

WELCOME/FÁILTE



# From Immediate Need to Sustainable Solutions: Preventing Homelessness in Galway City

A solutions-focused event bringing together the Community & Voluntary sectors with key statutory agencies and the Local Authority to explore innovative solutions to the prevention of homelessness in Galway City, now and into the future.

# INTRO

- Collaboration
- Hope – it a first step to more collaborative action
- Acknowledgement of homelessness – move to solutions





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

**1** NO POVERTY

**2** ZERO HUNGER

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

**5** GENDER EQUALITY

**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**13** CLIMATE ACTION

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER

**15** LIFE ON LAND

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



Healthy Galway City

# HOMELESSNESS

FEBRUARY 2018



# CURRENT SITUATION

- Rough Sleeping a feature throughout much of 2017
  - currently an additional 31 beds in place for the winter period up to mid April
  - Small number of individuals continue to sleep rough through the winter period
- Cold Weather Response 2017/18
  - in operation since Nov 27th and due to run to mid-April
  - 119 different individuals availed of the service up to end of January
- Numbers of singles currently in Emergency Accommodation
  - 71 singles and 5 couples (9 singles & 5 couples in PEA)
- Numbers of Families in Emergency persistently high
  - 55 families in total from both City & County (38 in PEA)
  - 9 new families since mid February in need of emergency accommodation
- Clients (singles) in Transitional Acc
  - 60 currently living in various transitional accommodation



## POSITIVES OVER THE PAST YEAR

- More Social Housing lettings to homeless in 2017
  - 59 households (35 families & 24 singles) moved from COPE Galway services
  - 57 Households moved on from GSC
  - Clúid, COPE Galway, Galway Simon CAS initiative continued
- Increased transitional accommodation for singles
  - An additional 15 spaces in shared transitional houses for singles since Dec 2016
- Significant expansion of MDT
  - New GP service
  - Mental Health roles introduced
- Increase in number of beds in Cold Weather Response - up from 14 to 31



## **MORE POSITIVES.....**

- Establishment of Tenancy Protection Service
- Tenancy Sustainment Service Piloting in County Galway
- Housing Led Pilot commence
- Youth Service



# CHALLENGES

- **Numbers increasing:** people accessing and in need of homeless services continuing to rise
- **Homeless accommodation and support services operating at capacity**
- **Complex Needs:** Physical and mental health needs and addiction need
- **Inadequate Housing Supply** to either resettle families or individuals from homeless services
- **Housing supply in 2018 will be a challenge;** little new social housing in the pipeline and shortage of private rented

Without an adequate supply of housing those currently in services will not be able to move on & we can't prevent those who newly present from staying out of homeless services



# CHALLENGES

- Concern that will see a repeat of pattern of increased numbers sleeping rough when CWR closes
  - Most significant cohort who are eligible for services – long term homeless
- Emergency accommodation services at capacity
  - Waiting list in operation for emergency accommodation
  - Increase in the numbers of women seeking emergency accommodation
  - Limited scope to avail of tourist accommodation
  - Hostels not suitable or appropriate for some
- Significant reliance on Private Emergency Accommodation

# SOLUTIONS

**SHORT  
TERM**

PREVENTION

INCREASE  
CAPACITY

**LONG  
TERM**

PREVENTION

HOUSING  
FIRST

HOUSING  
SUPPLY

# SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS: PREVENT TENANCY BREAKDOWN

- Early intervention when tenancies at risk
  - Increase awareness amongst public
    - of rights under the law
    - of support services
  - Increased referrals to Tenancy Protection Service
  - Support Tenancy Sustainment Services
  - Enhanced inter-agency working and development of referral pathways

# SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS: INCREASE CAPACITY

## Responding

### Responding to rough sleeping

- All year round response to rough sleeping
- Clarity on eligibility for a CWR bed; 'a bed for anyone who needs one'
- Rough sleepers team - humanitarian response and approach to move out of rough sleeping

## Addressing

### Addressing blockages in emergency and transitional accommodation

- Care and case management approach to be introduced – needs to be resourced
- Scheme of lettings to prioritise homeless
- Homeless HAP

## SOLUTIONS: LONG TERM PREVENTION

Increase capacity of tenancy sustainment and resettlement teams to respond to those in crisis

Teams resourced to help individuals and families address debt; rent arrears; & repairs

Access to flexible specialist staff to meet those with complex needs in their own homes

Increase Housing Supply to secure housing stream for those requiring resettlement

