

# KEY CONTACT

DIRECTORY OF  
SUPPORTED  
ACCOMMODATION  
FOR WOMEN  
EXPERIENCING  
CRISIS  
PREGNANCY

crisispregnancyagency



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## ABOUT THIS DIRECTORY

This directory provides information on supported accommodation services available to women experiencing crisis pregnancy. This resource has been developed by the Crisis Pregnancy Agency in association with the Forum of Supported Accommodation Service Providers for use by Key Contacts in the management and prevention of crisis pregnancy.

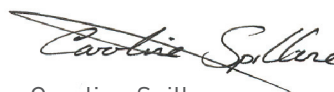
A **Key Contact** can be described as a person or agency who may be contacted by a woman in need of information on crisis pregnancy support services. Key Contacts can include health service providers, counsellors, GPs, citizens' information centres, youth workers, teachers, etc. This publication is one in a series of resources produced by the Crisis Pregnancy Agency under the 'Key Contacts' banner.

Supported accommodation services can be described as providing 'semi-independent accommodation, with a support programme in place which is accessed either directly on-site or through external agencies'<sup>1</sup>. The accommodation caters for pregnant young girls and women, lone mothers with children, or both, who may be without a home as a result of a crisis pregnancy. '[Supported accommodation] is time-limited and provides a pathway to independent living.'

Those using the directory should note that, for ease of reference, services have been listed by region, i.e. Leinster, Munster and Connacht. However, the use of any service is not restricted to those living in a designated region. While services aim to be as inclusive as possible, it is important to note that some supported accommodation services are not suitable for women with several children. In other situations, accommodation which might be suitable for babies is not ideal for older children.

Particular attention should be paid to the referral procedures for the individual services, as some will accept self referrals while others may not. This directory was first published in November 2005. The web version was updated in September 2009. We have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this updated web version was correct at time of publication (September 2009). Please notify the Crisis Pregnancy Agency of any changes to individual services. A copy of this updated directory is also available on [www.crisispregnancy.ie](http://www.crisispregnancy.ie).

The Agency wishes to thank the members of the Forum of Supported Accommodation Service Providers for their involvement and assistance in updating this most useful resource.



Caroline Spillane  
Director  
Crisis Pregnancy Agency

<sup>1</sup>I. Keogh, 2003.

## ECCLESVILLE

Type of Organisation: VOLUNTARY, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ORGANISATION

Contact: Christina Hughes

Miss Carr's Home Housing Association  
5 Northbrook Road, Ranelagh,  
Dublin 6.

Tel: 01 497 1519

Fax: 01 497 0409

### TARGET GROUP

- Pregnant women/new mothers in need of temporary accommodation and support

### CRITERIA

- Must be homeless
- Must be registered on a local authority housing list
- Minimum age 18 years
- One year, subject to licence agreement

### LEVEL OF SUPPORT

- Some in-house staff
- Regular support meetings with keyworker
- Preparation for moving on

### CANNOT ACCEPT

- Women with more than one child in their care
- Women misusing drugs/alcohol
- Women with high support needs
- Women with serious mental health problems
- Pregnant women/new mothers under 18 years

### REFERRAL PROCEDURE

- Letter of introduction from referring agency/social worker
- Application form/client questionnaire
- Interview with client
- Written social report required, including expectations of applicant

### REFERRAL AGENCIES

- Social workers
- Pregnancy counselling agencies
- Self referrals/family members
- HSE
- GPs
- City councils

### TOTAL PLACES

- 7 bedsits
- Fully furnished

### PAYMENTS

- Qualifies for rent allowance
- Heating and hot water charge
- Residents pay own electricity
- Rent collected weekly

### FACILITIES

- Shared laundry (nominal charge)
- Resource room – TV and video, library, newspapers, toys and computer
- Shared garden/yard
- In-house crèche

### CATERING

- Own kitchen

### POLICIES

- Tenancy agreement
- Rule book
- Reviews during residency

### VISITORS

- Encouraged
- Can go to bedsits
- Must leave by 11pm
- Close family members allowed
- Partners allowed
- No overnights

