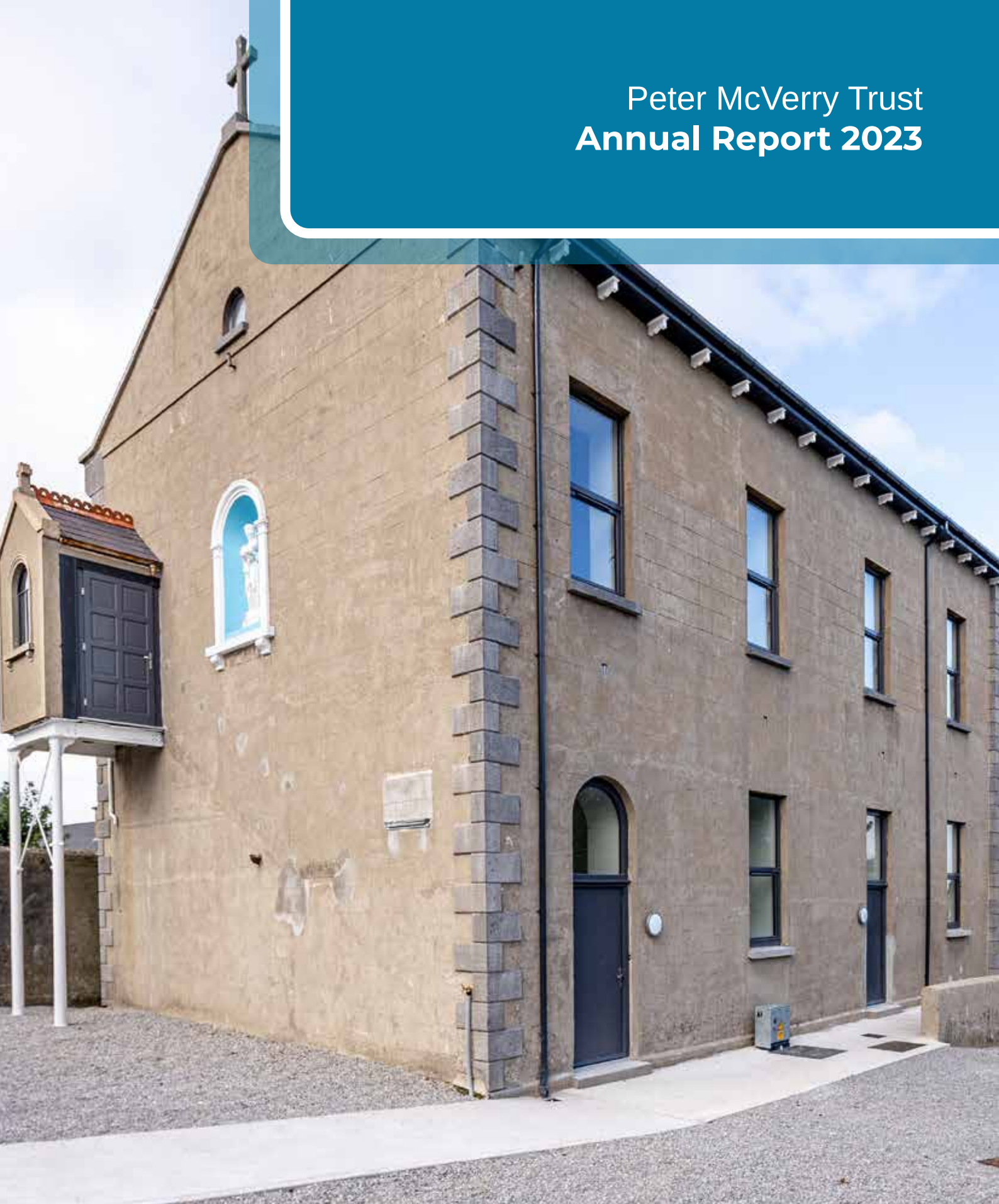


# Peter McVerry Trust Annual Report 2023



## Our Vision, Mission, and Aims



### Vision

An Ireland that supports all those on the margins and upholds their rights to full inclusion in society. Peter McVerry Trust is committed to reducing homelessness, the harm caused by substance misuse and social disadvantage.



