

**Tuairisc/Reporting Template for Galway City
Community Network (GCCN) Reps**

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Galway City Community Network
Lionra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Cruinniú /Name of Meeting	Housing Strategic Policy Committee
Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)	Diarmaid O'Sullivan and Paul Hargaden
Dáta & Suite Date & Location of Meeting:	Galway City Council. Friday 14 th July 2017
I láthair/ Attendance	Cllr Mark Lohan, Cllr. Declan McDonnell, Cllr. Michael Crowe Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. Niall McNeilis, Cllr. Ollie Crowe, Cllr Mairead Farrell Dermot Mahon, Sharon Lawless, Helena Martyn, Siobhan Donoghue, Cliona Clancy (All Galway City Council) Diarmaid OSullivan, Paul Hargaden (Galway City Community Network)

Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:

Matters Arising

Council is still dealing with rent reviews and will not have this task completed until September. 200 of the 800 accounts who are potentially in arrears have been contacted, but the assessment process is complicated.

The recent development of affordable housing in Dublin by Ó Cualann Voluntary Housing in Dublin where properties sold for €140-160,000 was raised. GCC have held initial exploratory meetings with Co-operative Housing Ireland with a view to replicating in Galway.

Homelessness Update Galway City Council

Helena Martyn gave an update on homeless services from a Council perspective. There has been an initial allocation of €2M funding to the Western Region for homeless services for 2017. An application for €3.6M had been made.

GCC & AHBs allocated 22 properties to homeless households in 2016 and have allocated 27 to date in 2017. A project by Cluid, COPE and Simon has delivered 11 single units to date with another one in the pipeline. It is particularly difficult to deal with presentations from single homeless people during the summer months. Work is currently being undertaken to develop a Homeless Action Team (HAT) in the city to deal with complex homeless cases. A call for tenders for hosting the Cold Weather Response was issued but there were no expressions of interest.

Presentation from Martin O'Connor (COPE Galway) and Emma Dolan (Galway Simon)

There are currently 37 rough sleepers in the city, although the figure may be as high as 50. Most rough sleepers have been assessed for eligibility for services, but there is simply no capacity. Some economic migrants, but few in reality. Emergency accommodation is operating at capacity. Inadequate housing supply making it very challenging to move people out of emergency provision – either into social housing or the private rented sector under HAP. Significant reliance on Private Emergency Accommodation – tourist hostels and hotels. Urgent need to additional social housing.

DOS suggested that Homeless HAP be introduced in the City. Under this scheme up to 50% uplift in maximum rent levels for HAP is allowed. GCC is looking to acquire properties where LL is selling and property accommodating a tenant receiving social housing support. PH suggested that there is a need for support for HAP tenants. Some landlords are fearful of possible anti-social behaviour or rent arrears and this is acting as a barrier to them signing up to the scheme. The introduction of a rent pressure zone in the city has raised complications for the council in that it has limited rent increases for RAS and HAP properties. €700,000 has been spent on private emergency accommodation to date this year.

GCC have been asked by Department of Housing to develop a Strategic Land Management Plan for all publically owned sites in the city.

It was suggested that the Cold Weather Response be kept going throughout the year and not just during the Winter. There were some concerns in relation to the viability of this. Current model is delivered in portacabins at the COPE Day Centre in Newcastle.

€7.5M in CALF Funding has been provided to – Respond and Cluid for the delivery of 101 units of housing in the city in Renmore and Castlegar. Respond will deliver 81 houses in Castlegar to be completed by 2019 and Cluid will deliver 20 units in Murrough in Renmore by mid-2018

Socruithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:

1. It was agreed by the meeting that the Cold Weather Response should be operational all year round.
2. It was agreed that a Policy for Rough Sleepers is to be developed.

Gníomhaíochtaí

Action(s) required from GCCN:

Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile
Date of next meeting :

Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments: