aim to involve parents in all aspects of their child's Pre-school experience. We offer advice when requested and work in partnership to meet the children's needs. We welcome parents to join us on all field trips.

Students:

We provide work experience placements for students studying on a variety of courses, e.g., Early Childhood Care and Education, Primary School Teaching.

Limerick Social Services Centre Pre-School aims to provide a safe, secure and educational environment for the children who attend our Service. Our goal is to work with the children's primary carers/parents to ensure the children enjoy their childhood and are encouraged to develop to their full potential



Pre-school Service

Positive developments of 2010

- An immensely enjoyable field trip to Curraghchase Forest Park in June with the children and their parents
- A Christmas concert was held where parents were invited to come and watch their children perform
- A sports day was run in which the children and their parents participated in a variety of fun races
- An end of year graduation ceremony was organised for the children who were leaving to attend primary school
- Staff members participated in a variety of training courses including child protection, Aistear and Siolta.

Looking to the future

- We are planning a field trip to Buttercup Farm in Croom, and the parents will be invited to attend
- We will be having an end of year show where the children will perform songs and dances
- We are going to hold a summer camp for the children in July and August
- The main difficulty we faced in 2010 was a language barrier between staff and some of the children attending the Pre-school. This difficulty has been addressed by organising a training course in Speech and Language Development for all staff members
- At present the Pre-school is full for 2011 and we have a waiting list.

"The children are very well looked after by the staff, the room is always calm and pleasant"

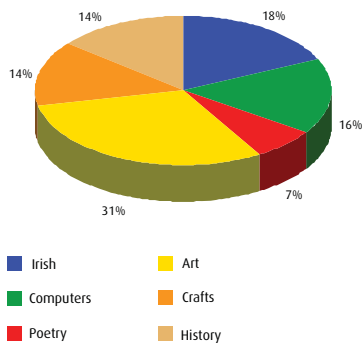
"I am very pleased with the work that the staff are doing. I am so pleased that my child loves attending the service"

"I think the staff are great and couldn't do a better job than they are already doing"

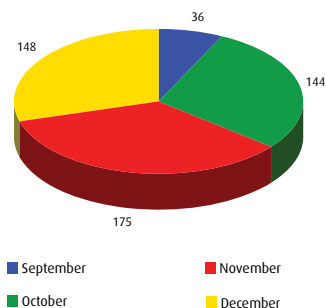




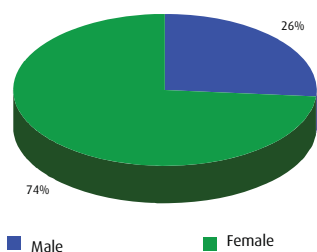
Community education classes



Meals provided in Ballynanty per month



Community education classes



Who we support and the support we provide

Care of the aged:

We support 15 Care of the Aged Groups in the Limerick Area. This year the budget was allocated in September 2010. The aim of this budget is to assist local groups in the care of local older adults. It is especially aimed at helping older adults to access services and encourage older adults out of isolation and to connect with local groups.

Community Education:

Every week over 60 older adults attend the Limerick Social Service Centre (LSSC) for community education classes. The aim of the Community Education Programme is to help overcome isolation commonly associated with older age and to increase the educational capacities of older people, thereby positively impacting on their sense of esteem and self worth. The class tutors are provided by the City of Limerick VEC (CLVEC) but management of the waiting lists, class attendees, allocation of resources etc are the responsibility of the Co-ordinator.

Community Outreach:

Members of the outreach team visit communities where the most vulnerable and isolated older adults live and involve themselves in Parish Councils, Community Groups, Meals on Wheels Sub Groups, Bereavement Support Groups and weekly clubs. The Outreach team also visit older people who are housebound and those in hospitals/care/nursing homes.

The Services for Older People is a needs led service, that aims to listen and respond to what older people need. The service has a number of different areas of focus. Chief amongst these is the goal of maximising the dignity and social opportunities for older adults in Irish Society.



Services for Older People

Positive developments of 2010

- The highlight of the year was an art exhibition by the Art Group at Dooradoyle Library in May entitled "The Four Seasons"
- The increase of older people accessing community education classes at the LSSC Centre.

