

Aftercare Provision in Ireland

“Why we need legislation in practice”

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1850 204 205
www.focusireland.ie



Creating
homes
together

Main themes

- Focus Ireland and Aftercare
- Service & Advocacy Response
- Why legislation?
- The campaign and responses

Focus Ireland and Aftercare

- Focus Point established 1987
- Extension Service - 1988
- Recognition of abuse
- 1989 working group
 - guidelines
 - recognised care background

Services & Advocacy Responses

- Female residential aftercare (1989)
- Aftercare in Dublin & Waterford
- Research
 - 'Transition from Care' (1997)
 - Out on their own (1998)
 - Left out on their own (2000)

Left out on their own

- Six months after leaving care, 33% of the sample who had been in Health Board care had experienced homelessness

Left out on their own

- Two years after leaving care, 68% of the sample who had been in Health Board care had experienced homelessness

Why legislation?

- Ministerial Order & Law (2000)
- 'Bridging the Gap' (2009)
 - 'Unified, standard approach'
 - Equal claim on resources
 - Signal of priorities
- So 'May' to 'shall'
- Broader legal framework

The campaigns

- 'Bridging the Gap' (2009)
- Participation of customers
- 'Action on Aftercare' 2010
- Childcare Bill campaign
- 5,000 e-mails to TDs

Responses to the campaigns

- Ministerial: 'May' = 'Shall'
- 'Can't afford it ...'
- National Implementation Plan
- Minister Fitzgerald's interest
- Government position remains open ...