Provide residential respite and treatment services to prevent long term re-entry into homelessness

## **LONG TERM SOLUTIONS: PREVENTION**

Care and Case management approach to be embedded

Social work team needed  
Health inputs

HAT Team needs to be established

Develop Interagency working: Specified interagency protocols

Mechanism for addressing Gaps & Blocks in service provision (statutory & voluntary)

# SOCIAL HOUSING

Only sustainable solution

Need to address issue of imbalance between family and single person housing -

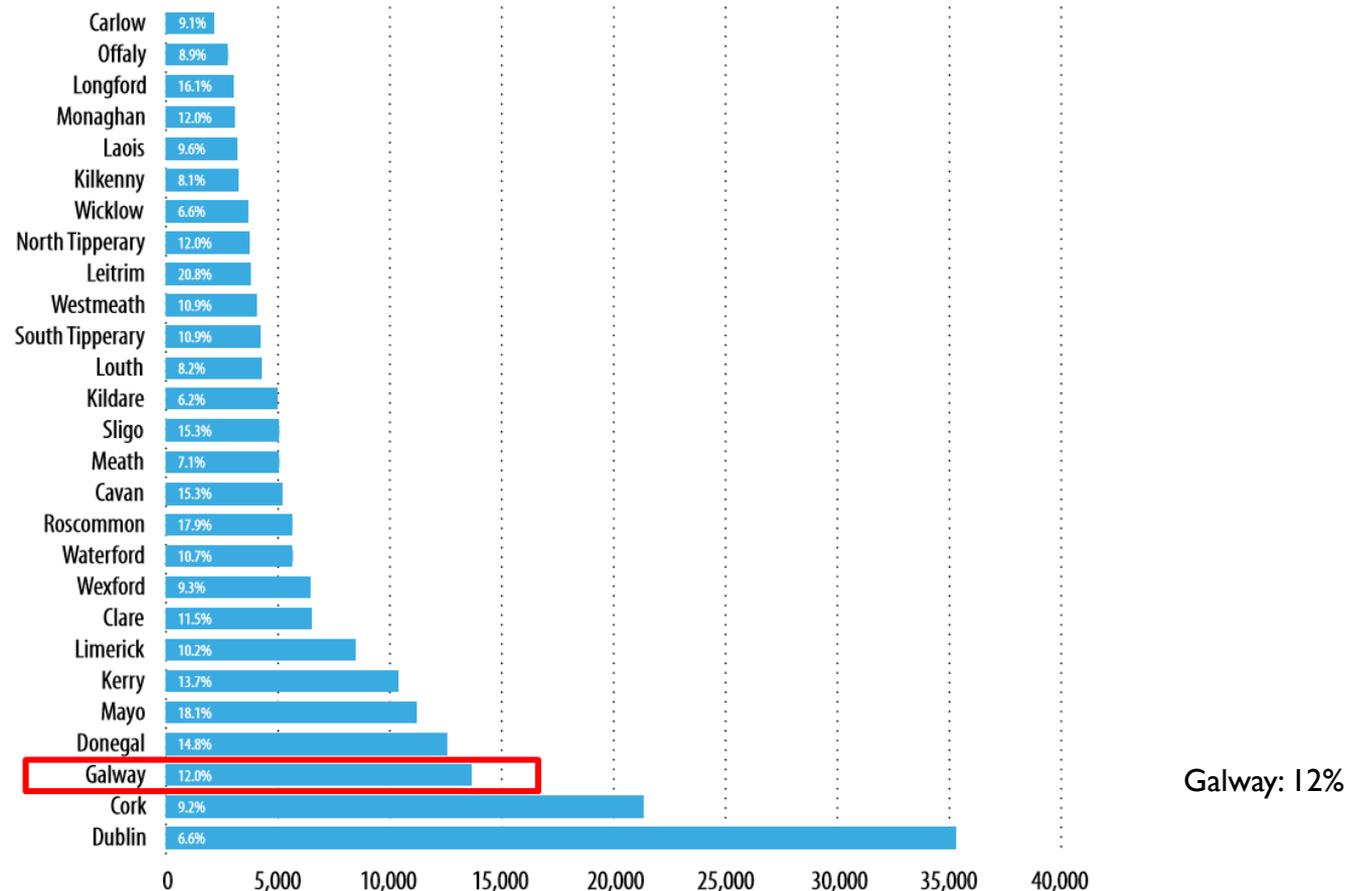
*54% of households on waiting list are single person*