### Mission

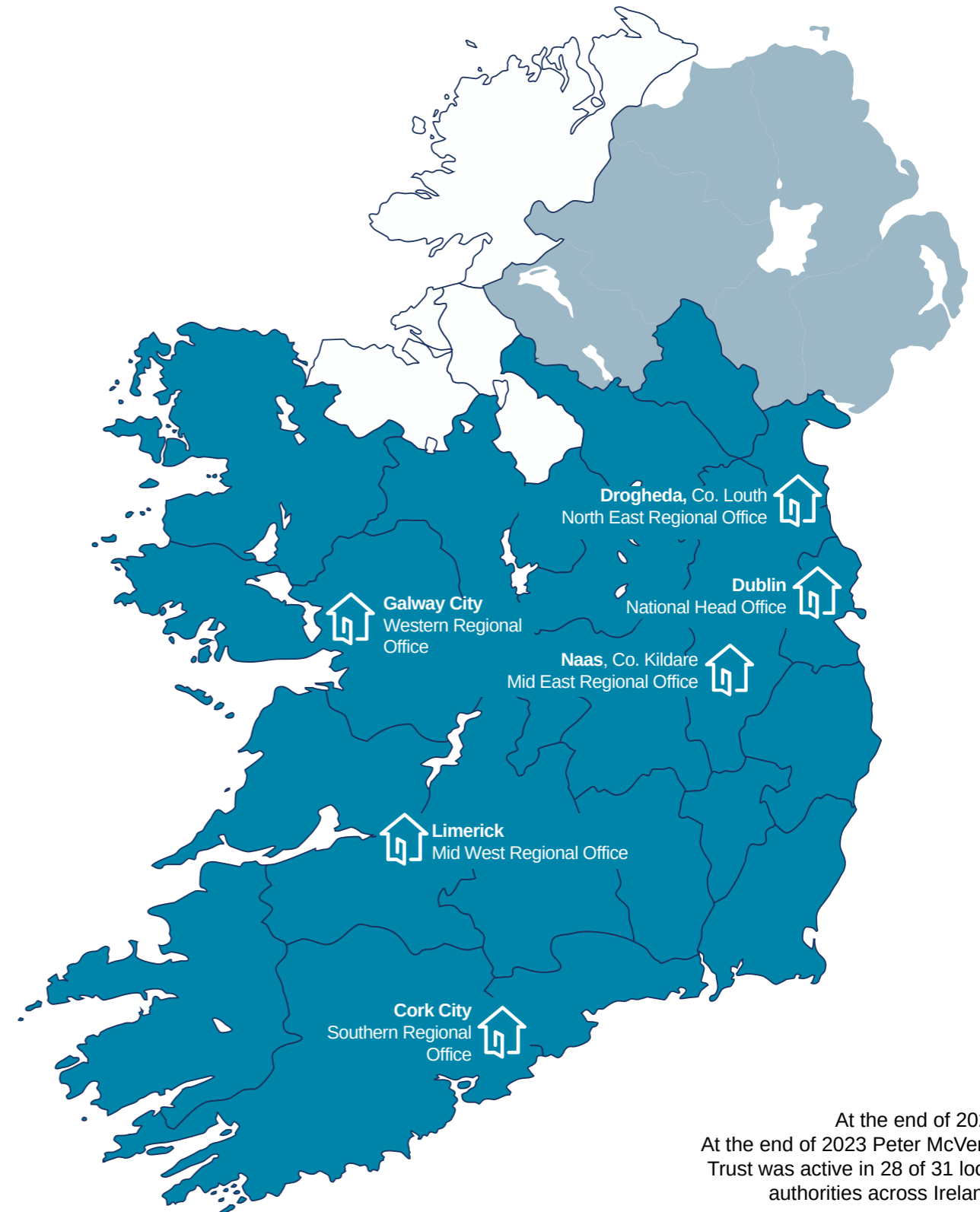
Peter McVerry Trust provides low threshold entry services, primarily to younger people and vulnerable adults with complex needs, and offers pathways out of homelessness based on the principles of the Housing First model. To target those most marginalised in society and offer a safe, challenging and supportive environment through our service provision.



### Aims

To treat participants with warmth and respect and actively encourage them to be involved in all aspects of their own support plan. To offer a comprehensive prevention package of support to reduce the likelihood of homelessness to those leaving care, those leaving treatment, those leaving prison or other institutions and those whose accommodation is vulnerable. To offer a comprehensive package of support that will provide the best opportunity possible for them and assist them in planning a pathway out of homelessness or drug use, or if they continue to use drugs, to assist them towards some level of stabilisation in order to live a life of dignity, with respect and opportunity. To assist each person to re-establish himself or herself in the community and move towards greater independence.

## Areas of Activity 2023



At the end of 2023 Peter McVerry Trust was active in 28 of 31 local authorities across Ireland.

The three local authorities where the charity is not active are Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo.

Peter McVerry Trust came along and made my dreams come true. And I'm still pinching myself. I have a beautiful home, a beautiful garden.

KATHLEEN

After 11 years in homelessness, we supported Kathleen to move into a home of her own in Cork in 2023.

## Table of Contents

	Page
Message from the Founder, Fr Peter McVerry	6
Our Services	8
Prevention Services	8
Homeless Services	9
Housing First	14
Addiction and Recovery	18
Response to Crises	21
Housing Developments	23
Communications and Advocacy	26
Fundraising	28
Human Resources	29
Acknowledgements	31

## Message from the Founder, Fr Peter McVerry

2023 was a very difficult and traumatic year for Peter McVerry Trust. During the year, we discovered a large financial problem, which led to two investigations, by the Charities Regulator and the Approved Housing Bodies Regulator and required an exceptional payment of €15 million by the Government. This is described in detail in the 2023 Accounts published in November 2025.



A major failing in the reporting structure from the executive team to the Board and a failure in the financial oversight by the Board was revealed. Much of 2023 was spent identifying these failures and starting to put in robust structures to ensure that such failings could not re-occur. We have now made significant progress in that regard.

On a more positive note, our services to homeless people, families, children and people in crisis continued without interruption. Over fourteen thousand people were accommodated and supported across all of our services including our hostels, apartments, family hubs, drug treatment services, children's homes, and prevention services. We have a very loyal

and dedicated staff team who have provided the services and care which we offer to all people who seek our support.

And a board who give their time and expertise in a voluntary capacity. I want to thank them all for staying with us during this difficult year and for continuing to change the lives of some homeless people and giving hope to many more.

There is a growing sense of hopelessness amongst homeless people, as the options for moving out of homelessness are reducing all the time. Very few private rented houses or apartments are available to those who depend on the Housing Assistance Payment and social housing is in very short supply. We are conscious that we are only sticking our finger in the dyke – the number of homeless people continues to rise relentlessly every month and the length of time people remain in homelessness also continues to increase.

In 2018, there were about 8,000 adults registered as homeless; in six years that number has almost doubled. And all the evidence suggests that the number will continue to rise every month. However, each person who is accommodated, supported or helped to address their addiction is one more

person whose life is given a new direction. Many homeless people express their gratitude to our staff, although they do not expect gratitude, as the work we do in trying to reduce homelessness is not charity but justice.

We are committed to continuing to strengthen Peter McVerry Trust in 2024, to reach out to as many homeless people as our resources allow, particularly to the most vulnerable and needy, and to providing a service that is caring and efficient.

Since homelessness is a political problem, it must be solved politically. We will also continue to campaign for an end to homelessness and put forward our proposals for society to move more quickly and more effectively in that direction.

Fr Peter McVerry SJ

## Our Services

### PREVENTION SERVICES

Peter McVerry Trust prevention services and supports aim to prevent people from ever entering homelessness. We continued to increase our investment in our prevention services throughout 2023.

Our two Learning Centres provide a unique alternative education programme to young students who are unable to engage in the mainstream educational setting. The students are supported by a team of trained teachers and social care workers who work together to support the student to engage in an education programme that meets their needs.

Our PMVT Learning Centre – CMS was successfully awarded €12,000 in additional funding through the Reach Fund in 2023. This funding enabled us to enhance the IT equipment, purchase additional textbooks and strengthen the art and woodwork programmes with new materials.

In 2023, 18 young people graduated from our Learning Centres. These young people progressed onto the Leaving Certificate cycle, further education and training.

