



Loreto Centre Crumlin Annual Report

Community Adult Education & Counselling Service

September 2018 - August 2019

Registered Charity: Reg No. 20042011 Chy no. 13464

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2018-2019

It gives me great pleasure to report on the activities of The Loreto Centre over the past twelve months, spanning 2018 – 2019. Aside from being a highly productive year in terms of service provision, the past year also marked the 21st anniversary of the Loreto Centre, an occasion that was marked by a celebration, attended by many, all of whom had contributed to the success of the Centre in one way or another. We had a beautiful summer's evening for our celebration which took place in the grounds of the Loreto Centre and fabulous food, wine and company was enjoyed into the late hours of the evening.

Aside from our celebration, the past twelve months also saw some very significant departures from the Loreto Centre, the first being the retirement of our former Centre Manager, Sr Brede Quirke. It was with great sadness that we bade farewell to Brede, whose commitment to the Loreto Centre over the past 11 years will be sorely missed. In saying this, we were delighted to welcome on board our new manager, Anca Lupu, who was appointed to her new post in August 2019 and I am very pleased to report that she has settled into her new role seamlessly.

Aside from significant staffing changes during the year, the Loreto Centre, with the support of staff, workers and volunteers, has continued to fulfil its mission of enabling and empowering those who attend our service, to make positive changes in their ways of living, bringing attendant benefits to their personal lives and the lives of their families and communities. None of these could be done without the continued commitment of the excellent team, who ensure that the Centre's vision, to empower individuals, through support, respect and encouragement, is upheld by standards that see the consistent provision of a professional and dedicated service for all those who attend the Centre. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, for your on-going work and support.

The two strands of the service provision at the Loreto Centre, our educational programme and our counselling service, demand an array of differing skill sets and I would like to acknowledge the highly professional manner in which the Manager, Staff and Volunteers meet and manage the many and varied sets of needs that running the centre involves.

With regard to our educational services, we had on offer in 2018 -19 a diverse programme, including both non-accredited courses and courses resulting in 3rd level qualifications. A very sincere thank you to all the teachers, tutors, staff and students for all the hours and dedication that you put in to make this possible. We are very proud of the diverse and expanding educational services that we provide in the Loreto Centre and with a view to the future, we will be including an evaluation of our educational programme as part of our strategic plan for the coming year, that we anticipate will see our programme continue to expand and grow in response to our learners demands.

The second strand of our service provision is the counselling service, which besides responding to the increased demand for counselling over the past twelve months, correspondingly saw significant change with the departure of our Clinical Director, Pat Colgan, following 10 years of committed voluntary service to the centre. While we were sorry to say good-bye to Pat, we were delighted to welcome jointly to this role, Terry Kelleher and Jim Murphy, both of whom have worked for many years at the centre and bring their vast experience and expertise to this new role.

The Loreto Centre has developed into a trusted counselling service within the locality, with referrals coming from a broad spectrum of sources across the community. This service, which represents an invaluable resource to the local community, would not be possible were it not for the many Counsellors, who volunteer their time, to provide a highly professional and confidential service. A most sincere thank you to you all for your continued commitment to the provision of counselling in the Loreto Centre

My thanks also to the Board Members, who have shown considerable commitment by way of attending meetings and evaluating and auditing policies and who share their wealth of experience and expertise to ensure the continued smooth running of the Centre.

Their hard work and perseverance with the development and refining of our Governance Policies is particularly appreciated and to this end, we are currently in the process of developing a number of sub-groups within the board, with responsibility for overseeing governance in specific areas of the Centre's work to ensure the highest levels of accountability.

In the background of all this hard work within the Loreto Centre, is the support of the Trustees, the Loreto Sisters, which remains crucial to the continued success of the Centre. Their continued and unwavering support, financial and otherwise, is very much appreciated. They have been the mainstay of the Centre since its establishment and we are most grateful for their ongoing support.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge our various funders for their financial support over the past year. It is very much appreciated and the work of the Centre would be severely compromised without their continued support.

The challenge of securing core funding for the Centre has become increasingly difficult, with rising demands in terms of governance and accountability that place a huge demand on our limited resources. However, the Board will continue to provide as much support as possible, to ensure that the resources required to ensure the effective and continued running of the Centre remain in place and to this end, securing a dependable and continuous funding stream to cover the core funding of the Centre is a top priority for the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank, most sincerely, all those who avail of the services in the Centre. Your trust in the Centre, your continued support for the Centre and the many ways in which you give back to the Centre, are all very much appreciated.

It has been my privilege to Chair the Board of Management over the past very busy and productive year and I look forward, with the support of Management, Staff, Volunteers and Board Members, to another busy and productive year ahead.

Beatrice Hughes, Loreto Centre Chairperson

HISTORY OF LORETO CENTRE

The Loreto Centre was initially established by the Loreto Sisters in 1998 for the purpose of providing low-cost adult community education and a back-up counselling service to people in the Dublin 12 and surrounding areas. The Trustees of the Loreto Centre are the Provincial Leadership Team of the Loreto Sisters (IBVM), Irish Province. The provision of community education in the Loreto Centre is provided from the perspective of the Loreto educational philosophy.

VISION AND VALUES

Loreto Education communities are animated by the spirit of Mary Ward, foundress of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto). They are centred in God, rooted in Christ and based on Gospel values. Our vision is that they will be educational communities where each person has the experience of being valued; where all who participate in the learning process enjoy a liberating education that helps them grow into the fullness of life and empowers them to be men and women of courage who are alive to the needs of humanity and committed to making a difference in our world.

Based on this fundamental belief in the uniqueness of each person, the Loreto Centre has as its main object to inspire and encourage all participants in its programmes to recognise and find their full potential. The aim stems from the conviction that, given the right support, respect and encouragement, individuals are enabled to develop and become empowered so that they feel better about themselves, become more tolerant of others, form better relationships and thereby contribute to the well-being of families, communities and the society in which they live.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to enable and empower people to develop their own resources for more creative and effective living within the context of their personal lives and within their families and to participate in building a supportive personal and community network.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main object of the Centre is to advance education through the provision of adult Community education and pastoral care, of both men and women in Dublin 12 and surrounding areas, which in turn will benefit themselves, their families and the community in which they live, in accordance with the educational philosophy of the Loreto Sisters (IBVM), Irish Province.