### LENGTH OF STAY

- One year

### LINKS OUTSIDE ACCOMMODATION

- Community Mothers Programme
- Resettlement team
- Crèche available (separate from accommodation)
- One Family programmes
- Moving on programme
- Specialist services (as needed)
- Treoir for information
- Access to counselling

### EDUCATION

- Encouraged to remain in employment/education
- In-house cookery workshops
- In-house computer tutorials

## INTERAID

Type of Organisation: VOLUNTARY HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Contact: Ronnie Ellis

- 12 Lakelands Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin
- 103 Upr. Kilmacud Rd, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.
- 1 Kilmacud Avenue, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 298 7426

### TARGET GROUP

- New mothers, Mothers, Physically challenged and Elderly Ladies in need of temporary low cost interim accommodation

### CRITERIA

- Must be registered on a local authority housing list
- Minimum age 18 years
- Must be able to cope with independent living

### LEVEL OF SUPPORT

- All staff volunteers
- No in-house staff

### CANNOT ACCEPT

- Women misusing drugs/alcohol
- Emergency cases
- Women with medium to high support needs
- Pregnant women/new mothers under 18 years

### REFERRAL PROCEDURE

- Application form/client questionnaire
- Self referral

### REFERRAL AGENCIES

- Self referral/family members
- HSE

### TOTAL PLACES

- 12 bedsits
- Fully furnished

### PAYMENTS

- Qualifies for rent allowance
- Residents pay own electricity and gas
- Financial support facilitated
- Rent collected weekly

### FACILITIES

- Self contained units
- Shared garden/yard

### CATERING

- Own kitchen

### POLICIES

- Tenancy agreement
- Rent book

### VISITORS

- Encouraged
- Can go to bedsits
- Partners allowed
- No overnights

### LENGTH OF STAY

- Open ended at present

### LINKS OUTSIDE ACCOMMODATION

- One Family programmes

## LIFE HOUSE

Type of Organisation: NATIONAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

Contact: Paula O'Connor

c/o Life Pregnancy Care Service  
29/30 Dame Street,  
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01 635 1492

### TARGET GROUP

- Pregnant women/new mothers in need of temporary accommodation
- Women considering adoption

### CRITERIA

- Must be homeless
- Minimum age 18 years
- Must be able to cope with independent living
- Access at any stage of pregnancy and up to 6 months post-natally

### LEVEL OF SUPPORT

- One part time Support Worker employed
- Additional volunteer staff

### CANNOT ACCEPT

- Women with more than one child in their care
- Women misusing drugs/alcohol
- Children over 6 months
- Women with medium to high support needs
- Women with serious mental health problems
- Women with high or complex needs unless HSE provide staff
- Pregnant women/new mothers under 18 years

### REFERRAL PROCEDURE

- Letter of introduction from referring agency/social worker
- Application form/client questionnaire
- Interview with client
- Self referrals

### REFERRAL AGENCIES

- Social workers
- Pregnancy counselling agencies
- Self referrals/family members
- HSE
- GPs

### TOTAL PLACES

- 3 rooms for mothers with babies and one room for single pregnant women

### PAYMENTS

- Qualifies for rent allowance
- Means tested

### FACILITIES

- Shared laundry
- Shared TV room
- Shared garden/yard

### CATERING

- Shared kitchen

### POLICIES

- Tenancy agreement
- Rent book

### VISITORS

- No male visitors
- Female visitors during the day only
- No overnight visitors

### LENGTH OF STAY

- 6 months

### LINKS OUTSIDE ACCOMMODATION

- One Family programmes
- Specialist services (as needed)
- Treoir for information
- Ante/post-natal care
- Access to counselling

## RENDU APARTMENTS

Type of Organisation: VOLUNTARY, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ORGANISATION

Contact: Clare Williams

Team Leader: Keith Payne

Vincentian Housing Partnership  
North William Street,  
Dublin 1.