Looking to the future

- To continue to listen to the views, opinions and needs of older people and to provide the supports required to ensure their inclusion in society.

Community Outreach Activities (weekly numbers)	Average per week	Total per week
Clubs	42	200
Dinners	37	159
Meals provide	60	290
Therapeutic art	30	30
Home & hospital visits	19	94
Liaison with Nursing homes	15	70
Bereavement support visits	14	28

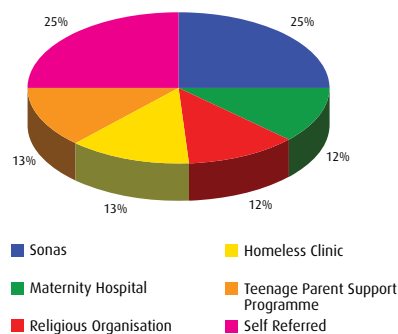
"Thank you for providing the classes, I hope you realise how much I and the others enjoy the class"

"I look forward to the crafts class every week, I find it very relaxing and find it very therapeutic [sic]"

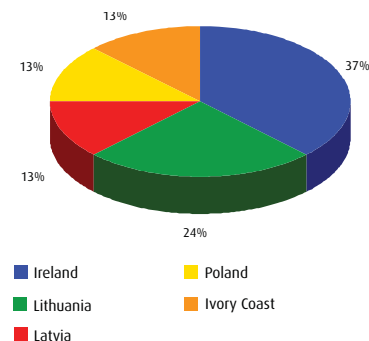




Referrals



Country of Origin



Who we support and the support we provide

We support first time mothers prior to and following the birth of their child.

The Service offers a range of supports to women to help them cope with the transition to motherhood and to assist them in moving to independent living as parents, including:

- Devising an individualised support package for each resident based on their individual needs
- Preparing mother and child to move into permanent accommodation in the community, and assisting the mother in sourcing accommodation
- Providing an outreach service to support the mother and child's transition from our service into their new home
- Linking all residents with the housing authorities to set up rental entitlements and with statutory agencies, to ensure that medical and welfare supports are obtained (e.g. public health nurse, community welfare office)
- Link residents with the different departments of the LSSC, to ensure informed choices are made around the available services
- Provide VEC classes in areas of interest to the residents and provide a crèche facility to support the parent to attend these classes.

"I have received fantastic support here.....if it wasn't for the service I would properly be homeless and starving. Thanks to this service I've had a healthy baby boy that seems to be thriving"

"It has prevented me and my newborn being homeless, and now we are safe and secure"

"I am receiving good support from wonderful people"

The objective of our service is to provide quality semi-supportive, transitional accommodation at low cost to women who are pregnant or who have recently given birth as a first time mother. We aim to create an atmosphere of learning and support for our residents while also ensuring that each resident maintains their independence.



Pre-natal and Post-natal Service

Positive developments of 2010

- This was the first year that we combined Pre-natal and Post-natal accommodation. The 8 women who availed of the service in 2010 felt that the combination was very helpful for them in preparing for the birth of their baby
- A mother completed her Leaving Certificate with the support of 3 LSSC programmes. She obtained a college placement and moved into private rented accommodation
- A placement was offered to a young expectant school girl. In conjunction with the HSE West and with close involvement from a social worker, we supported her through the birth of her child and her first few months of parenting
- We continued to provide VEC classes in areas of interest to the residents. Three classes were provided each week in Beauty and Skin Care, Personal and Social Development and Alternative Therapies. During class times their children were cared for in the crèche room.

Looking to the future

- In 2011 the application process will be updated with the introduction of a new application form
- Our policies and procedure booklet will be reviewed and an updated version will be introduced
- We will be involving Community Mothers and Parent Facilitators from the LSCC to work in the service on a daily basis
- All new mothers will engage in the Incredible Years Programme
- Support staff members to remain updated with changes to social welfare rights and benefits
- Staff members will attend regular supervision and staff meetings to ensure high standards of practice are maintained.