Below: 2023 graduating classes of PMVT Learning Centre – CMS and PMVT Learning Centre Carline



### HOMELESS SERVICES

Our homeless services continued to play a key role in the provision of high-quality shelter and supports to vulnerable people impacted by homelessness. Peter McVerry Trust works in partnership with local authorities, the Dublin

Region Homeless Executive and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to deliver our homeless services.

In 2023 we operated emergency homeless accommodation in eight local authorities across Ireland. We supported 3,567 people across our adult services and our family homeless accommodation. This included 261 families with 596 children in our family hubs.

Left and Below: A new family homeless service opened in South County Dublin in 2023



## Areas of Homeless Service Provisions



Peter McVerry Trust single largest area of activity remains the provision of emergency shelter for individuals, couples and families. Our services are predominantly concentrated in Dublin and Kildare with smaller numbers of services in Louth and Meath.

## The Year in Numbers

Over  
**14,000**  
people supported  
in 2022

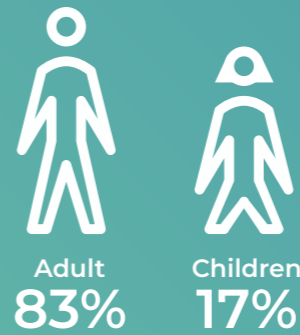


**4,402**  
Number of people supported across our crisis response services, including IPAS services and the Ukrainian crisis



**10,466 people**  
supported across our housing, homeless, addiction and prevention services

Percentage breakdown of people supported



Number of local authorities:



**1,915**  
Number of people supported into housing



Peter McVerry Trust homes in Moyross, Limerick

## Our Services (contd)

### HOUSING SERVICES

In 2023, Peter McVerry Trust continued to provide safe and secure housing to people experiencing homelessness across the country. At the end of 2023, Peter McVerry Trust had 1,014 active tenancies across the country.

Our Housing with Supports (HWS) service supports tenants to secure and maintain their accommodation allocated by the Local Authority. Our team help people to develop life skills, build confidence and work towards independent living and social integration.



Peter McVerry Trust apartment in New Ross, Wexford



Peter McVerry Trust apartment in Bantry, Cork

The service also leads proactive estate management interventions and builds positive relationships with communities and key stakeholders.

## Our Services (contd)

### HOUSING FIRST

The Housing First programme provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to addressing homelessness for people experiencing poor mental or physical health, substance misuse, social, behavioural and other challenges. It provides the most vulnerable of our homeless population with a home for life alongside key wraparound health and social supports. In 2023, Peter McVerry Trust worked with 703 active tenancies across 14 local authority areas.