In furtherance of the aforementioned main objective, the Centre has the following subsidiary / ancillary objectives:

- To provide adults in the community with appropriate education and counselling services;
- To enable and empower men and women to develop their own resources for more creative and effective living and to participate in building a supportive community network;
- To respond to the needs of the local community by providing course opportunities to promote healthy living, healing, growth and development of skills relevant to both personal and community needs;
- To provide an atmosphere of welcome and hospitality, a place where men and women can come to share, listen, or find space for quiet and reflection;
- To establish co-operative links with agencies and networks in both statutory and voluntary sectors at local level.

GOVERNANCE

The Board of Management is governed by its Constitution as amended and approved by the Trustees and Board of Management on the 17th day of September 2012.

Methods used to recruit and appoint new Board Members

The members of the Board are appointed, according to the procedures outlined in Paragraph 6 of the Constitution, as follows:

The Trustees will appoint the members of the Board of Management following appropriate consultation.

The Board of Management shall consist of at least six persons, not fewer than half of whom shall be nominated by the Trustees. The remaining persons shall be nominated by the Board of Management.

The term of office of the current Board of Management, as at the 1st day of September 2018, shall be deemed expired on the 31st August 2021.

Thereafter the term of office for a member of the Board of Management shall be for three years but shall extend until the annual meeting subsequent to the lapse of these three years. Any member of the Board may be reappointed for one successive term if the Trustees see fit.

The nomination and appointment of members of an incoming Board shall be made and done at least one month before the date of expiry of the term of office of the then existing Board, and the Board so constituted shall assume office forthwith on that expiry date.

The Trustees shall fill any vacancy which occurs in the Board of Management. A member of the Board of Management appointed to fill a mid-term vacancy shall hold office for the same period as the member replaced.

Board of Management 1 Sep 2017 - 31 August 2018

<i>Chairperson:</i> Beatrice Hughes	<i>Treasurer:</i> Tom Scott	
Emily Banville	Marie Celine Clegg	Eugene Banks
Catherine Lynch	Suzanne Doyle	Barbara Murphy

Board of Management 1 September 2018 - 31 August 2019

<i>Chairperson:</i> Beatrice Hughes	<i>Treasurer:</i> Tom Scott	
Emily Banville	Eugene Banks	Elaine Dillon — new board member
Catherine Lynch	Barbara Murphy	Ann Kenny - new board member

Two members of the Board completed their term of office on the Board on the 31st August 2018 and two new members were appointed by the Trustees.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2023

It is envisaged that a new Strategic Plan will be developed during the course of the coming year.

The centre will be developing its Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 which will entail looking critically at how the service needs to be developed and resourced going forward. A significant element of the Strategic Plan will involve securing funding that will ensure the long-term future of the Centre. The Strategic Plan will correspondingly entail committing fully to examining the new Governance Code and building on the governance work that has already taken place. The centre is committed to ensuring that it offers a high quality educational and psychotherapy service to the local community.

The following policies were updated during the past year:

Counselling Policy

Data Protection Policy

Child Safeguarding Policy

Centre Privacy Notices for Clients and Learners

These are the policies that the Board will focus on in 2019—2020:

Records Management Policy

Loreto Centre Records Retention Schedule

Staff handbook

Loreto Centre Team Changes

After many years of service Sr Brede Quirke retired from her role as the centre manager. The Staff, Team and Board thanked her for her work, determination, contribution and enthusiasm over the years. She will be dearly missed.

On the same day Pat Colgan, Director of Counselling, also retired from his role with the Centre, following many years of dedicated voluntary service. The team and the board thanked him for his passion and commitment to the Centre for so many years.

Following a detailed selection process, the Board has recruited a new Manager, Anca Lupu, to run the centre and to continue to build on the solid work Sr Brede Quirke has developed so keenly over the last 11 years. Anca Lupu has started her new role in August under the guidance and support of the outgoing manager and the Board.

The board has also appointed two new Clinical Directors, Terry Kelleher and Jim Murphy, both senior therapists and volunteers with the centre for many years, who will assist the Manager to progress the counselling service in Loreto Centre.

LORETO CENTRE CRUMLIN BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

September 2018 — June 2019

Board Members	17th Sept	6th Nov	11th Dec	29th Jan	25th Mar	29th Apr	6th June	Total
Beatrice Hughes	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	7/7
Tom Scott	√	√	√	√	x	x	√	5/7
Barbara Murphy	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	7/7
Emily Banville	√	x	√	√	√	√	√	6/7
Catherine Lynch	√	x	√	x	√	x	√	4/7
Eugene Banks	√	√	√	√	x	√	√	6/7
Elaine Dillon	x	√	√	√	√	√	√	6/7
Ann Kenny	-	-	-	√	√	√	√	4/4

ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Loreto Centre organises and provides course opportunities to build confidence and self-esteem, develop new skills, build up accreditation and to help people become more actively involved in their local community. In reviewing and evaluating the responses from the learners over the past few years we have noticed an increasing demand for classes in psycho-education. Learners have asked for classes in issues that are relevant to their relationships in the home and in the workplace. Issues such as self-esteem, bullying, grief, loss and ability to cope with change are just some of the issues learners want to explore. We are developing short courses to respond to these requests. There is still demand for classes in holistic education. These are particularly valuable to learners who find themselves living alone and somewhat isolated.

What we offer

The Loreto Centre runs a variety of courses each morning between 10am-1pm:

Psycho-education

- ◆ Support For Dealing With Chronic Pain
- ◆ Learn How To Improve Your Self-Esteem For a Happier Life

Holistic Education

- ◆ Tai Chi
- ◆ An Introduction to Mindfulness
- ◆ Mindfulness Practice Beyond The Beginnings
- ◆ Introduction to Flower Arranging
- ◆ Flower Arranging
- ◆ Introduction to Art
- ◆ Art
- ◆ Yoga

Academic Education

Year 2 - UCD Certificate in Women, Gender and Social Justice Studies, offering a third level qualification and second chance in higher education particularly to early school leavers.