Age profile of residents in 2010	No. of residents
17-19	3
20-24	2
25-30	1
30 +	2





Who we support and the support we provide

The Childminding Advisory Officer supports and encourages all Childminders in Limerick City and County.

The Childminding Advisory Officer supports and encourages all childminders to:

- Notify their service to the Health Service Executive or to voluntarily notify their services to the Limerick City and County Childcare Committees. The Childminding Advisory Officer will not notify a childminding service to the HSE without the childminders consent
- Provide a quality service in the care and education of children and build up network connections
- Obtain Garda vetting, First Aid Training and attend training in child welfare and protection
- Attend a Quality Awareness Programme and attain accredited childcare qualifications
- Attend workshops on Aistear and Síolta.

The Childminding Advisory Officer collaborates with the Co-ordinators of the Limerick City and County Childcare Committees in organising network events and training, along with liaising with the Munster Childminding Advisory Officers and the National Childminding Advisory Officers.

Parents:

The Childminding Advisory Officer informs parents/guardians what to look for in a quality childminding service, including

- A welcoming atmosphere where the care, safety and education of the child is paramount
- Insurance
- Childcare qualifications
- Notification procedures
- Policies and procedures.

Childminding in the home is the largest sector caring for children in Ireland. Our aim is to have Childminders recognised as an integral part of the professional childcare workforce, to be respected for their professional work and accepted as part of the formal system.



Child Minding Initiative

Positive developments of 2010

A variety of network meetings, training days and promotional events were organised throughout the year, including:

- A promotion/information stand during Childminding Week in the Crescent Shopping Centre
- Network meetings were offered for childminders in both Limerick City and County
- 434 childminders/parents contacted the Childminding Advisory Officer for support and assistance throughout the year.

Training courses provided for Childminders in 2010

Quality Awareness Programme	15
First Aid	5
Arts & Crafts	16
Creative Dance	12
Siolta and Aistear	17

Looking to the future

The Childminding Advisory Officer will support childminders to:

- Provide a quality service in the care and education of children
- Complete child welfare and protection training
- Obtain up-to-date First Aid Training
- Attend workshops on and implement Aistear and Siolta
- Attain accredited childcare qualifications
- Build up network connections.

“This service has benefited me greatly, all my queries were answered and I now feel confident that I can offer a suitable childcare service”.

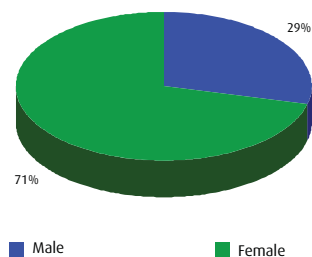
“I have great support when I need it, the advisory officer is always willing to help and she is great to give advice”

“It’s a great confidence booster as it makes setting up as a childminder easier with all the help and support”

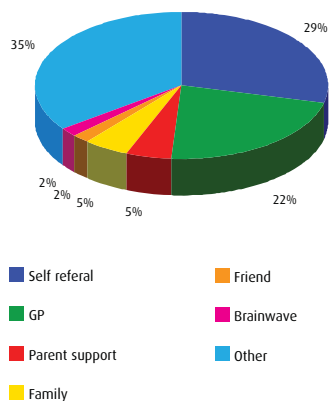




Gender Ratio



Referrals



Who we support and the support we provide

We support individuals and couples through the provision of a counselling service that is both confidential and respectful of their needs.

Counselling sessions in LSSC:

We support individuals and couples experiencing physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual difficulties

Outreach counselling sessions:

In addition to providing our counseling service at the Limerick Social Service Centre, Henry Street, we also provide a Counseling Service off-site, at various venues. These include, Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Rathkeale, Kilmallock and Kilfinane.

The Counselling Service aims to provide a confidential, respectful space for people to explore their life issues. The Service offers a holistic approach to counseling by acknowledging that people have physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual needs.



