

# North West Simon Community



## Introduction

North West Simon Community is a not for profit organisation working with those at risk of homelessness in counties Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo. The organisation works in partnership with voluntary and statutory service providers in the region to ensure that our service users continue to enjoy their homes while living a good quality life.

North West Simon Community is a company limited by guarantee with a voluntary board of directors and a staff team of 3 people. Established in 2005, to respond to the findings of a regional assessment of need which identified a lack of service for people who found themselves homeless and at risk of homelessness in the region.

## Vision

The North West Simon Community has a vision that every person in the region will have a place which s/he can call home.



## Mission

### The work of the North West Simon Community aims to:

- Prevent people from becoming homeless.
- Develop and facilitate services that respond to individual needs and enable people to live in their own home.
- Inform, advocate and campaign for each person's right to a home and appropriate services to support this.

## People we work with

Since May 2008 we have provided direct support to almost 40 people (20 women and 18 men) and their families at risk of homeless in the North West through our tenancy sustainment project. In addition we also support 7 people in our housing project.

## Range of Services

### Tenancy Sustainment and Support Service

The Tenancy Sustainment Service supports people living in council housing and private housing under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).

The aim of the tenancy sustainment and support service is to enable people to keep their homes.

### Objectives:

- Provide support, information and advocacy.
- Improve people's quality of life.
- Enable people to do things for themselves.

# North West Simon Community

## For example, we support people around issues such as:

- Rent arrears including support with budgeting and bill paying.
- Maintenance, repair and decoration.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Health and drug and alcohol problems.
- Support to access employment, training and leisure opportunities.
- Support with settling into a community where a person is new to an area and/or where a person requires support with connecting to utilities, accessing grants etc.
- Assistance to access welfare entitlements and information.
- Assistance with homemaking and personal care.

We work in partnership with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and services such as Public Health Nurses, Community Psychiatric Nurses, Addiction Counsellors, Council housing staff, and other voluntary and statutory organizations such as MABS, FÁS and St Vincent de Paul who have made positive contributions to the lives of many of our service users.

There are 2 workers for this service at present: one covering Donegal and the other Leitrim/Sligo.

## Long-term Housing initiative

This initiative is aimed at providing safe, comfortable, secure accommodation with some support where required for 7 tenants in the Letterkenny area. There remains a need for permanent housing for vulnerable people on the local authority-housing list and we will continue to source suitable housing in the region where possible.



## Future plans

North West Simon Community are in the process of finalising the purchase of a further 8 units in Letterkenny for our long-term housing initiative. The focus of the organization will be to source statutory funding for our services as we are totally reliant on fundraising at present. In addition the organisation is actively seeking the re-establishment of the homeless fora in each county in the region so we can continue to address, effectively and in a co-ordinated way, the needs of homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless in the region. We look forward to progressing further initiatives under the auspices of the national homeless strategy during the coming years.

## How you can help:

- By organising a fundraising event in your workplace or community with the proceeds going to our work.
- By volunteering to become a member of the Friends of North West Simon group in your county who contribute to our fundraising efforts.
- By volunteering your time for befriending service users and supporting them to organise social activity.

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

## Contact details

Bee Park Resource Centre  
Newline  
Manorhamilton  
Co. Leitrim

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