

## Who we are:

Respond! is Ireland's largest not for profit Housing Association. We seek to create a positive future for people by alleviating poverty and creating vibrant, socially integrated communities. We do this through providing access to education, childcare, community development programmes, housing and other supports.

Established in 1982, we have built more than 4500 homes nationwide with a further 800 under construction. We have provided homes for families, older persons, the homeless and disabled persons.

## Our aims:

Respond! aims to:

- Prevent and relieve hardship and distress amongst those who are homeless and amongst those in need who are living in adverse housing conditions
- Establish and maintain vibrant, socially integrated communities along with providing shelter and accommodation
- Advance education among residents of our estates
- Promote other charitable purposes beneficial to the community

**Respond! believes in providing housing for social investment rather than financial profit.**



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### Navan Office:

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### Cork Office:

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### Ennis Office:

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# Building Communities





## **Respond! Estates:**

All Respond! estates include community facilities and are designed, developed and maintained to the highest architectural and environmental standards.

## **Respond! Support Services:**

Respond! residents are a diverse group of people, each with their own separate needs. Our support services have been developed with the needs of these specific groups in mind. We believe continued support is what helps make an estate a community. By investing in social and practical supports, we have found people settle into their new homes and build a sense of community into the future.

## **Respond! Community Development:**

Respond! has always been committed to building communities – not just houses. The development of communities within our estates has always been one of the organisation's principle aims. To achieve this we invest in personal and community development activity and family supports.

## **Respond! Estate Management:**

The ultimate estate management objective is to ensure that residents receive a level of service that is timely and professional. As Landlord, it is also important that Respond! delivers on the ethos of the organisation and the duty of care we owe to our residents. Respond! is committed to best practice estate management.

## **Education & Training:**

Through our Education and Consultancy Department, Respond! manages the strategic development and implementation of education services with the aim of empowering people and leading the development of learning within the social housing sector. We identify and analyse key topics and initiatives that are critical to current thinking about community development and social housing, including issues that are to the forefront of Government Policy and Legislation. This helps to develop, plan and implement

Respond!'s education strategies for housing professionals, Local Authorities, Respond! residents and other groups. Respond!'s Education and Consultancy Department has also been accredited as the only Agent in Ireland for the Chartered Institute of Housing. A full and relevant programme of training and seminar courses, and a portfolio of consultancy programmes are available through this Department.

## **Bachelor of Social Studies in Housing and Community Studies:**

Respond! developed and deliver the Bachelor of Social Studies in Housing and Community Studies which is offered in partnership with University College Dublin. The degree is the only one of its kind in Ireland and is a four-year part-time degree programme open to all mature students (23 years or older). The course is designed in modular format, developing Certificate to Diploma (2 years) to a BSS Degree (4 years).

## **Research & Development:**

Respond!'s commitment to Research is evident in the strong national team. With committed and experienced researchers, this department produces research on a regular basis in order to inform relevant stakeholders about social housing and other social policy areas in Ireland.

## **Respond! Advocacy:**

Respond! seeks to alleviate poverty in Ireland by advocating on behalf of those in need and those unable to provide housing through their own resources. Since 2007, we have lobbied Government and elected representatives in relation to housing, poverty, repossessions, Charities regulation, HSE Funding and other social topics.

## **The Respond! Team:**

Respond! has a staff of more than 350 full and part-time employees. Our team includes a combination of in-house architects, design managers, architectural technicians, engineers, accountants, regional managers, production managers, clerks of works and estate managers as well as educational, legal, research, administrative, IT, childcare and community development personnel. In addition to this, more than 500 volunteers freely give their time to benefit the community as a whole.