COURSES DELIVERED

From 1st September 2018 to 31st August 2019, 445 people attended classes in the Loreto Centre. The breakdown for each class is as follows:

Class	Autumn 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019
Tai Chi	15	15	19
An Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation	13	15	N/A
Mindfulness Practice Beyond The Beginnings	12	14	9
An Introduction to Flower Arranging	11	15	13
Flower Arranging	13	14	14
Introduction to Art	8	N/A	12
Art	7	13	13
Certificate in Women, Gender & Social Justice	21	19	19
Yoga I	17	19	17
Yoga II	17	19	19
Support For Dealing With Chronic Pain	13	4	N/A
Learn How to Improve Your Self-Esteem for a Happier Life	7	9	N/A
Total	154	156	135
Overall Total	445		

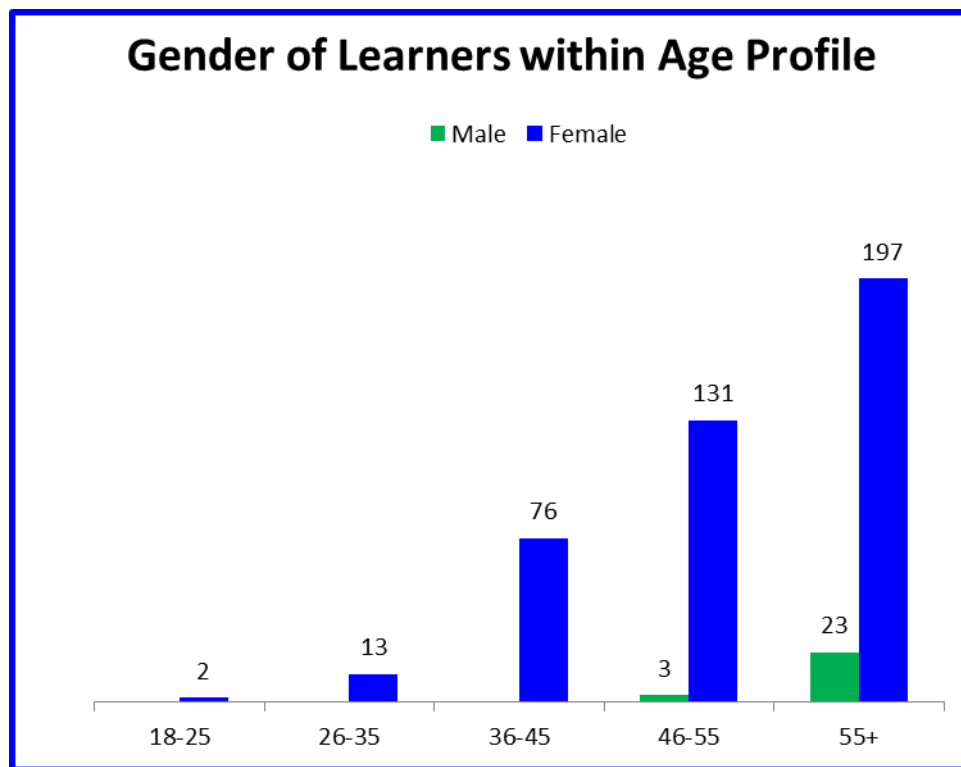
COURSE TERMS:

Courses run from: September - December - 10 weeks
 January - April - 10 weeks
 May - June - 6 weeks

STATISTICS OF LEARNER POPULATION - 445 LEARNERS

Table 1 describes the age profile and the gender of the learners. This is similar to the trend noted in the last Annual Report.

Table no 1



To ensure that our classes meet the needs of the learners the Loreto Centre uses a measuring instrument designed by the Limerick City Adult Education Service to capture the benefits of adult community based learning. This pilot initiative entitled “Capturing the Wider Benefits of Learning” sets out to devise simple tools and methodologies around two elements of non-formal learning:

1. Learning outcomes which learners used to access their skill level ‘before and after participating in uncertified courses.
2. Evidence about the wider benefits of learning, specifically the impact of community education on key areas of peoples’ lives, families and wider community.



COURSE OUTCOMES

In each Annual Report we offer an insight into the outcomes from a selection of the courses which have been delivered over the past year from the point of view of the learners.

Learn How to Improve Your Self Esteem Autumn 2018 (Tutor Therese Larkin)

"I was feeling very down before I came to the course but I am so glad I came. I learned a lot about taking care of myself and stopped worrying about other people all the time. I am feeling more confident about putting myself forward for jobs and I have also joined a walking group which will help me stay healthy and enable me to meet new people and make new friends".

DK Adult Learner

Tai Chi Spring 2019 (Tutor Jane Bailey)

I find the Tai Chi course excellent. The tutor teaches at a suitable pace for everyone. I feel better mentally and physically for doing it. I have made a lot of new friends. I would love to continue the course".

HF Adult Learner

"The tutor is very patient, and takes a lot of time explaining. I love the calmness this course has brought to my life. I try to do a bit every morning".

KK Adult Learner

Flower Arranging Spring 2019 (Tutor Maura Gilchriest)

"Maura is a brilliant tutor she helps everybody and is great at explaining all the different flowers. The course is very inclusive and social. Learning is encouraged but in a very non-threatening atmosphere. I love Tuesday mornings and my feeling stays the same during the entire day. This is a brilliant class in a fantastic Centre".

NL Adult Learner

"It is wonderful to be able to attend this course. It helps your confidence and self-esteem. Thank you".

MB Adult Learner

Table 2, 3 & 4 capture the feedback from learners over two terms.