Tel: 01 836 3548

### TARGET GROUP

- Pregnant women/Single men, women and families who are experiencing difficulties

### CRITERIA

- Must be registered as homeless
- Must be registered on a local authority housing list
- Must be willing to work towards independent living
- Individual exceptions considered

### LEVEL OF SUPPORT

- Assessment & Care Plan provided
- Highly skilled keyworking support team
- Minimum weekly keyworking meetings
- Keyworking based holistic support programme
- Preparation for moving on
- Staff onsite 24 hours

### CANNOT ACCEPT

- Sex Offenders
- Drug & Alcohol free house

### REFERRAL PROCEDURE

- Application and referral form required
- 3 stage assessment process
- 3 initial meetings with referral agent present

### REFERRAL AGENCIES

- Do not accept self referral
- Referral accepted from all professions engaged in a supportive relationship with the client

### TOTAL PLACES

- 11 bedsits
- 7 apartments, 1 bedroomed
- 1 apartment, 2 bedroomed
- Fully furnished

### PAYMENTS

- Qualifies for rent allowance
- Heating and hot water charge
- Must pay own ESB bill

### FACILITIES

- Shared laundry (nominal charge)
- Self contained fully furnished apartment (own bathroom)
- Separate meeting, training and keyworking rooms
- Shared play area for children

### CATERING

- Own kitchen

### POLICIES

- Tenancy agreement
- Rent book
- Reviews during residency
- Regular care plan reviews
- Weekly apartment checks
- Drug & alcohol free house

### VISITORS

- Are welcome but must leave by 11pm
- No overnights

### LENGTH OF STAY

- 3-18 months

### LINKS OUTSIDE ACCOMMODATION

- Resettlement team
- Crèche available (separate from accommodation)
- One Family programmes
- Specialist services (as needed)
- Treoir for information

## BESSBOROUGH CENTRE

Type of Organisation: VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION  
WITH A RANGE OF SERVICES

Contact: Karen O'Connell  
Blackrock,  
Co. Cork.  
Email: koconnell@bessborough.ie

Tel: 021 435 7730  
Fax: 021 435 9395

### TARGET GROUP

- Pregnant women/new mothers in need of accommodation and support
- Teenagers who are pregnant or new mothers
- Couples with children needing support & assessment

### CRITERIA

- Over 18 years preferred
- If under 18 years, need parental written consent/ HSE involvement
- Access at any stage of pregnancy or up to 6 months post-natally

### LEVEL OF SUPPORT

- Twenty four hour supervision
- Professional carers in-house
- Individual care plans devised
- Assistance & training in financial management
- Parenting skills training
- Parenting support programme for mothers
- Preparation for independent living
- Counselling
- Advocacy
- Aftercare
- GP & Public Health nurse visits

### CANNOT ACCEPT

- Not Applicable

### REFERRAL PROCEDURE

- Letter of introduction from referring agency/social worker
- Application form & interview
- Self referral

### REFERRAL AGENCIES

- Pregnancy Counselling agencies
- Health Care professionals
- Self referral
- Pregnancy support services

### TOTAL PLACES

- 10 single en-suite units
- 3 apartments
- Fully furnished

### PAYMENTS

- Rent collected weekly

### FACILITIES

- Apartments & rooms en-suite
- Resource room – TV and video, library, newspapers, toys and computers
- Shared TV room
- Shared garden/yard
- Crèche on-site

### CATERING

- Catering staff on-site
- Shared kitchen

### POLICIES

- Agreement of residency
- Rent Book
- Weekly Reviews

### VISITORS

- Family members encouraged
- Visitors room
- Partners welcomed

### LENGTH OF STAY

- 6 months – 12 months

### LINKS OUTSIDE ACCOMMODATION

- Community Mothers Programme
- Crèche available
- All medical care facilitated
- Moving-on programme
- Specialist services as needed
- Treoir
- Adoption services (as needed)
- Liaison with local maternity hospitals

### EDUCATION

- On site secondary school
- Cookery classes
- Computer classes
- Other vocational training

## CURA/SPRING GARDENS

Type of Organisation: VOLUNTARY, TRANSITIONAL  
HOUSING ORGANISATION

Contact: Eleanor Bolger  
20 Spring Gardens,  
Waterford.