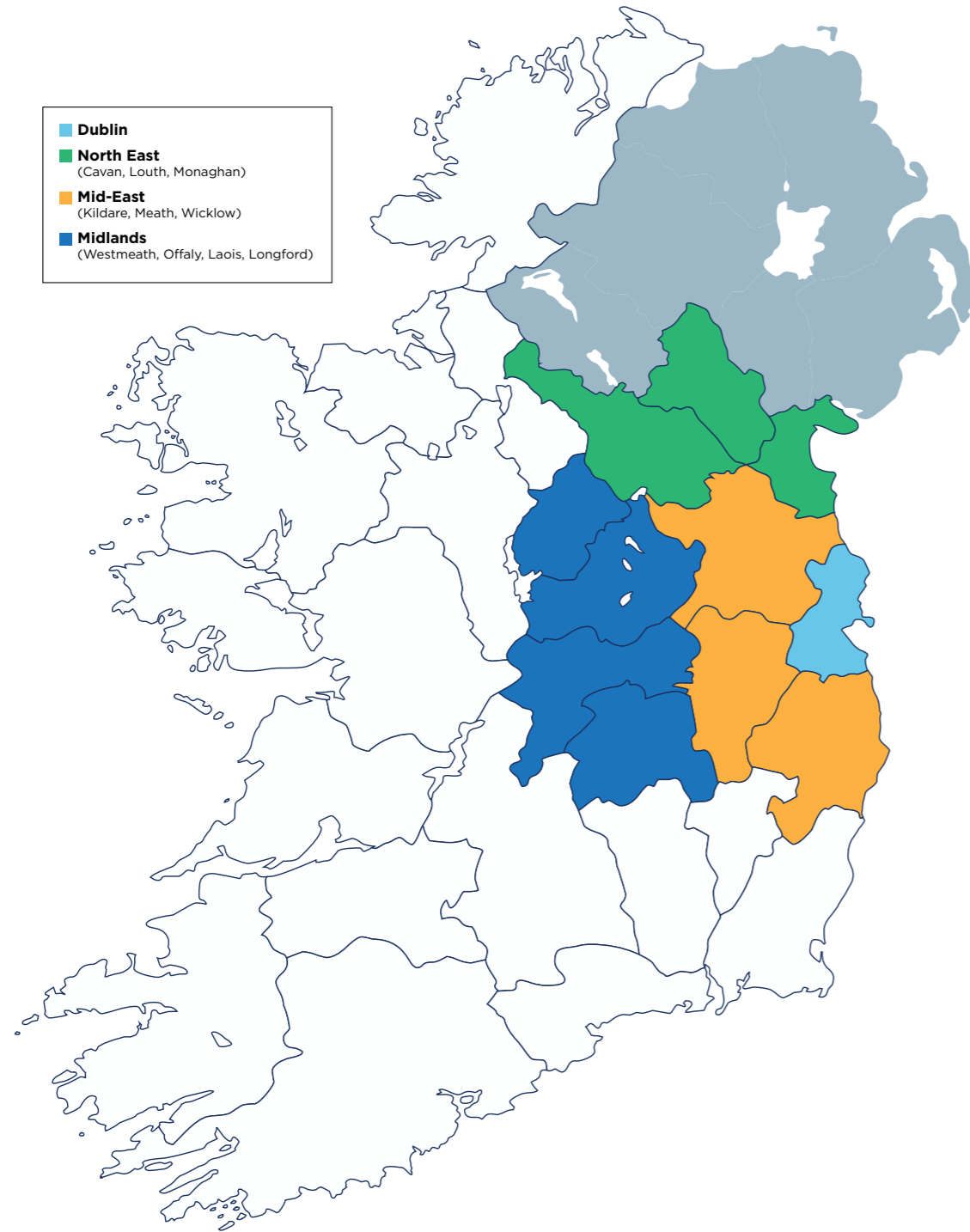
In May, our Housing First Centre of Excellence was opened in Dublin by Dr Sam Tsemberis, founder of Pathways Housing First in the New York and creator of the Housing First Model.

The Centre of Excellence is the base for the Housing First Dublin team, where they will be able to offer clients comprehensive support to exit homelessness. The service features spaces for group meetings and individual assessments as well as facilitating clinical and psychological support for clients.



Housing First Centre of Excellence, Dublin

## Areas of Housing First Delivery



As of 2023, Peter McVerry Trust are responsible for 61% of the services delivered under the National Housing First Implementation Plan.

Housing First helped Mark, who was homeless since he was 19, to overcome drug addiction and rebuild his life. He now lives in a home of his own with his girlfriend Cathy and receives ongoing support from our Housing First Dublin team.

MARK

Having a gaff is important. It's the most important thing. You need a home to go home to.

## Our Services (contd)

### ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

Our addiction and recovery services operate on a harm reduction model in keeping with our ethos. We offer pragmatic, dignified responses to the needs of people engaging in drug misuse.

Peter McVerry Trust's addiction and recovery services include a Day Drug Stabilisation and Recovery Service, a Residential Community Detox and Treatment Service, a Drug-free Residential Aftercare Service and two Residential Drug Stabilisation Services.

In 2023, Peter McVerry Trust supported 290 individuals across our Residential Community Detox and Treatment Service and two Residential Drug Stabilisation Services.

Peter McVerry Trust Community Detox



Peter McVerry Trust stabilisation service

Cathy has experienced homelessness since she was a teenager. Today, she lives in her own home with her partner Mark and receives vital ongoing support from our Dublin Housing First team. She has overcome her drug and alcohol dependency and is now planning for her future.



## Our Services (contd)

### U18S AND AFTERCARE



Protecting vulnerable young people is at the core of the work and ethos of Peter McVerry Trust.

In 1979, Fr. Peter McVerry opened our first children's service to provide accommodation to homeless boys in Dublin city centre. Since then, we have expanded to six U18 residential services.