Table no. 2

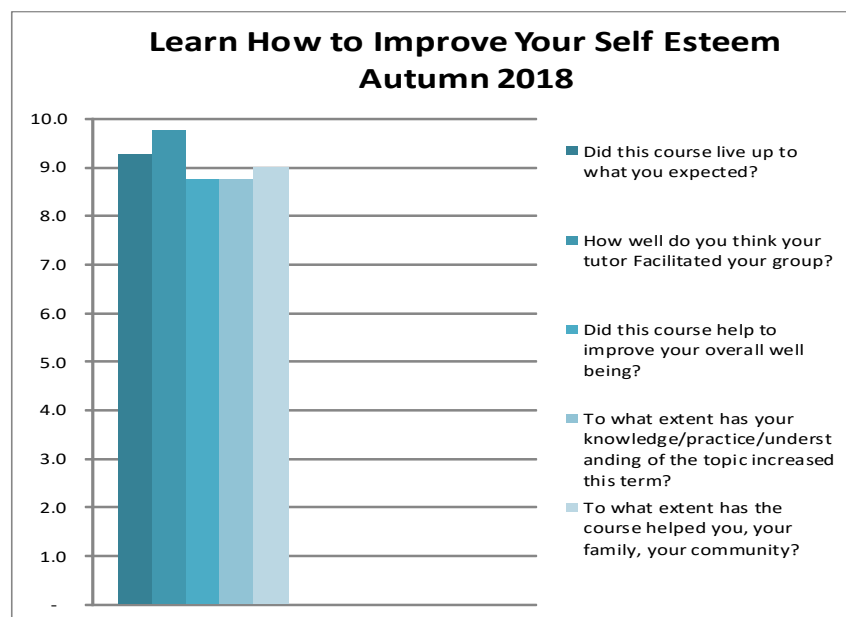


Table no. 3

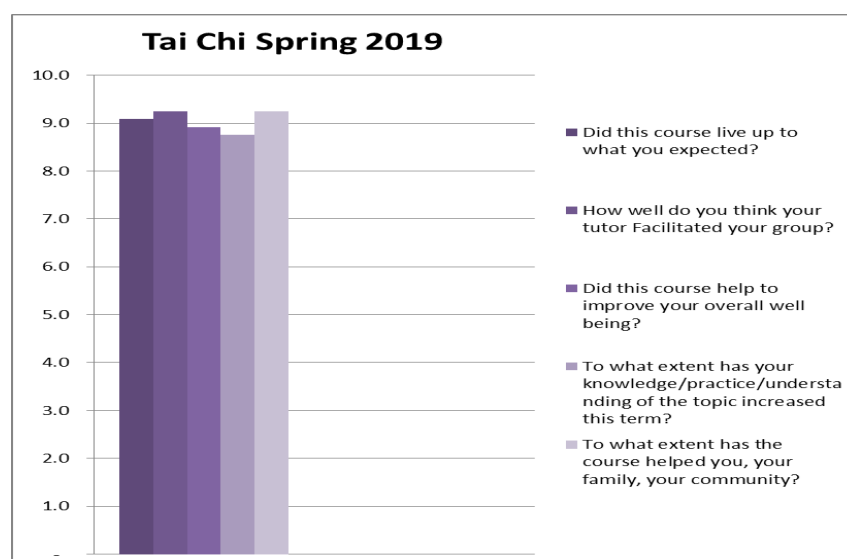
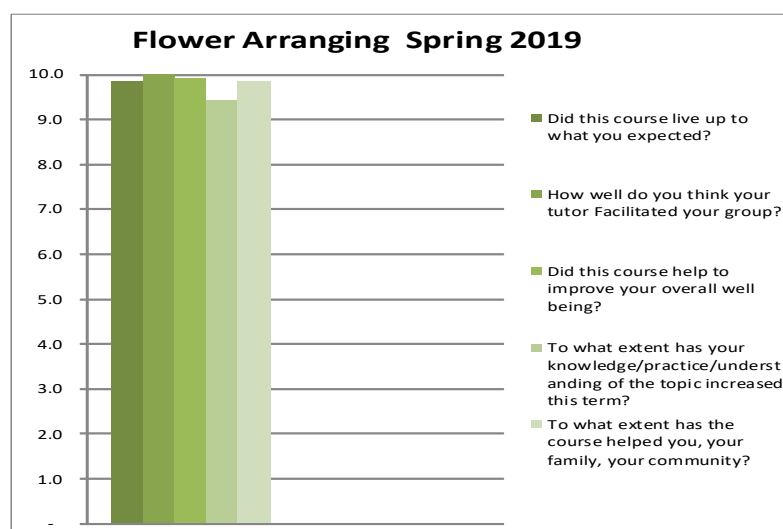


Table no. 4



THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION FOR EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS

CERTIFICATE IN WOMEN, GENDER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDIES

Loreto Centre has offered a Certificate in Women, Gender and Social Justice Education in conjunction with the Department of Social Science, Social Policy and Social Justice from University College Dublin (UCD) over the past eighteen years. While finding funding for this course represents a challenge for the centre many agencies help to pay for modules and along with the contribution from the learners themselves we continue to prioritise the delivery of the certificate course over two years. We are grateful to South Dublin City Partnership and Mary Ward Mission Fund for their ongoing support for this programme.

Academic Accredited Education

Twenty nine women enrolled for this programme in 2017 which had six modules taking place over the last two years with twenty one women completing their modules and being awarded a level seven HETAC award in Women, Gender & Social Studies at a beautiful graduation ceremony in UCD in September 2019. Year 2 continued with 3 more modules as follows:

MODULE 4: WOMEN IN IRISH HISTORY

MODULE 5: RECONNECTING PEOPLE AND VOICE

MODULE 6: FEMINIST COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS

Overall Comments:

The overall level of student commitment was evidenced by excellent student participation and engagement. There was significant evidence of new skills acquisition by students through class participation, intensive Saturday on-campus teaching days and essay work. The level of engagement with lecturers and guest speakers was impressive. The dynamic learning environment, co-created between the students and lecturer, was fully embedded and articulated across the programme. Student confidence was evidenced by the large number of students completing CAO applications and availing of progression pathways including to Universities, IOTs and FE colleges.

Quality of Work:



The quality of the academic essays and assignments submitted by all students across this programme and especially in year two was impressive with grades awarded spanning C to A+. The students demonstrated significant learning from previous assignments. A key learning goal across the full developmental learning process was to demonstrate familiarity and competence in crafting formal, logical, critically informed, well written, fully referenced academic essays. This was achieved by all students.

Student Evaluation:

All modules met with significant student satisfaction as evidenced by the formative evaluations completed anonymously by each student on completion of the module. Specific to modules 4,5,6 there was much praise for the lecturers and no suggestions offered for improvement. Students expressed that deep learning had been achieved.

What the learners said about the course:

"This course has made me more aware of many different issues that I never knew much about. It has opened my mind, and hopefully I can continue my journey in education. I found all the modules very interesting, and I can only describe it as being asleep for the last few years and am now having a huge awaking".

"Doing this course over the two years is the absolute single best thing I have done for myself. As a busy working mum of 6, it has opened my eyes and mind to thinking, questioning and investigating facts in a different way. As an individual I can't wait to study more and in turn educate my children for the future".

"This course helped me to see, listen and critique what is happening in society. It is part of my journey and was the most enjoyable part of my life. It has left me with a thirst for more education. The tutors were total professionals and led me on a path that I would not have an opportunity otherwise and my fellow students were from all ages and life styles. I have become very interested in Social Justice and Women's Studies. Essay writing has forced me to be more precise and consistent in my researching the subject".

"I enjoyed doing this course because I learned about Irish History which I had no knowledge about, even though my own grandparents had been active in the 1916 rising. I learned the importance of using my voice and how to use it with regard to making people listen to what I had to say".

"This course has allowed me to be aware of issues in our community and given me the voice and courage to help improve how we live".



I gained so much from the women and gender studies course. Friendship, a sense of solidifying my own beliefs through information. I never knew how much I could achieve through doing the course or how well I could do essay writing. I've learned so much about feminist and social justice. I looked forward to my class each week. It's a time for me to step out of the stress of everyday life and learn and reflect in a very supportive and nurturing space. I couldn't recommend the course enough".

"I have enjoyed coming to the course every week. It has been so knowledgeable and interesting. It has awakened my interest in learning and listening. It has made me realize how bad my education was when I was younger. I would love for my children's education to be changed to what I have experienced in this Women's Studies course. It's a new way of learning and engaging".

Woman of 49 with 3 children.

COMMUNITY COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICE

In the public interest and in response to increasing demands the Centre offers a low-cost counselling/ psychotherapy service to adult learners attending courses in the Centre, as well as people over eighteen years from the local Dublin 12 community and surrounding area. Local agencies and many GPs in the local area make referrals. Table no 5 below illustrates the activity of the counselling/ psychotherapy over the past year. The service is only possible because of the generosity of so many therapists who volunteer their time and professional skills to the Centre. The commitment and expertise of the Director of Counselling in assigning clients to therapists is reflected in the high attendance of clients in therapy.

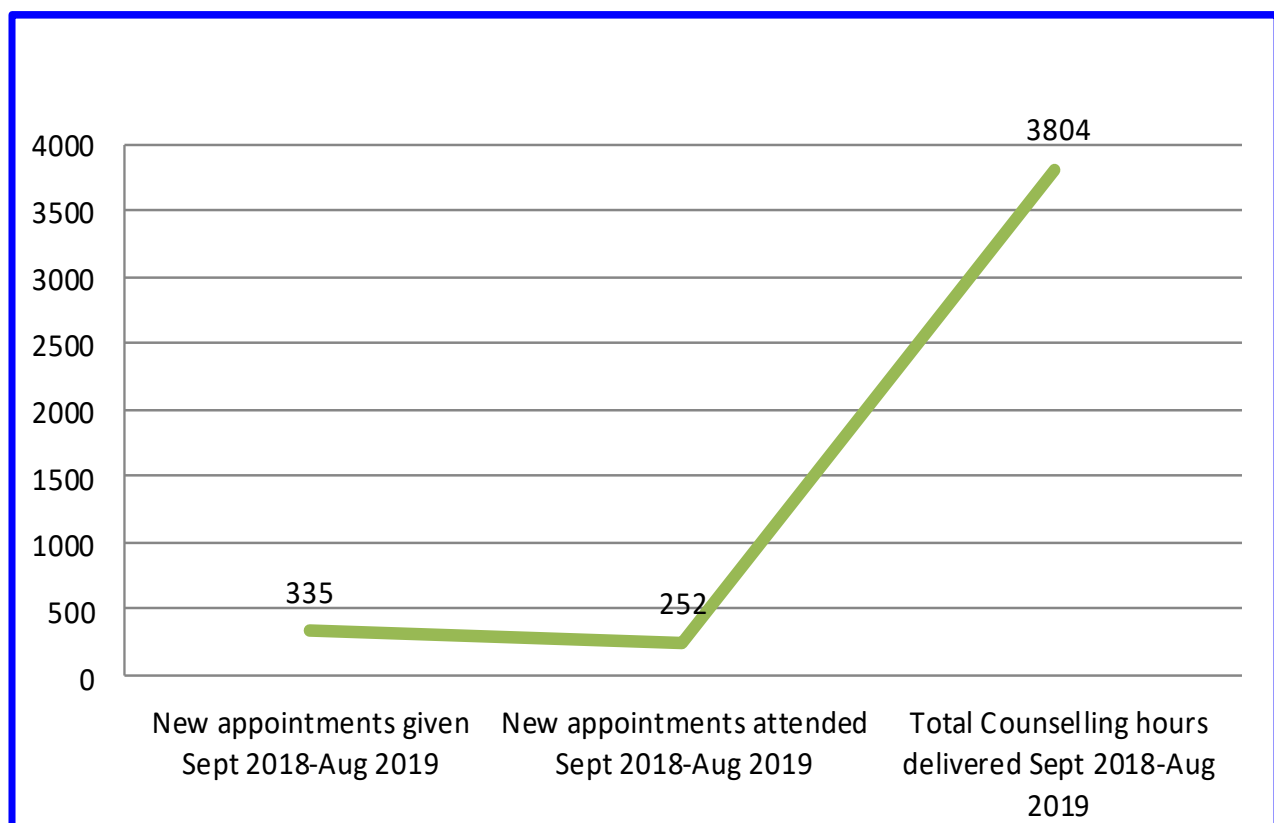
OUR PHILOSOPHY ON COUNSELLING/PSYCHOTHERAPY

From the beginning our counselling/psychotherapy service was focused on the local community and its needs. Many of the women attending the initial courses, in personal development and community education, began to talk about personal and family problems and crises. We soon realised that many needed supportive and person-centred counselling and psychotherapy.

Once we became aware of this need we set out to provide a professional level of counselling and support for the wide variety of personal problems endemic in our local catchment area. Over the past twenty-one years we have liaised with many of the colleges and centres that provide courses for the emerging professional counsellors and psychotherapists in Ireland. As a result we now have a team of forty therapists working with our growing client base and providing a professional standard low-cost service.

Overall, we aim to maintain an atmosphere of community values, team-building and support for the people who need our courses and counselling services. The profile of our clients and their problems within our emerging society validates our policy of low-cost person-centred psychotherapy.

Appointments & Counselling hours delivered in the Loreto Centre



COUNSELLING TEAM

Our team of forty volunteer therapists provide integrative humanistic psychotherapy to the clients. As well as a core team of fully accredited therapists, the Centre has qualified therapists working towards the requirements of professional accreditation and third and fourth year therapy students.

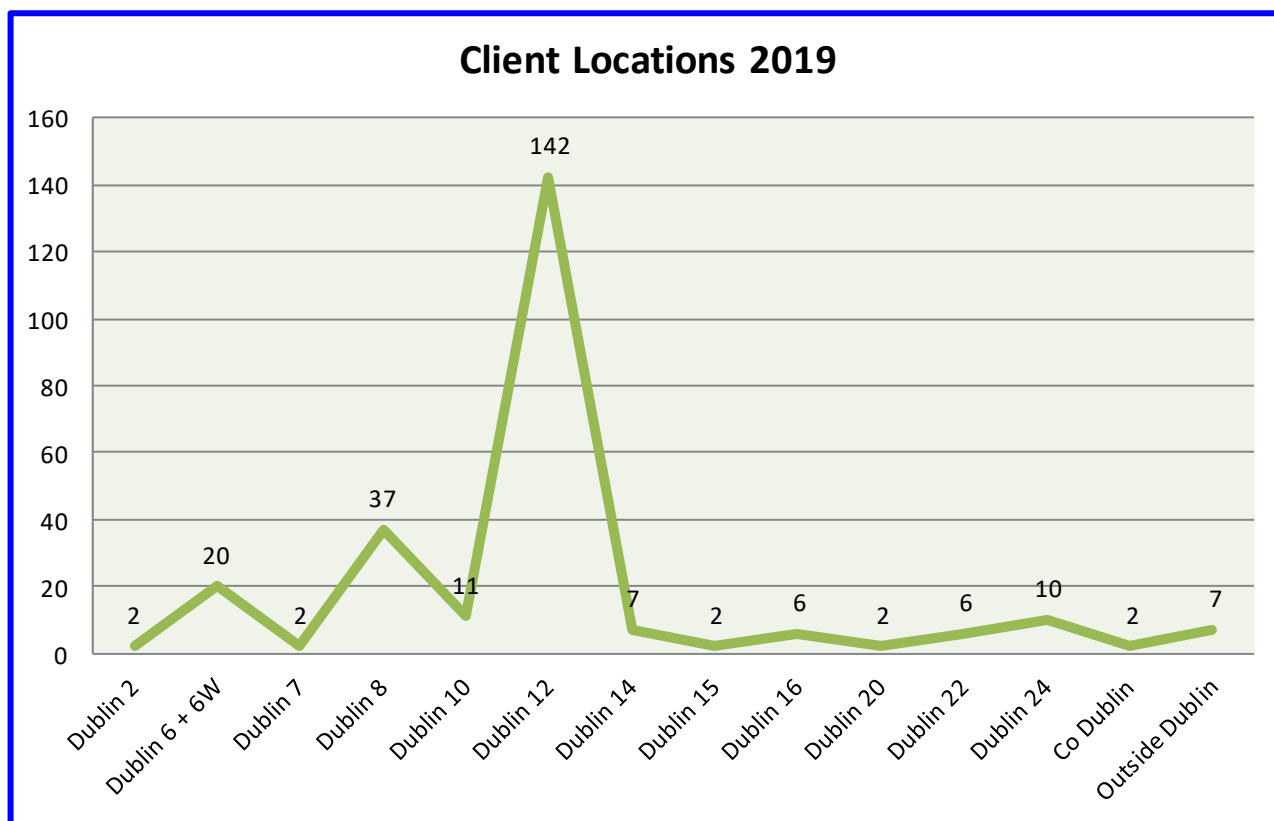
Our volunteer counsellors are all members of the main counselling and therapy accrediting bodies in Ireland, including The Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (IACP) and the Irish Association for Humanistic & Integrative Psychotherapy (IAHIP). The volunteer counsellors are offered opportunities for continuous professional development either offered on the premises or by other agencies. During this past year the Centre management offered training to the therapists on the challenges of GDPR and Dealing with Trauma.

COUNSELLING STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018 - AUGUST 2019

After cancellations and non-attendance, 3804 counselling sessions were delivered in the Loreto Centre. Including clients who were continuing therapy from the previous year 346 clients attended counselling/psychotherapy sessions between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019.

393 appointments were made to see the Director of Counselling. Out of that figure there were 28 cancellations, 54 no shows which brought the number of intakes to 311 new clients.

Table below describes the geographic area from which the clients come:



Tables below show the source of referrals for counselling and age and gender profile of our clients during the year September 2018– August 2019.