Tel: 051 852 176

### TARGET GROUP

- Pregnant women/new mothers in need of temporary accommodation and support
- Women considering adoption
- Women with children up to school age

### CRITERIA

- Over 18 years preferred
- If under 18 years, need parental written consent/ HSE involvement
- Must be able to cope with independent living
- Must be at least 6 months pregnant upon admission

### LEVEL OF SUPPORT

- Some in-house staff
- Individual assistance in budgeting and applying for social welfare benefits
- Parenting skills training
- Advocacy
- Open to working with fathers
- Social work support and info available to women considering parenting and adoption
- Aftercare

### CANNOT ACCEPT

- Women misusing drugs/alcohol
- Emergency cases
- Women with high support needs

### REFERRAL PROCEDURE

- Interview with client
- Written social report required including expectations of applicant

### REFERRAL AGENCIES

- Pregnancy counselling agencies
- Self referrals/family members
- HSE
- City councils

### TOTAL PLACES

- 7 apartments, 1 bedroomed
- Fully furnished

### PAYMENTS

- Client pays rent
- Qualifies for rent allowance
- Residents pay own electricity

### FACILITIES

- Shared drying facilities
- Own washing machine

### CATERING

- Own kitchen

### POLICIES

- Tenancy agreement

### VISITORS

- Encouraged
- Close family members allowed
- Partners allowed
- No overnights

### LENGTH OF STAY

- 3 months – 12 months

### LINKS OUTSIDE ACCOMMODATION

- Crèche available (separate from accommodation)
- Moving on programme
- Adoption services (as needed)
- Liaison with local maternity hospitals
- All medical care facilitated
- Access to counselling

### EDUCATION

- Encouraged to remain in employment/education

## LIMERICK SOCIAL SERVICE COUNCIL (SONAS)

Type of Organisation: VOLUNTARY, LOCAL COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

Contact: Service Manager  
Sonas  
City-based Accommodation.

Tel: 061 314 111

### TARGET GROUP

- Pregnant women in need of temporary accommodation and support
- Teenagers who are pregnant or new mothers
- Women considering adoption

### CRITERIA

- Over 18 years preferred
- If under 18 years, need parental written consent /HSE involvement and support

### LEVEL OF SUPPORT

- Some in-house staff
- Individual assistance in budgeting and applying for social welfare benefits
- Advocacy
- Social work support and info available to women considering parenting and adoption
- Preparation for moving on
- Aftercare

### CANNOT ACCEPT

- Women with a child in their care
- Women misusing drugs/alcohol
- Women with high support needs

### REFERRAL PROCEDURE

- Letter of introduction from referring agency/social worker
- Interview with client
- Self referral

### REFERRAL AGENCIES

- Pregnancy counselling agencies
- Self referrals/family members
- HSE – must commit to providing ongoing support during residency
- GP's
- Other agencies

### TOTAL PLACES

- 8 single rooms
- Fully furnished

### PAYMENTS

- Financial support facilitated
- Rent collected weekly

### FACILITIES

- Shared laundry
- Resource room – TV and video, library, newspapers, internet and computers
- Shared TV room
- Access to centre crèche

### CATERING

- Shared kitchen

### POLICIES

- Tenancy agreement
- Agreed house policies

### VISITORS

- Encouraged
- Visitors room
- No overnights

### LENGTH OF STAY

- Decided according to need

### LINKS OUTSIDE ACCOMMODATION

- Community Mothers Programme
- Crèche available (separate from accommodation)
- Treoir for information
- Adoption services (as needed)
- Liaison with local maternity hospitals
- Ante/post-natal care
- All medical care facilitated
- Access to counselling

### EDUCATION

- Encouraged to remain in employment/education
- Some in-house classes

## LIMERICK SOCIAL SERVICE COUNCIL (ALTAMIRA COURT)

Type of Organisation: VOLUNTARY, LOCAL COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

Contact: Linda Johnston  
16 Altamira Court,  
Quarry Road, Thomondgate,  
Limerick.