Counselling Service

Positive developments of 2010

- A total number of 4305 counselling sessions were provided in 2010, this figure is up from 3515 in 2009 an increase of 19%
- We introduced an assessment procedure where all referrals are met by a counsellor within two weeks or sooner where the case is deemed to be a priority. This procedure allowed us to identify who needed to be seen immediately, who may need to be referred to other services for additional supports, and who within our service would have the best set of skills to support each individual client
- The capacity of the service increased both in terms of counselors (recently qualified volunteers) and space
- We continued to decrease cancellation and non attendance rates
- All staff members attended Legal Training.

Looking to the future

- We will extend our intake procedure to Co. Limerick by means of a flexible floating assessor to decrease waiting times
- A client evaluation procedure will be introduced
- Engage in ongoing assessment and review of policies and procedures and update as and when required.

“Since I started my counselling I have stopped smoking and joined the gym. I feel 100 times better in everything”

“Very Helpful and I got alot out of our sessions together. Glad that I went and feel alot better for it”

“My counsellor was a first class counsellor, she is very good at listening”





Level of engagement by service users

Teen Parents Support Programme
159 young people engaged the programme

The Community Mothers Programme
81 families were visited

The Lifelong Parenting Information and Support Programme
149 families availed of one-to-one parenting support

Drop-in visits to the offices
958 recorded drop-in visits to the offices of the Parent Support Programme

Who we support and the support we provide

Parents:

The Parent Support Programme includes a number of services aimed at supporting the diverse needs of parents.

The Teen Parents Support Programme:

This is a programme for young people who are pregnant or who are parents. It offers support and information before and after the birth of the baby, including group peer support, one-to-one support and childcare support in school. The programme supports the young person to remain in education through pregnancy and after the birth, and provides information on relevant services and entitlements. Support is also available to the young person's partner and members of their extended family.

The Community Mothers Programme:

A Community Mother is an experienced mother who is trained to visit the parents of new babies in their own homes. The Community Mother shares information on many issues, including feeding, teething, and talking and listening to your child. Families receive information and support on a number of issues in relation to their needs as a parent as well as being referred to the relevant agencies or organisations for specific support. Occasionally Community Mothers visit the parents of older children.

Lifelong Parenting Information and Support Programme:

This programme provides parents with information and support on all issues relevant to parenting. Information and support may be provided over the phone, one-to-one or in groups.

“Without this service, I wouldn't have had been able to complete my leaving cert. They encouraged me to carry on and supported me to keep going”

“It's helped me know how to handle people (bills, clinic and so on) in a proper manner, and it's taught me more about kids and if im feeling down they've been there for me”

The Parent Support Programme is a structured programme aimed at enabling parents to enjoy and participate more fully in their child's development by providing parents with support and encouragement.



Parent Support Programme

Positive developments of 2010

- A total of 389 families engaged with The Parent Support Programme in 2010
- The Teen Parent Support Programme celebrated its tenth year of work in the provision of services and supports to young people and extended members of their families
- The drop-in service has become a central part of the work of the Parent Support Programme in providing parents with an outlet for support in reassuring them in their role as parents
- The PALS Group (Parents Alone Limerick Support), a support group for parents who are parenting alone in Limerick City and County celebrated its first anniversary
- Inter-agency work continued with participants of MILES (Men in Limerick Experiencing Separation). Fathers who are separated from their children continued to be an area of work, with many fathers contacting the programme directly for support and information
- The re-establishment of a Parent and Baby/Toddler Group in the Limerick Social Service Council provided families living in the Docklands area of Limerick City a new social outlet to meet other parents, many of whom were experiencing social isolation
- In December 2010 a very successful team-building day was held in conjunction with the Nenagh Community Mothers Programme
- The Incredible Years Parent Training Programme has grown beyond all expectations with the programme being delivered to 7 groups of parents in Limerick City. 6 Graduation Ceremonies were held to celebrate the participant's achievements
- Through funding provided by the Crisis Pregnancy Agency, The City Slickers Group, a Personal Development and Parenting Programme was delivered to 11 young parents aged between 17 and 22 years.