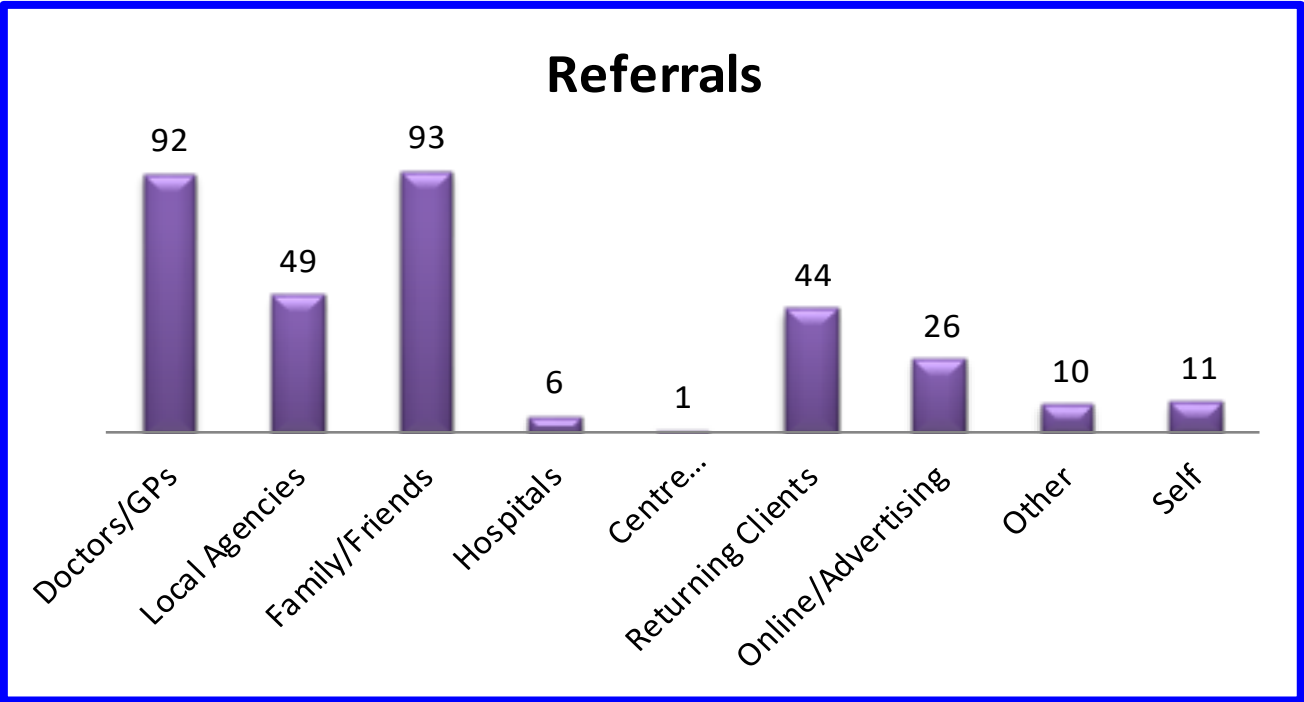
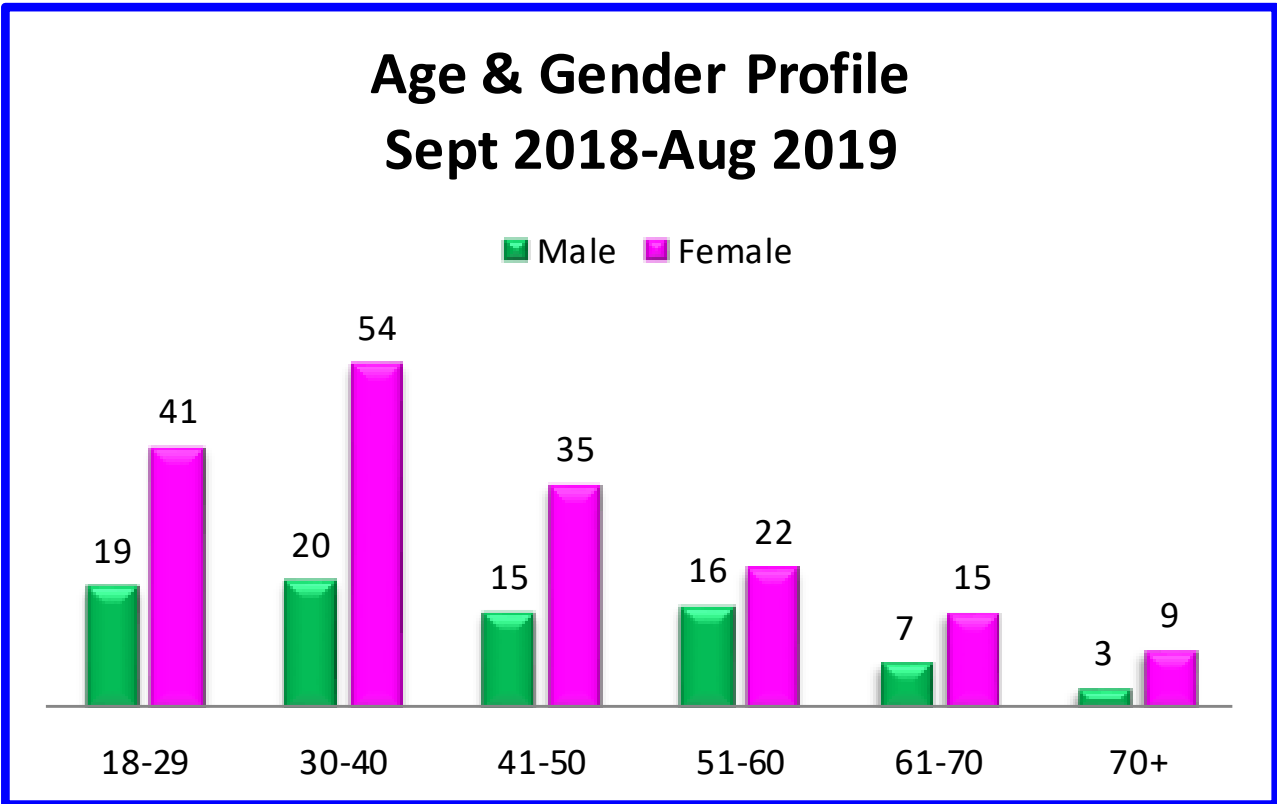


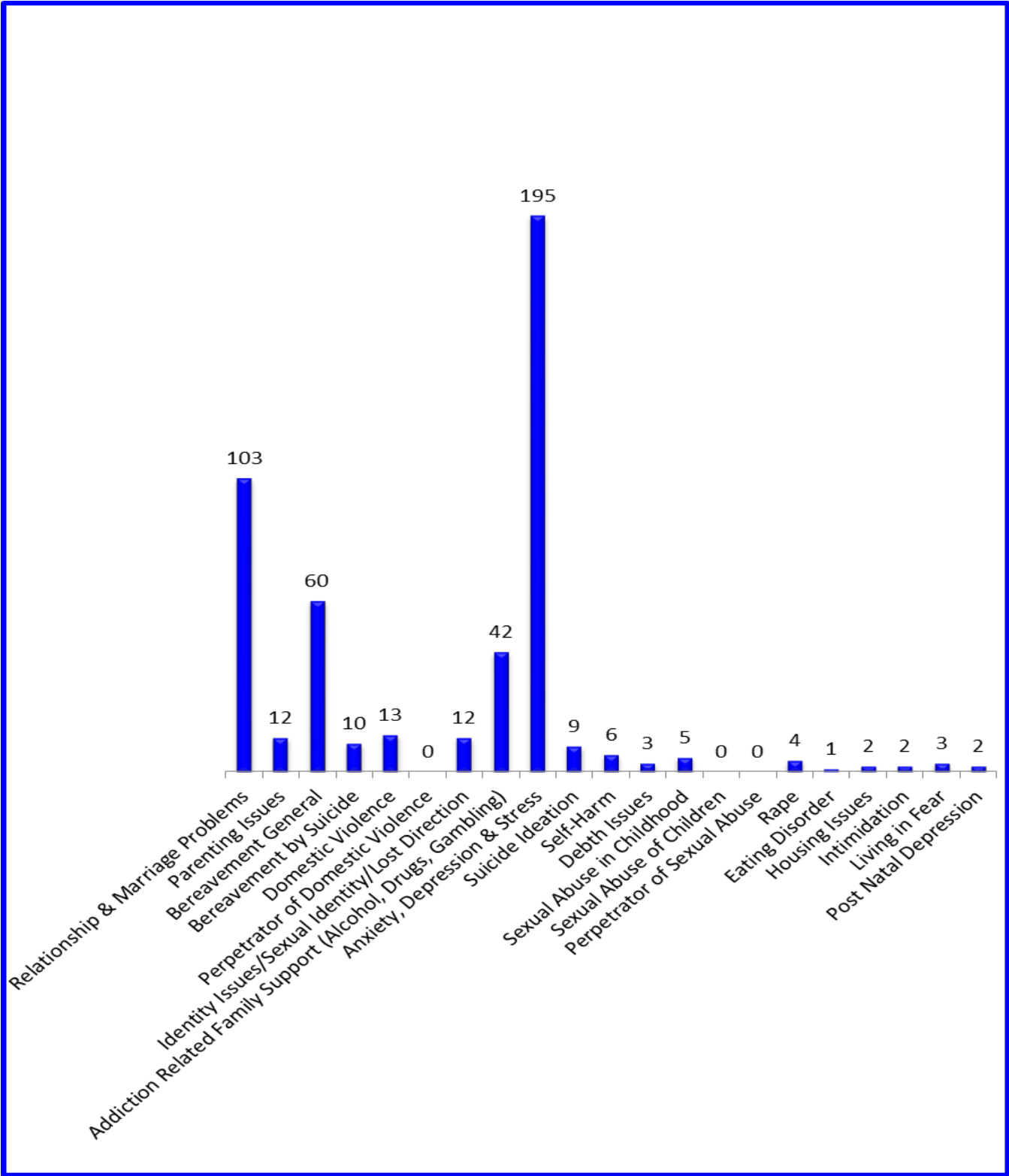
Table 8 describes the age and gender of clients for the same period