The services offer a highly individualised developmental programme that supports each young person's progression towards adulthood and endeavours to equip them with the necessary skills needed for positive self-care, independent living and social integration. In 2023, 95 children and young people were supported across our U18 services.



Our Aftercare services provide placements to young people exiting State care or foster care to support their progression into suitable independent living. Aftercare Stepdown services offer a progression option for young people who have completed the Aftercare programme.



In partnership with TUSLA, we opened three additional Aftercare and Aftercare Stepdown services in 2023.

In 2023, 37 young people were supported across the Aftercare and Aftercare Stepdown services.

New Peter McVerry Trust Aftercare and Aftercare Stepdown services



## Response to Crises

Peter McVerry Trust's Resettlement Housing Support team has provided housing progression supports in International Protection and Accommodation Service (IPAS) accommodation centres since 2017. Resettlement officers hold weekly clinics to support people to move into their own home.

In 2023, the team provided housing information and supports to 1,343 households and supported 456 households to transition from IPAS accommodation into alternative accommodation.



Since 2022, Peter McVerry Trust has also supported Ukrainians fleeing the war. This includes two accommodation facilities for families, accommodation and support for unaccompanied minors, hotel based social supports for new arrivals to the country and logistical supports to access pledged accommodation. In 2023, the Peter McVerry Trust Pledge team supported 1,112 Ukrainians into Pledged and Offer a Home accommodation across the country.

In 2023, we supported 4,402 people in total across our crisis response services.

**Offer a Home, Offer Hope**  
Offer a home to those fleeing war in Ukraine.

Do you have a house, apartment, holiday home or room that is not in use at the moment? Please consider offering it as temporary accommodation for those displaced by the war in Ukraine. Offering is now easier than ever before.

Go to [Gov.ie/OfferAHome](https://gov.ie/OfferAHome) to make an offer or for more information.

Gov.ie/OfferAHome

Crois Deáirg na hÉireann Irish Red Cross

Riailias Ailiall Éireann Local Government Ireland

Kultas na hÉireann Government of Ireland

Before



Centenary House, Charleville

After



## Housing Developments

In 2023, Peter McVerry Trust continued to deliver social housing units in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Housing Agency and Local Authorities across Ireland.

In February, we commenced work on the redevelopment of the former Office of Public Works building at 2 – 3 Lower Mallow Street, Limerick, into 12 single-bed apartments for people on the local social housing waiting list.

In March, we delivered nine new social housing apartments at a former Christian Brothers School on Main Street, Charleville, Cork. The school has been a landmark on Charleville's Main Street since 1866 and was attended by President Éamon de Valera. The units were launched by Tánaiste Micheál Martin.

In July, we launched 14 new social housing family homes in Moyross, Limerick. Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien and Cllr Gerald Mitchell, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick were in attendance to officially launch the new homes, which were made possible with support from the Department for Housing's Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS).



Launch of 14 new social housing family homes in Moyross, Limerick



It's definitely given me more confidence in myself. They gave me that little bit more of a push to say look, you can do this, no matter what, you can do this. And I've went and done it and it's going great for me. It's just unbelievable.

Katie is a graduate from Peter McVerry Trust Learning Centre – Carline.

KATIE

## Communications and Advocacy

In 2023, Peter McVerry Trust continued to grow our organisation's audience and educate more people about the causes of and solutions to the issue of homelessness. We regularly provided commentary on a number of key issues within the sector including the increasing homeless figures, vacant property and the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use.

In January, Peter McVerry Trust were named as the first homeless charity to be selected for the JCDecaux charity partnership program. The program gives access to the JCDecaux portfolio of outdoor advertising formats to raise much needed funds for chosen charities.



JCDecaux charity partnership program

The work of our Housing First Dublin team was showcased in the three-part documentary 'Stories from the Streets'. The show, which aired on Virgin Media Television, featured one of our Housing First participants and her keyworkers.

Ben Carolan, Sing Street and RTÉ hit series Kin star, was secured as the Peter McVerry Trust Cycle 2023 ambassador, partaking in national media to promote the event.



In 2022, Ben Carolan launches the Peter McVerry Trust Cycle 2023

## Fundraising

In 2023 supporters and partners gave generously to Peter McVerry Trust, with the charity receiving €5.8 million in donations.