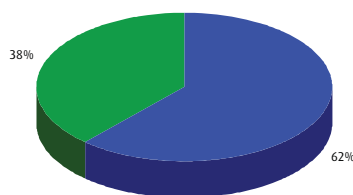
Looking to the future

- Implement the recommendations from the Community Mothers Evaluation
- Organise a publicity campaign and distribution of posters for the Teen Parents Support Programme
- Establish and support more Parent and Baby/Toddler Groups in Limerick City and County
- Arrange a publicity campaign for The PALS Group (Parents Alone Limerick Support)
- Evaluate The City Slickers Group (fourth round of funding).





Family Advocacy Clients



■ Pre-existing Clients from 2009

■ New Clients referred in 2010

Who we support and the support we provide

We support families whose children are in care or who may be going into care.

- We advocate on behalf of families whose children are in care or who may be going into care
- We support parents with preparation for court or case conferences, child in care review meetings and meetings with Social Workers
- Empower parents to participate fully in child care reviews and case conferences to ensure they have been consulted on their child's care plans while they are in care
- Facilitate parents in understanding and addressing difficulties in relation to their child's care plans and provide or access appropriate support for parents to enable this to happen
- Feedback to the HSE West in relation to issues presented by parents relating to policy and practice in the care system, so as to effect changes where needed
- We assist parents in accessing available services such as housing, welfare, mental health supports; personal growth work such as guidance in relation to educational or personal development. Where appropriate, work may be done with a parent on specific issues such as anger management or enabling them to cope with anxiety/stress.

Principles underlying the Family Advocacy Service

- Involvement of parents and families with the service is voluntary
- Empowering families to arrive at their own realistic solutions to challenging situations
- Respecting privacy and confidentiality
- The work is parent centred
- The Advocacy Worker seeks no records or background information from any source prior to meeting parents
- Advocacy only takes place at the request of the parent or family member.

The Family Advocacy Service supports families whose children are in care or who may be going into care. The service aims to facilitate the development of positive relations between parents and all those involved in the care of their child.



Family Advocacy Service

Positive developments of 2010

- Over the course of the year the Family Advocacy Service worked with 34 parents/families who have children in care
- 6 Family Advocacy clients were facilitated to attend group work modules with the Clare Advocacy service. This proved very beneficial to parents in terms of information shared and in meetings with other parents from Clare
- In March representatives from the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) held a consultation day on the Draft National Quality Standards for Foster Care with parents from the mid-west region who have children in care. The consultation day was hosted at Limerick Social Service Centre, 11 parents attended and preparatory work was done with these parents to enable them to clearly articulate their views
- The Family Advocacy Service has a representative on the Consumer Feedback Steering group which is comprised of the HSE West and the Family Advocacy personnel. The steering group initiated a consumer feedback survey where 2 non-social work professionals researched parent's experiences of the Care System using a telephone questionnaire and focus group. The steering group launched the research document entitled 'Listening to our Voices' in June 2010
- 3 parents who availed of the Family Advocacy Service helped to present some of the research findings from 'Listening to our Voices' at the launch of the document to HSE West personnel.

"Any questions I had were answered in a very straightforward way and in a way that was understood and friendly and unrushed. I never felt as though they were to busy to talk, the way you would talk to a friend"

Looking to the future

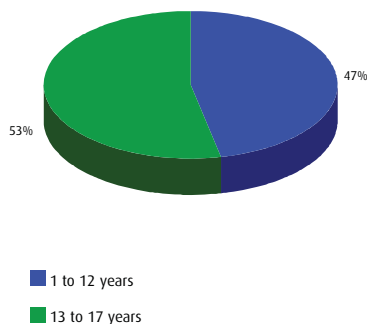
- Develop a protocol document on Family Advocacy to inform policy, practice and procedures
- Work closely on an ongoing basis with Social Workers and other relevant services involved in the lives of parents
- Parents continue to make contact with us from other parts of the country where there is no support service through phone, text message or e-mail, we see this outreach support as being very important for parents
- Continue to deliver monthly support group meetings and encourage new members to attend. We will invite relevant service providers, to come to the meetings according to parents wishes
- Deliver group work material appropriate to family advocacy clientele on specific issues such as anger management, communication skills, coping with anxiety/stress
- We will continue to commit to the ongoing development of an effective Family Advocacy Service for parents who have children in the care of the HSE West.