Tel: 061 326 563/649

### TARGET GROUP

- First time mothers in need of temporary accommodation, and support

### CRITERIA

- Minimum age 18 years
- Must be able to cope with independent living

### LEVEL OF SUPPORT

- Staff are available to offer low support care where required
- Support offered around social welfare entitlements and benefits
- Parenting skills support, to meet individual needs
- All medical needs of the child are met through link with public health nurse
- Privacy in apartments
- Accommodation sourced to move into private rented accommodation
- Follow on service through Outreach worker

### CANNOT ACCEPT

- Mothers with more than one child in their care
- Women misusing drugs and alcohol
- Pregnant women
- Women who can not live independently

### REFERRAL PROCEDURE

- Phone contact is welcomed for enquiries
- An application form needs to be filled out by the person looking for a placement
- A reference from a previous landlord is welcomed
- An informal meeting takes place to answer questions, and the apartment can be viewed
- A formal admission meeting will take place to make a decision
- A placement will be offered if the needs of the mother can be met

### REFERRAL AGENCIES

- Pregnancy counselling agencies
- Self referrals/family members
- HSE

### TOTAL PLACES

- 9 apartments which are fully furnished

- All apartments have one bed room, with a sleeping area for mother and child

### PAYMENTS

- Qualifies for rent allowance
- Rent collected weekly

### FACILITIES

- All apartments are self contained
- Resource room with TV, DVD, and internet access
- In house crèche service for sessional child minding
- Shared out door yard with play area
- Laundry facilities with nominal charge

### CATERING

- Own kitchen

### POLICIES

- Tenancy agreement
- Rules and regulations
- Policies governing different areas to ensure the health and safety of all

### VISITORS

- Encouraged
- Visitors room
- Must leave by 11pm
- No overnights

### LENGTH OF STAY

- Six months to one year depending on individual needs

### LINKS OUTSIDE ACCOMMODATION

- Community Mothers Programme
- Access to counselling
- Support around post natal care and medical needs
- Links made with the local public health nurse
- Follow up of vaccinations
- Introduction to local community welfare officer
- Support around locating a crèche where required

### EDUCATION

- Encouraged to remain in employment/ education
- Support is available to pursue education or employment
- In-house classes offering varied subjects of interest
- Internet access on site

## LIFE SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

Type of Organisation: NATIONAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

Contact: Ms. Brigid Donnelly

Apartment 1J

Gort Siar

Western Distributor Road

Galway

Email: brigidlife@hotmail.com Tel: 087 671 9927 or 091 580 008

### TARGET GROUP

- Pregnant women/new mothers in need of temporary accommodation and support
- Teenagers who are pregnant or new mothers
- Women considering adoption

### CRITERIA

- Must be homeless
- Minimum age 16 years
- If under 18 years, need parental written consent/HSE involvement
- Access at any stage of pregnancy and up to 6 months post-natally

### LEVEL OF SUPPORT

- Support available by phone 24 hours
- Individual care plan devised
- Individual assistance in budgeting and applying for social welfare benefits
- Parenting skills training
- Parenting monitoring/support programme for mothers
- Open to working with fathers
- Social work support and info available to women considering parenting and adoption
- Preparation for moving on
- Aftercare

### CANNOT ACCEPT

- Women with more than one child in their care
- Women misusing drugs/alcohol
- Children over 6 months
- Women with high support needs
- Women with serious mental health problems

### REFERRAL PROCEDURE

- Letter of introduction from referring agency/social worker
- Interview with client
- Self referral

### REFERRAL AGENCIES

- Pregnancy counselling agencies
- HSE
- GPs

### TOTAL PLACES

- 12 single rooms en-suite
- Fully furnished

### PAYMENTS

- Rent free

### FACILITIES

- Shared laundry
- Resource room – TV and video, library, newspapers, toys and computer
- Shared TV room
- Shared garden/yard

### CATERING

- Shared kitchen

### POLICIES

- Tenancy agreement
- Rule book

### VISITORS

- Encouraged
- Visitors room
- Close family members allowed
- Fathers allowed
- No overnights

### LENGTH OF STAY

- Open ended at present

### LINKS OUTSIDE ACCOMMODATION

- Moving on programme
- Specialist services (as needed)
- Treoir for information
- Adoption services (as needed)
- Liaison with local maternity hospitals
- Ante/post-natal care
- Visiting GP
- All medical care facilitated
- Access to counselling

### EDUCATION

- Encouraged to remain in employment/education
- In-house cookery classes
- In-house computer classes

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Sarah Ryan, Crisis Pregnancy Agency

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR VALUABLE INPUT AND EXPERTISE

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