New and renewed corporate partnerships continued to support our homeless and housing work. In March, long standing supporters, Gather & Gather



launched their cookbook *The Gathered Table* to raise funds for our work. The beautiful 160-page hardback cookbook features a collection of 55 recipes from across Ireland's food world.

Launch of The Gathered Table

Business Breakfast 2023

In February, Pat McDonagh, Michael O'Dwyer and Castletroy Park Hotel hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Business Breakfast in Limerick in support of Peter McVerry Trust and enjoyed the largest ever attendance of 350 people.



The Calcutta Run celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary supporting Peter McVerry Trust in May. The annual legal fundraiser raised over €100,000 for our work with people experiencing homelessness.

Despite the wet weather, we welcomed over 200 cyclists to the new looped Peter McVerry Trust Cycle on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September – celebrating our 34<sup>th</sup> annual cycle.



25th anniversary of the Calcutta Run

## Research

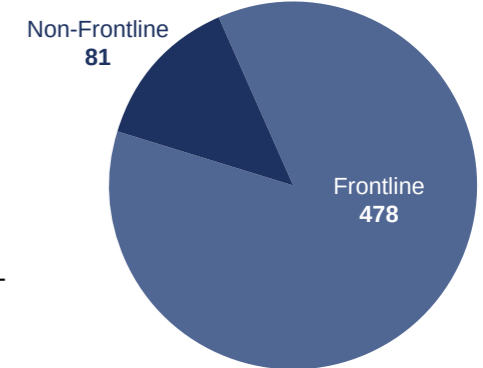
The purpose of our research team is to develop and provide a rigorous evidence-base in supporting effective and efficient service provision across all areas of the organisation.

Peter McVerry Trust was awarded funding support through the Housing Agency Research Support programme for 2023. The funded project 'Life After Care: A Descriptive Study on Navigating Housing Stability and Support for Youth Exiting Care' centred on gathering meaningful insight into the lived experiences of young people living in our housing who have had experiences of State Care.

The full report, findings and recommendations can be found on our website.

## Human Resources

In 2023, Peter McVerry Trust continued to enhance its workforce, with core staff increasing to 559, a 4.1% rise from the previous year's 537 staff members. Our workforce is diverse, comprising 76% female and 24% male employees.



Of the 559 core staff, 478 were in frontline positions and 81 were in non-frontline head office positions.

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Peter McVerry Trust Graduate Programme attracted talented graduates from various disciplines. To support this initiative, our HR team engaged with 11 colleges nationwide, highlighting the numerous benefits and opportunities available to new graduates within our organisation.

Working with the owner of a derelict hotel in the heart of Bantry, we secured 10 new social housing homes in 2023



## Acknowledgements

Peter McVerry Trust would like to thank the following groups and organisations for their unwavering support for our work in 2023.

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for their support in 2023, including the exceptional funding received in December 2023.  
 Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth  
 Department of Health  
 Department of Justice  
 Department of Social Protection  
 Department of Education  
 Dublin Region Homeless Executive  
 Health Service Executive  
 TUSLA  
 Housing Agency  
 National Housing First Office  
 International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS)  
 Local Authorities nationwide for their continued support on delivering housing to the most vulnerable  
 Irish Probation Service  
 Irish American Partnership  
 Music Generation  
 Ballymun Family resource centre  
 Bohemian FC  
 Cabra4youth  
 Crowne Plaza Northwood  
 Dublin North Dental  
 Dublin Northwest Partnership  
 Edward McManus pharmacy  
 Empower  
 Garda Síochána  
 Helping Irish Hosts  
 Holiday Inn Express Northwood  
 Immigrant Council of Ireland  
 International Organisation for Migration  
 Irish Red Cross  
 McCabe's pharmacy Northwood

### New Communities

The HSE CHO7, CHO9, NEIC, and Inclusion Health. Our prescribing GPs, clinics, and referral agents, whose significant contributions play a vital role in the work we do every day.

The continuum of care and respect from the community addiction services, who work tirelessly to help our participants maintain their stability and abstinence.

Our corporate partners & supporters, volunteers, and donors.





**Peter  
McVerry  
Trust**

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