



We are Barnardos



Barnardos

No child gets left behind

Barnardos supports children whose well-being is under threat, by working with them, their families and communities and by campaigning for the rights of children. Barnardos was established in 1962 and is Ireland's leading independent children's charity.



All photographs used in this document are posed by models.

This is Brian

When Brian first came to Barnardos he was going to be expelled from school because of his violent behaviour. He kicked, punched and physically and verbally abused everyone around him.

Brian was five years old.

One of eight children, his home was full of friction and fear. When asked to describe his house, he said it was angry. Heavy debts, domestic abuse and on-street violence took its daily toll. His was a family under siege; living in an estate with few local services, poor transport and battered housing.

A Barnardos support worker was appointed to help Brian. She met his family in their home to get an insight into his life and the stress the family was under. It was clear that in order to improve Brian's situation, Barnardos would need to work with all his family to help them cope better and ease the tension in the house.

Brian's mum was invited to attend a parenting course in Barnardos. She was also given advice on managing the weekly income. His dad was supported in accessing a drug rehabilitation programme. Barnardos lobbied the local authority to damp-proof the house, which was seeping water. Brian's older brother, who missed almost 30 days of school last year, is also getting help from Barnardos and now hopes to stay in school and sit his Junior Certificate next year.

Brian still has his bad days, but his one-to-one sessions with his support worker help him to deal with his worries. He is also attending a Barnardos group with children his own age, where he is learning simple things such as taking turns and making friends. His teacher says that he has settled into the school routine and is getting on with the other children.

It is no longer unusual to hear Brian laugh.

Obviously no two cases are the same, but at Barnardos the children we deal with do have one thing in common. It is that they could otherwise be forgotten by society. We want to live in an Ireland where no child gets left behind and we will do everything in our power to make this happen. Our aim is to inject hope into what sometimes seems to be a hopeless situation.

The effects of disadvantage can last a lifetime. It's true that children have amazing abilities to cope, but the wrong start can affect the direction of their whole lives. It can have a permanent impact on their education and their well-being. It can affect their ability to make friends, to get the most from their education and to make the progress every child should. It can trap them in a never-ending spiral of poverty and disappointment.

Barnardos works with children and families to break the cycle of poverty and educational disadvantage. We support families and build on their strengths to create brighter futures for their children.

Speaking out for Children

Barnardos wants to make Ireland a better place to live in for all children. That's why we believe in campaigning and advocating for children everywhere. Our aim is to create as much public awareness as possible about the issues children face, and to put children at the heart of public policy.

Barnardos' Services

Barnardos' work is about helping children make the most of their lives, regardless of what they're up against.

We operate in over 30 Barnardos Centres in communities across Ireland. The majority of the areas we work in are similar in one respect – they have been passed over by the wealth and optimism that most of the country enjoys.

Every day we encounter children living brutalised lives. We work with families to improve parenting skills and tackle issues of poverty, domestic abuse, addiction and the impact these problems have on children.

We help children to re-build their self-esteem and support them to reach their full potential.

Our involvement in a child's life varies, depending on each child's needs and their age. We work with children, in some cases from as soon as they are born, right through to 15 years of age. We aim to reach the children who need us as early as possible.

From birth to age four - Young children all need the same things, love, security, warmth and nutrition. Where they are deprived of any of these staples the effect, even on the youngest, can be devastating. Our work with the zero to four age group is all about supporting the healthy development of the child and helping parents to create a nurturing environment for their family.

Children aged five to nine - Once children start school, their needs develop. Routine, structure, a safe place to play and a stable and supportive home life are critical for them to do well in school, make

friends and be happy. Between the ages of five and nine years we focus on building a steady structure within what is sometimes a chaotic home setting.

Children aged 10 to 15 - As children get older they are faced with increasingly difficult choices and peer relationships play a much stronger role. The children we meet often have desperately low self-esteem and are at risk of dropping out of school. We support them to complete their education, make safe choices and build better lives.

We also work with older children, for example through our teen parents support programme.

We don't give up on any child and no child gets left behind.

Central Services

Even though a lot of our work happens at a local level we also provide much needed support through a variety of central services:

Barnardos Bereavement Counselling for Children

It can be the last thing on people's minds at an already difficult time, but many children need help dealing with the loss of a loved one. Our counselling service helps children deal with bereavement, often under traumatic circumstances.

Guardian *ad Litem* Service

This service provides an independent voice to represent children's needs, wishes and interests in court proceedings, often in adversarial circumstances where children are very vulnerable.

National Children's Resource Centre

Our resource centre helps parents and professionals working in the childcare field, by providing high-quality training, advice and information services, and through its highly-valued publications.

Family Welfare Conference Service

Provided in several part of the country, this pioneering service aims to help families deal with their issues and find their own solutions through a structured approach that brings the whole family network together.

Adoption Advice Service

Adoption affects many people in Ireland. Our service offers advice and information for these people. This could be, for example, an adopted person searching for their birth parent.

Origins

A service specifically to aid adults, who spent any part of their childhood in reformatory or industrial schools, in tracing their family origins.

We asked some of the children we work with about their lives. This is what they had to say:

“If I had one wish I’d stay in school ‘til 4th class. And I’d go to Disney Land.”

Paul, age 7

“People fight all the time where I live. I get really annoyed and I can’t go to sleep because there’s too much noise.”

Said, age 9

“Sometimes people get mad at me and it makes me sad. Sometimes my dad gets mad and punches me.”

Joe, age 7

“I’d like to stay in Barnardos all day!”

Martina, age 9

Direct Debit

Yes, I want to be a Barnardos Childhood Friend and help vulnerable children every day

Please complete this Direct Debit form and work with us to change children's lives. Put it in an envelope and return it to: Barnardos, 1st Floor, Merchants Hall, 25-26 Merchants Quay, Freeport F126, Dublin 8.

I would like to make a monthly donation of
€7 €10 €21* Other €

A donation of €21 a month is eligible for tax relief to Barnardos if you are a PAYE tax payer, or to you if are self assessed.

Please debit my account on the 1st or 15th of each month (please tick)

Instruction to your Bank to pay Direct Debits

To the manager

(Name and full address of your Bank Branch)

Name of account holder

Sort Code -- Account number

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Other _____ Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

It would really help us if we could also communicate with you via telephone or email.
Please provide these details if you would like to be contacted in this way.

If you aren't able to make monthly donations at this time, please support us with a gift to help us give vulnerable children a better start in life.

I would like to make a donation of € to Barnardos by

Cheque Postal Order Laser Card Credit Card Cash
(please make cheques and postal orders payable to Barnardos)

Please debit my card with the indicated amount

Card Number

Security Code: Expiry Date

Signature _____ Date _____

Please ensure that you have completed this form along with your donation. If you would prefer not to receive mail from us in the future, please tick this box.

Registered charity 6015

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Banks may decline to accept Direct Debits from certain types of accounts.

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www.barnardos.ie or contact our
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Callsave: 1850 222 300
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Barnardos' vision is an Ireland
where childhood is valued and
all children and young people
are cherished equally.

Barnardos' mission is to challenge
and support families, communities,
society and government to make
Ireland the best place in the world
to be a child, focusing specifically
on children and young people
whose well-being is under threat.