



Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

ATLANTIC SOCIAL LAB STUDY VISIT REPORT - STUDY VISITS HELD IN CORK CITY

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Date	27 – 03 – 2019
Location:	Cork City
Name	Cork Foyer
Legal Status	Foyer Federation – Non Profit Organisation
Contact Details	Responsible: Barry Waddingham Email: corkfoyer@corkcity.ie Phone no.: +353 (0)21 4288524 Website: https://www.corkcity.ie/en/cork-foyer/

B. SHORT DESCRIPTION	
Objectives <i>(identify the main goals of the project and target groups addressed)</i>	The Cork Foyer ¹ is a not-for-profit organisation that helps to transform the circumstances of young people who have faced barriers in their lives. This non-for-profit organisation is owned and operated by Cork City Council and works directly with young people to create new approaches developing the skills and resources they need to thrive in society and in the labour market. The overall aim of Cork Foyer will be to provide a process of transitional support and holistic development to the young people.
Methodology <i>(identify the methodological principles, mode of operation and level of intervention)</i>	<p>Cork Foyer aims to help the younger population (18-25 years old) at risk of social exclusion to integrate into society and in the labour market. Their methodology of action is based on the direct action and support for young people at risk, providing housing, training and helping them to find jobs and personal and professional stability so that they can later "abandon" the Foyer and live on their own.</p> <p>The Cork Foyer is all about making positive changes in the lives of those who are most vulnerable and on the margins of society. Its main purpose is to provide shelter for those who have "no roof". The level of intervention of the project is local/regional, directly supporting the local youngsters of Cork, however, the Cork Foyer is a member of the UK Foyer Federation which has a network of approximately 70 accredited Foyer's which provide accommodation, personal development and employability in a safe and nurturing environment. Young people who resort to Foyer may arise from various social problems, their risk of being homeless mostly comes from family breakdown; diagnosed mental health; care leaver; drug and alcohol issues, offending behaviour; and disability. All these situations lead to requests for support from young people and each situation is dealt with in a different way, therefore, the Foyer is able to achieve and provide a localized help focused on the individual problems of each young person, leading to their integration into society, training and job search.</p>

¹ Photograph 1 - Entrance of Cork Foyer facilities

C. MAIN FINDINGS

<p>Social Needs <i>(identify the social needs the organisation intends to fill)</i></p>	<p>From its methodology, objectives and mission that guide the Cork Foyer, this non-for-profit organisation intends to meet and fulfil the following social needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to help young people who may be at risk of homelessness that came from situations such as: family breakdown; diagnosed mental health; care leaver; drug and alcohol issues, offending behaviour; and disability; • Need for shelter for young people at risk of homelessness at risk of homelessness; • Integration needs of young people at risk of homelessness; • Inclusion and Socialization needs of young people at risk of homelessness; • Training, qualification and formation needs young people at risk of homelessness. <p>Based on a methodology of proximity and direct support to young people², Cork Foyer aims to promote a society with fewer homeless people (particularly young people). In addition to this goal and more general need, the Foyer wants to achieve the inclusion, socialization and integration of the individuals (youngsters) at risk in society, being the ultimate objective helping them to find jobs and personal and professional stability so that they can later "abandon" the Foyer and live on their own.</p>
<p>Social Innovative Practices <i>(identify the main social innovative practices developed and the extent to which the work developed responds to those needs)</i></p>	<p>The main social practice that Cork Foyer intends to provide to its users is to provide a safety and stability network for vulnerable young people who are or may find themselves in homeless situations. Thus, it will be possible to protect these young people from the experiences and devastating effects of being homelessness, such effects may have incalculable and irreversible consequences on the future life of young people.</p> <p>In this project that aims to solve this emergent social problem, there is a deep integration and socialization that goes beyond the simple "accommodation" of homeless youth. When a young homeless person is referred to the Foyer services it is about much more than merely providing accommodation. It is about restoring a young person's self-belief, encouraging potential, rebuilding old skills, developing new ones and repairing torn relationships. Briefly, the whole Cork Foyer initiative is embedded and rooted in a web of socialisation, inclusion, integration, training and formation of young people who are or may find themselves in homeless situations.</p>
<p>Collaboration and Networks <i>(identify the main connections of the organisation)</i></p>	<p>Its collaborative network has as agents, the Cork City Council, Social Enterprises, Private Companies; Local School; Universities; UK Foyer Federation; Churchfield Community Trust.</p>

² Photograph 2 - Young resident of the Foyer explaining the objectives of the Foyer and conducting a guided tour to the ASL partnership

D. MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO SUCCESS

<p>Challenges and Barriers (<i>identify the main problems that the organisation faces: financial resources, human resources, networks, innovative environment...</i>)</p>	<p>There are three barriers and difficulties pointed out that limit the functioning and response given to young people in need. First, there is a dependence on national and regional funds. Second, there is difficulty in finding affordable housing for young people to leave the Foyer and live their lives. Finally, thirdly, there is a lot of demand for help, and Foyer's resources and facilities³ are unable to meet the demand level.</p>
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E. CONCLUSIONS