Presenting Issues:

Throughout the counselling process a variety of issues may emerge. The following chart no. 10 illustrates the span of presenting issues that clients identified. An interesting development this year is the increase in anxiety, depression and stress identified in the initial interview. Another major issue is relationship and marriage breakdown, followed by bereavement.

Table 10 shows presenting issues of clients:



FEEDBACK FROM COUNSELLING CLIENTS

While therapists who work with clients can see the benefit of the therapy process, this report does not give feedback on the confidential and private nature of the work being done. However, at times clients call in to the office or write a note to say thank you. Below is some feedback from their comments.

“I lost my job and had a very difficult break up with my boyfriend. I just felt everything was falling apart and I couldn't see the point in going on. My parents took me to the doctor and he suggested that I come to the Centre. It hasn't been easy talking about what is going on for me, but I feel now after four months of therapy things are becoming clearer in my head. I am very grateful to the Centre and my therapist for being there for me”.

(Female, age 23)

“I was feeling so depressed and took to my bed. Seeing close friends and family dying off suddenly brought home to me my own mortality and the feeling that I'm probably next. Feeling like I'm just waiting around to die was crippling. I went to see my doctor and he told me to make an appointment in the Centre. Therapy has helped me greatly and helped me to focus on what's good in my life”.

(Female, age 70).

“I was sacked from my job due to my own fault. I got caught up with gambling and started to steal from my job to pay off my gambling debts. I fell into a depression, my wife had had enough and was seriously thinking of leaving me. I needed help and a friend told me about the Centre. I have been coming for a year now and have got myself and my life back on track. My therapist has been brilliant and I found the Centre to be a very welcoming place.”

(Male, age 45)

“I was very depressed and just wanted the pain and confusion to stop. I took a lot of tablets and had to be pumped out. The reason I got to this point was I knew I was gay and I was afraid to tell my family especially my da who I felt wouldn't understand or accept me for who I am. I don't think I even accepted fully that I was gay there was a lot of self loathing going on for me.. With the help and understanding of the Loreto Centre I have come to terms with my sexuality and who I am and I finally found the courage to come out to my family. I am in a much better place now mentally, and I am looking forward to moving forward now and creating a new life for myself”.

(Male, Age 26)

Loreto Centre 21st Anniversary

28th June 2019



Another significant event took place in June 2019 when Loreto Centre celebrated 21 years since its set-up. The Centre highlighted the developments, progress, fantastic achievements and collaborations over the last 21 years.

Below there are some beautiful quotes from our chairperson's speech at the celebration event:

"Everybody here has contributed to the Loreto Centre in some way or another. Whether you provide very welcome sustenance by way of delicious home baked cakes that are enjoyed during board meetings, whether you provide beautiful displays of flowers for special occasions, whether you support and encourage daunted students and learners to believe in themselves, or whether you bear witness to clients who share their pain and anguish, whatever it is you do, you all contribute to the Loreto Centre – and this evening is about you. It's about celebrating our combined efforts and contributions – that create the wonderful community resource that is the Loreto Centre." "[The Loreto Centre is] doing something far more important. We are giving people back their dignity, we are giving people a second chance to learn and become educated and we are helping people to heal from the hurt that life has dealt them. We are helping them reach their potential and what can be more important than that". Beatrice Hughes, *Loreto Centre Chairperson*



Brede and Pat's Retirement

2nd August 2019

After many years of service, Sr Brede Quirke retired from her role as the Centre Manager. She was thanked by the staff, team and board for her work, determination, contribution and enthusiasm over her eleven years of service to the Centre. She will be greatly missed.

We also said good-bye on the same day to Pat Colgan, Director of Counselling, who retired from his role with the centre after 10 years of dedicated voluntary service. The team and board thanked him for his passion and commitment to the centre for so many years.

We wish them both all the very best of health and positive energy into their retirement journeys.



FUNDING AND RESOURCE SUPPORTS 2018 –2019

The Board wishes to acknowledge the contribution made by staff and volunteers who continue to make this Centre such a vibrant place.

In particular, the Board wishes to acknowledge the role played by the following :

- ♦ The Trustees, who are the Loreto Sisters.
- ♦ The Manager, Assistant Manager and the Director of Counselling.
- ♦ The tutoring, counselling, administration, housekeeping staff and volunteers, for their dedication, professional service and expertise in working with the learners and clients.
- ♦ The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DESP) for JI, CE and TUS schemes along with the CDETB who commit personnel resources to the Centre and who make a significant contribution to the day to day running of the Centre.
- ♦ All funders (listed below), fundraisers and friends of the Centre.

The Board wishes to record appreciation for the professional support received from the other agencies at local and national level who inspire community education and the management of the counselling service in many diverse ways.

Finally the Board acknowledges the trust that learners and clients put in the Centre.

Funders:



Loreto Sisters Ireland, Loreto Province Fund, Mary Ward Mission Fund and Loreto Past Pupils Union



The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection



City of Dublin Education and Training Board



Dublin South City Partnership



TUSLA Child and Family Agency



Dublin City Council

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