"I find this service Brilliant and helps parents in need and gives us so much support and respect"

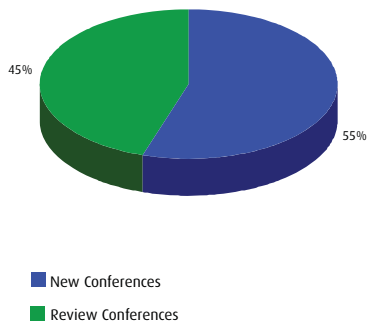




Age Profile of Children



Family Welfare Conferences



Who we support and the support we provide

We support families by providing a Family Welfare Conference, a family meeting that is held when a family is in need of support for any reason or when there is concern about the welfare of a child/young person.

- Welfare Conferences are arranged by the Family Welfare Conference Co-ordinator, who is both independent and separate from the Social Work Service or other agencies
- We support the extended family members and the young person to come together with the services involved (e.g. social worker, teacher, project worker) to address any issues that may be causing difficulties
- We support the family to put a plan in place that will safeguard the well-being and development of the child/young person. All agencies involved in the conference will support the family plan unless they feel it places the child/young person at risk
- In order to protect the privacy of the young person and family involved, all Family Welfare Conferences are confidential. All those in attendance are asked not to discuss the issues addressed in the meeting with anybody not involved in the Conference
- A Family Welfare Conference is a voluntary process unless it is convened under the Children Act 2001. Under this Act, the HSE must arrange to convene a Family Welfare Conference where it is considered that the behaviour of a young person poses a serious risk to his/her safety and welfare and that it may be necessary in the young person's interests to place him/her in a Special Care Unit.

We believe that children are generally best cared for within their own families, therefore we aim to support the family to make a plan to help the child/young person (or children) within the family network, to ensure they are looked after and safe.



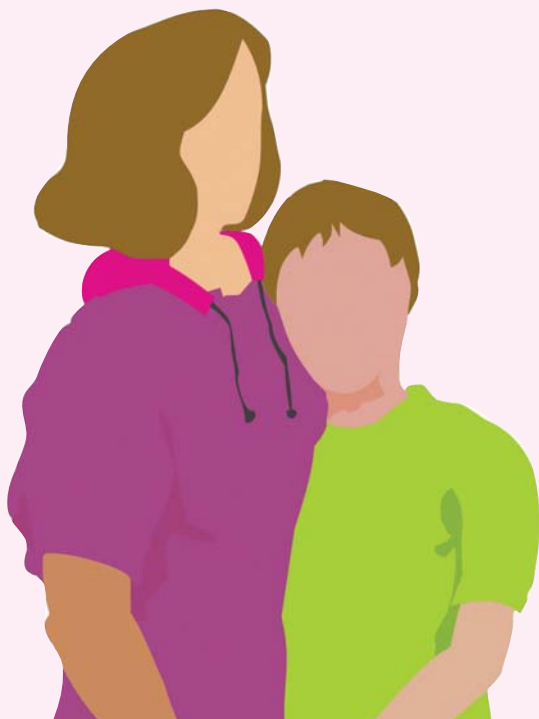
Family Welfare Conference

Positive developments of 2010

- 20 families were supported through the service
- 11 new conferences were convened this year
- 9 review Family Welfare Conferences were held.

Looking to the future

- A new Family Welfare Conference brochure will be developed. The Social Work teams who avail of Family Welfare Conferences will be invited to give their input on the content. The brochure will provide important information for families and young people who participate in Family Welfare Conferences, along with Social Workers who make referrals to the service
- To co-ordinate and convene Family Welfare Conferences as new referrals arise from the HSE West, parent or family member
- To liaise with the newly appointed HSE West Principal Social Worker regarding new referrals
- To liaise with other Family Welfare Conference co-ordinators nationally.