<p>Key Concluding Lines</p>	<p>In conclusion, there is an active concern of Cork Foyer in working with homelessness in the Cork region, more specifically the younger homeless people between the ages of 18 and 25. They provide a "roof" for young people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. During their stay in the Foyer, their users are "framed" in training programs aiming at the improvement of soft and hard skills and competencies raising their change of employability. The Foyer ultimate goal is helping you to find jobs and personal and professional stability so that they can later "abandon" the Foyer and live on their own.</p>
<p>Other information considered relevant</p>	<p>Nothing relevant to add.</p>

³ Photograph 3 - Cork Foyer living and recreation room

Study Visit Photos



Figure 1 - Entrance of Cork Foyer facilities

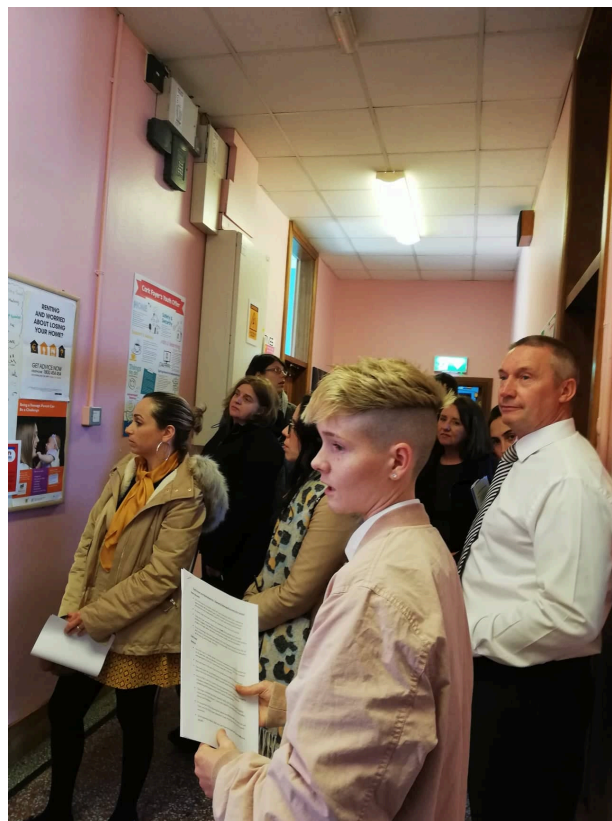


Figure 2 - Young resident of the Foyer explaining the objectives of the Foyer and conducting a guided tour to the ASL partnership

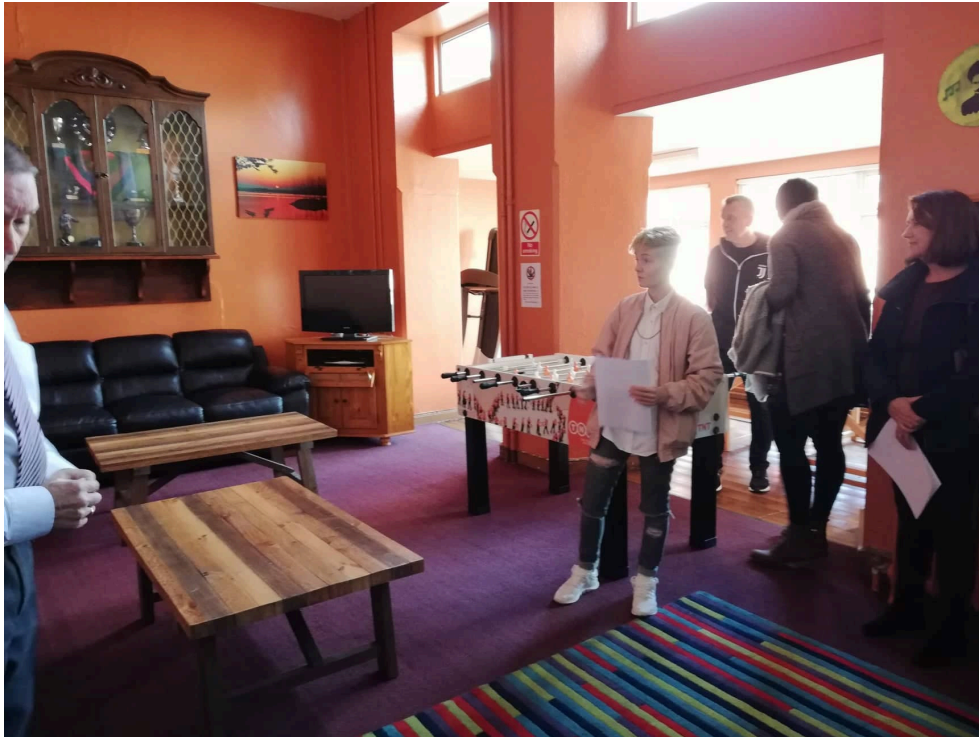


Figure 3 - Cork Foyer living and recreation room

Partner: Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra

Author(s): Fábio Sampaio and Hugo Pinto

Review: Hugo Pinto and Atlantic Social Lab Partners