

Mid West Simon Community



Introduction

The Mid West Simon Community was set up in October 2006 and is the newest Simon Community in Ireland. We work across the counties of Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary. We currently have 4 full time staff, 2 part time staff, relief staff and a number of part time volunteers working as part of our team.

In the Mid West Simon Community we believe that everyone has a right to a home. We are committed to helping the people who use our services to move on from homelessness to find a permanent place to live. We work with many different organisations including the Health Service Executive (HSE), county and town councils to ensure that homeless people in the Mid West receive the best care and support possible.

Homelessness in this region is a complex mixture of rural and urban issues. Limerick is the third largest city in Ireland and faces many issues related to poverty and social exclusion. The surrounding counties are also affected by rural homelessness and a lack of access to decent affordable rented accommodation. There is very little homeless accommodation available in these counties. In spite of 200 emergency bed spaces in Limerick city, rough sleeping is becoming more visible in the city centre. When people experience poverty, housing problems and a lack of access to quality affordable rented accommodation there is increased pressure on the social housing sector.

People we work with

We work with people in the counties of Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Last year we housed and continue to support 14 individuals, 10 men and 4 women.

These people were aged between 20 and 70 years of age with the exception of a family who had one dependent child and two grown up children.

Range of Services

The Mid West Simon Community offers the following services and supports:

- High quality accommodation.
- A supported housing scheme offering key-work and care planning. We recognise that everyone who uses our services is an individual with a unique set of needs and circumstances which led to their homelessness or housing situation. We work with each individual to develop a care plan to help them on the road back to independent or appropriate supported living.
- We support people to move and settle into their new homes and give ongoing tenancy support to ensure that people remain in their homes and stay out of homelessness. This can mean helping to plan budgets, shopping, advice on cooking nutritious meals, home maintenance, help and support with education and work opportunities and meaningful occupation, including recreation and social groups.



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Future plans

Supported Housing

The second stage of the supported housing project in Thurles will provide up to 30 housing units. This stage of development is in the draft stage at the moment.

Service User Participation

We believe that the people who use our services should have a say in how these services are run. We are working on ways to actively involve our service users in shaping our services and to develop more effective processes to allow for meaningful involvement in service planning and delivery.

Support your Local Simon Community

For some specific ways to support the work of Mid West Simon Community check out our website: www.midwestsimon.ie

To get involved or to support the work of Mid West Simon Community please call 061 403 145 or email mwsimon@eircom.net

See the 'How you Can Help' insert in this pack for further ideas

Sean's story

Sean is in his twenties. He became homeless after his mother died unexpectedly last year. His father died when he was a child. Sean has a mild learning disability and suffers from episodes of depression. Sean found that he couldn't continue to stay in his mother's house as it was bequeathed to another sibling. Sean was living in a B&B by himself where he became more and more depressed as he had no family or friends to turn to.

Sean recently moved into the Simon Community's supported housing project and with the help of staff over the past six months has learned new skills and has begun cooking, shopping and doing his own washing. Sean has made friends with the other service users in the housing unit and has become involved in activities in the local community. Sean says he is enjoying his life now and is really happy.

Contact details

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