

# Focus Ireland

## Sustainable, Supported Communities

Focus Ireland delivered 16 homes at Grand Parade in Cork City



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Focus Ireland prioritises its social responsibility, environmental friendliness, and economic resourcefulness in building and nurturing future communities.

Prior to regeneration, the Grand Parade building was disused and vacant for many years. Now, following extensive development, the site consists of high-quality, permanent homes for 16 households, with Focus Ireland’s main Cork office located at its ground-floor level.

Focus Ireland’s Meascán Housing Model brings about an intentional ‘social mix’ of people with or without support needs, combining tenants with experiences of homelessness, with those who have not. This brings about more tolerance, appreciation and understanding of the impacts homelessness can have, and seeks to reintegrate those tenants into mainstream housing.

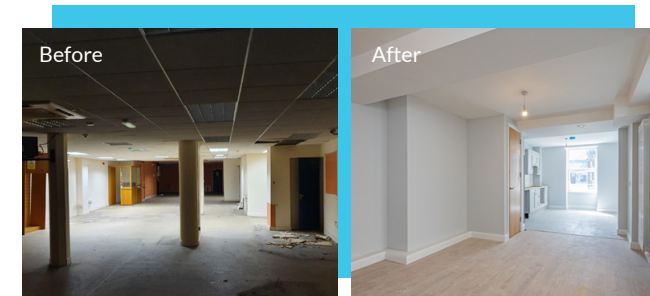
The Grand Parade development provides homes for young people leaving care, Housing First tenants who experienced homelessness, along with older persons, couples, single persons and a small number of families.

Having an office as part of the development has been an integral part of the project’s success. Residents can feel overwhelmed in the early stages of moving in, especially if they have come from emergency accommodation sites, where support is available 24/7.

The set up has allowed staff to build positive relationships from the onset, especially with our Housing Officer, Leona Hennessey, who supports tenants in our units. In turn it enables our residents to better settle into their new homes, knowing that we are only downstairs should a problem arise or even just for a chat.

Handing someone the keys to their new home and seeing the opportunities it can create for them is the best feeling. Although providing a home is a positive step in a customer’s journey, it is essential that we as a service can provide wrap-around-supports and equip people with the tools and resources needed to ensure they maintain and stay in their home, thus breaking the cycle of homelessness.

**Aisling O’Connor**  
Manager of Focus Ireland Services for the Southwest Region



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