



Since the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Peter McVerry Trust has supported over 3,500 additional people. People have been supported across a range of new services that have been delivered by Peter McVerry Trust with the largest number of additional people supported in our Covid-19 isolation service in Dublin. This service has seen over 1,800 people from homeless services other than Peter McVerry Trust's access our service, which provides a range of social care and medical supports for people isolating, cocooning and those who have tested positive for Covid-19. It has catered for families, couples and single people, and continues to operate.

## Covid-19 Response

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### New Street Apartments Completed



Peter McVerry Trust's first new build apartment scheme was completed in March 2021. This project was one of a small number of construction projects allowed to remain open during Level 5 restrictions as it is delivering crucial social housing for people leaving homelessness behind. The scheme consists of eight apartments, of which five are one-bedroom homes and three are two-bedroom homes.

### 2,400 Women Supported in 2020



In 2020, Peter McVerry Trust supported over 2,400 women across Ireland. This was the largest number of women supported in any calendar year. Thankfully, the largest group of women supported in 2020 were in our housing and housing support services with over 740 women helped. We also supported women who were in need of emergency accommodation, information and advice, as well as our addiction and treatment services.





## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the spring 2021 Opening Doors newsletter. I hope that all of our supporters' friends and families are safe and well. All of us wish to see the back of the Covid-19 pandemic which continues to impact every aspect of our society. I am pleased however, that throughout the pandemic Peter McVerry Trust, thanks in no small part to the generosity of our donors, has continued to support and protect the most vulnerable.

As always, the newsletter offers but a snapshot of our work. We have been working closely with statutory agencies to provide extra supports and services to at-risk groups during Covid-19 and have now worked with an additional 3,500 people since the onset of the pandemic.

While we are incredibly proud of our work to protect and support vulnerable people during this pandemic it has not come at the expense of our day to day work to shelter, house, and support people impacted by homelessness. Peter McVerry Trust's housing project at New Street South, our first new build apartment scheme, has just finished and we are now moving people into their new homes. We have also extended the supports we offer to vulnerable children by opening new services.

Additionally, we have increased our supports for homeless couples by securing a new service in north Dublin. These and many other initiatives are covered in this newsletter and I thank our donors for playing their part in helping us to do this vital work.

I want to draw special attention to the fundraising section of our newsletter. As many of you will be aware it has been a very difficult time for charities, with rising costs, decreases in fundraising income and uncertainty as to what the future holds. I would ask that if you can please see how you, your friends, families and colleagues are best placed to support our work now and in the future. Every effort is much appreciated.

Finally, I hope that by the time our next newsletter has been issued in the autumn that society will be in a much better place and that we can all move forward and look ahead to better times to come.

Stay safe, stay well.

Pat Doyle, CEO

## PETER MCVERRY TRUST GRADUATE PROGRAMME 2021



Peter McVerry Trust is delighted to announce that our Graduate Programme 2021 is open for applications ahead of a June 2021 start. Every year we have welcomed over 40 graduates from all over Ireland who have worked with some of the most vulnerable people in our society and offered them pathways out of homelessness. We have opportunities to work with us right across Ireland and welcome applications from people from a variety of educational qualifications. If you are interested in finding out more then please visit our website [www.pmvtrust.ie](http://www.pmvtrust.ie)

# INSIDE OUR SERVICES

## U18S SERVICES

As many of our supporters will know Fr McVerry's work started by supporting children impacted by homelessness in Dublin's inner city. Today, over 40 years later, the charity continues to meet the needs of young people who are in the care of the State. In early 2021, Peter McVerry Trust extended our supports and services in this area, in partnership with TUSLA. This included the first of two new emergency placement services for young people in Dublin.



## NEW APARTMENTS AT KILDARE FAMILY HUB

In December 2020, Peter McVerry Trust formally opened two new apartments at our family hub in Athy, Co. Kildare. This brings the capacity of the service to nine families at any given time, allowing more families to avail of the supports provided by our staff rather than having to be sheltered in hotels or B&Bs. These apartments were delivered by converting a disused hall adjacent to our family hub.



## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

### NEW STREET SOUTH, DUBLIN 8



New Street South, Dublin 8 our scheme of eight new apartments was finished in March 2021, a major milestone for the organisation. The scheme has seen a long-term, vacant Dublin City Council site developed to deliver five one-bed and three two-bed apartments.

### BALTINGLASS, WICKLOW



Our largest concentration of social housing units in Wicklow was secured in January with eight new apartments in Baltinglass, Wicklow. These one and two bed homes will provide social housing for people from Wicklow's housing and homeless list.

### ATHY, KILDARE



Work is continuing and nearly completed on three Buy and Renew funded construction projects in Athy, Co. Kildare. These two bed terraced homes, which were derelict for years, are now going towards meeting the social housing need in Athy.

### WEXFORD TOWN, WEXFORD



We are delighted to have completed the energy upgrade works at our first social housing scheme in Wexford. The 12 apartments will enable us to provide housing for people from Wexford with wraparound supports from our housing teams.

## PERSONAL STORIES

### MARY, OFFALY

*"We don't know ourselves since we moved in here. It's like getting diamonds to me. We're that long homeless and here and there. Your own home is your own comfort."*

After 8 years in homelessness, Mary and her partner were supported into their own home in Edenderry, Co. Offaly by Peter McVerry Trust in partnership with Offaly County Council, after the charity secured 10 social housing units in the area.



### MICK, WESTMEATH

*"Things are a lot better now. Once you get your own place you get that self-confidence. I'm very happy where I am. I've got good support links and it's a nice quiet town and there are nice neighbours in it."*

Mick moved into his own home in December 2020 in Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath through the Midlands Housing First programme, delivered by Peter McVerry Trust and Westmeath County Council, after spending years in homelessness.



## NEW EDUCATION WEBSITE LAUNCHES

The screenshot shows the Peter McVerry Trust website. The navigation menu includes: Homelessness in Ireland, Understanding Homelessness, Personal Stories, Resource Centre, and About Us. There are buttons for 'Need Advice?' and 'Take Action', and a search bar. The main content area features a large heading 'Homelessness in Ireland' with a sub-heading 'Educational Resources on Homelessness'. Below this are three interactive cards: 'What is Homelessness?' (dark blue), 'Homelessness in Ireland' (medium blue), and 'Solutions to Homelessness' (bright green). Each card has a right-pointing arrow and a small icon (a house, a map of Ireland, and a flag respectively). The background of the website is a photo of a smiling man in a kitchen. At the bottom right, contact information is provided: 01 823 0776 | info@pmvtrust.ie

We have relaunched our educational resource website aimed at students researching the issue of homelessness. The website provides a wide variety of interactive and informative content on homelessness and will allow students and teachers to more readily understand the issue. The website is available at [www.homelessnessinireland.ie](http://www.homelessnessinireland.ie)

# FUNDRAISING

## CALL FOR FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS

Peter McVerry Trust is looking to grow the number of people that are available to help with our fundraising events and appeals. As a national housing and homeless charity we will be organising fundraising events and appeals right across Ireland. We need volunteers to help make sure our events and appeals are well organised, well run and raise vital funds for our work to support people impacted by homelessness. If you are interested in volunteering with us please email us at [fundraising@pmvtrust.ie](mailto:fundraising@pmvtrust.ie) or call us on **01 823 0776**.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

### Lisa's Lust List

Thank you to influencer Lisa McGowan (Lisa's Lust List) and her fantastic followers for supporting Peter McVerry Trust. A phenomenal €167,000 was raised through this raffle which helped move even more people into a home of their own at Christmas.

### Just Eat Just Global Campaign

As longstanding partner, Peter McVerry Trust featured as the nominated charity for Just Eat Takeaway's Global Winter Charity Campaign. Just Eat customers raised €30,000 by ordering a delivery on 19th December, and you may even have spotted us featuring on their national TV advert.

### Calcutta Run

The legal profession didn't let Covid-19 detract from the success of the Calcutta Run in 2020. Rescheduling to October, and moving to a virtual event, over 800 people took part in a walk, run or cycle, raising over €280,000 for Hope Foundation and Peter McVerry Trust, surpassing all expectations once again.

## GRATITUDE E-CARDS

No act of kindness is ever wasted and our e-cards are the perfect way to say 'Thank You' to those who have helped you through the difficult times over the past year, all while helping to support some of the most vulnerable people in society.

You can purchase your e-card on our website [www.pmvtrust.ie/shop](http://www.pmvtrust.ie/shop)



# FUNDRAISING UPDATES

## FUNDRAISING HEROES WANTED!

Peter McVerry Trust and the people we support need your help. Our supporters play a huge part in helping us deliver every day for people in, or at risk of, homelessness. The Covid-19 pandemic has made your fundraising efforts all the more important as we continue to raise vital funds to tackle homelessness and offer housing solutions. We need our supporters, their friends, families and colleagues to become our fundraising heroes. There are endless opportunities to raise vital funds to help people in homelessness, from the events and appeals listed below to sponsored head shaves, bake off style challenges, birthday fundraisers, and virtual quizzes. So, if you can, please find a way to support people impacted by homelessness and get involved today.

### VIRTUAL EVENTS



#### MAY DAY 10K MAY 2021

Join us this May Day Bank Holiday Weekend and walk, jog or run 10km to raise vital funds to help people out of homelessness.



#### SUMMER SIT UP CHALLENGE JULY 2021

Are you up for 3,000 sit ups over 31 days, if so sign up for our big summer challenge.



#### HOMES, FORTS & CASTLES

Bring your creativity to build a pillow fort, an under-table den or an outdoor hut either at home, in your school or within your community.

### AUTUMN/WINTER EVENTS 2021\*

*\*Due to Covid-19 these events may be postponed, if so we will have replacement appeals and activities.*



#### GALA BALL SEPTEMBER 2021



#### WEXFORD CYCLE SEPTEMBER 2021



#### OPENING DOORS APPEAL OCTOBER 2021

To register your interest, or for information on any of the above events, please visit [www.pmvtrust.ie](http://www.pmvtrust.ie) or contact our fundraising team on **+353(0)1 823 0776** or email [fundraising@pmvtrust.ie](mailto:fundraising@pmvtrust.ie)

Please follow our social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn for more details.

Email: [info@pmvtrust.ie](mailto:info@pmvtrust.ie)  
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Opening doors for  
homeless people

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