“I find this service to be excellent. The staff always have time for you and are very encouraging and helpful”

“I would recommend this service to anybody”

“Without this service I don’t think I would have been able to rear my grandson”



annual report 2010



Networks/Links

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Groups using Limerick Social Service Centre

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Support Services contact details

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Networks /Links

The LSSC links with various agencies at local, regional and National Level. In 2010, these key contacts included:

- ADAPT Services
- Age and Opportunity (Dublin)
- Barnardos Mid-West
- Centre for the Unemployed
- Community Welfare Office
- Credit Unions
- CURA (regional and national)
- Doras Luimní
- Foster Carer's Association
- HSE West
- Limerick City Council
- Limerick Pastoral Centre
- Limerick Senior College
- Limerick Youth Service
- Limerick Institute of Technology
- Local Employment Service
- Local media
- Limerick Regeneration Agencies
- MABS (Money and Budgeting Advice Service)
- Mary Immaculate College
- NCVA
- Older Women's Network
- POBAL
- Parish clergy
- Victim Support
- VTOS
- FÁS
- PAUL Partnership
- The Family Support Agency
- Government Departments, including the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Department of Education and Skills.

Groups using the Limerick Social Service Centre

The life of the Social Service Centre continues after usual office hours due to the large number of voluntary groups who have access to the centre. Every evening during the week, between four and six groups hold meetings at the Centre.

The group who availed of the centre in 2010 include:

- Alcoholics Anonymous Groups
- Al-Anon Group
- Brainwave
- Bruree House (for people with addiction and their families)
- Cancer Support
- Coeliac Support
- CURA
- Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Office
- Emergency Reponse Group
- Gam-Anon
- Inner Wheel
- Irish Countrywoman's Association (I.C.A.)
- Irish Pre-school Playgroup Association (I.P.P.A.)
- Miles (Men in Limerick Experiencing Separation)
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Older Persons Group
- Overeaters Anonymous
- Parent Support Group
- Retired Civil Servants
- Retired Gardaí
- Schizophrenia Ireland
- Women's Group

The Centre also rents out rooms to both voluntary and statutory organisations for services that are in line with LSSC objectives (HSE West Family Therapy, HSE West Aftercare, and Brainwave).

Support Services



limerick youth service 

Limerick Youth Service

T 061 412444
E lys@limerickyouthservice.com
A 5 Lower Glentworth Street, Limerick

Adapt House

T 061 412354
E administration@adaptservices.ie
A Adapt Services, Adapt House,
Rosbrien, Limerick

Limerick Local Employment Network

T 061 412999
W www.paulpartnership.ie
A Limerick Local Employment
Network, Unit 2 Tait Business
Centre, Dominic Street, Limerick



Crisis Pregnancy Services

T 061 318207
A Upper Henry Street, Limerick

A Cura Centre is based at the Centre, offering a range of supportive Services, including:

- Crisis pregnancy counselling
- Free pregnancy testing
- Support with accessing accommodation
- One to one counselling for those feeling loss, grief or distress after an abortion
- School Awareness Programme

Barnardos Mid-West (Regional office)

T 061 411313
E info@midwest.barnardos.ie
A Regional Office, 10 Sarsfield Street, Limerick

Limerick Local Employment Network

T 061 412999
W www.paulpartnership.ie
A Limerick Local Employment Network, Unit 2 Tait Business Centre, Dominic Street, Limerick

Crisis Pregnancy Agency

T 01 814 6292
E info@crisispregnancy.ie
A HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme, 4th Floor, 89 – 94 Capel Street Dublin 1

Limerick Resource Centre for the Unemployed

T 061 416056
E lrcu@eircom.net
A Limerick Resource Centre for the Unemployed, Unit 6/7, Hunts Lane, Limerick

MABS (Money Advice and Budgeting Service)

T 061 310620
Lo-call 1890 283438
W www.mabs.ie
A MABS (Limerick) 87 O'Connell St, Limerick

PAUL Partnership

T 061 419388
E info@paulpartnership.ie
A Paul Partnership, Unit 25a, Tait Business Centre, Dominic Street, Limerick



Limerick
Social Service
Council Ltd

Comhairle Sheirbhís Sóisialta Luimnigh Teo

Limerick Social Service Centre

Upper Henry St., Limerick

Tel: (061) 314111

Fax: (061) 314069

E-mail: lssc@eircom.net

Website: www.lssc.ie