## Distribution of Qualified Households in Need of Social Housing by Local Authority, 2013 and 2016

**Table 1.1: Number of households qualified for social housing support by local authority, 2013 and 2016**

Local Authority	2013	2016	Change (number)	Change (%)
Carlow County Council	1,043	719	-324	-31.1
Cavan County Council	741	761	20	2.7
Clare County Council	2,032	1,966	-66	-3.2
Cork City Council	6,440	4,440	-2,000	-31.1
Cork County Council	4,804	4,241	-563	-11.7
Donegal County Council	1,675	1,267	-408	-24.4
Dublin City Council	16,171	19,811	3,640	22.5
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	3,406	3,341	-65	-1.9
Fingal County Council	6,020	6,858	838	13.9
Galway City Council	2,471	3,322	851	34.4
Galway County Council	2,099	2,087	-12	-0.6
Kerry County Council	4,112	3,897	-215	-5.2
Kildare County Council	5,454	5,572	118	2.2
Kilkenny County Council	1,670	1,721	51	3.1
Laois County Council	902	1,198	296	32.8
Leitrim County Council	251	363	112	44.6
Limerick County Council	2,810	3,125	315	11.2
Longford County Council	597	644	47	7.9
Louth County Council	3,809	2,600	-1,209	-31.7
Mayo County Council	1,479	1,242	-237	-16.0
Meath County Council	2,502	3,311	809	32.3
Monaghan County Council	696	514	-182	-26.1
Offaly County Council	1,177	1,042	-135	-11.5
Roscommon County Council	252	560	308	122.2
Sligo County Council	770	801	31	4.0
South Dublin County Council	6,217	5,562	-655	-10.5
Tipperary County Council	1,987	1,858	-129	-6.5
Waterford County Council	1,877	1,596	-281	-15.0
Westmeath County Council	1,893	1,926	33	1.7
Wexford County Council	2,087	2,744	657	31.5
Wicklow County Council	2,428	2,511	83	3.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,872</b>	<b>91,600</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>1.9</b>

# VACANT DWELLINGS



## **LONG TERM SOLUTION: HOUSING**

- Housing First approach to be introduced
- Access to housing: Need strategy for ensuring access to housing from all possible sources (LA; AHB; Private rental sector – including Affordable Rental and Build-to-Rent).
- City Council taking initiative to acquire properties for which NTQs served: more of this!

# PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

Increasingly  
important

Increasingly  
precarious

Increasingly  
unaffordable

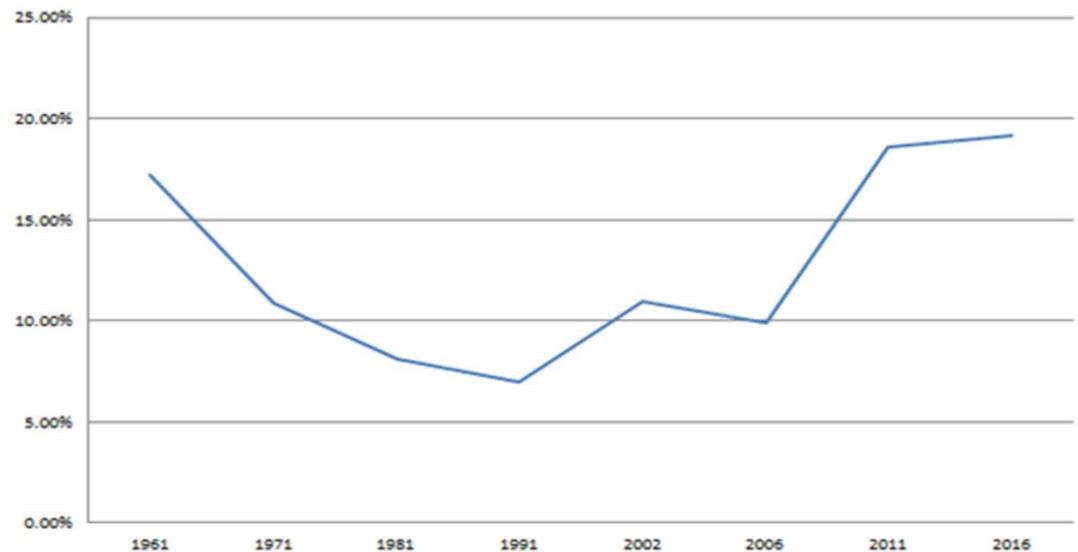
Unsuitable for  
people with  
complex needs

Tenancy  
breakdown  
increasingly leading  
to homelessness

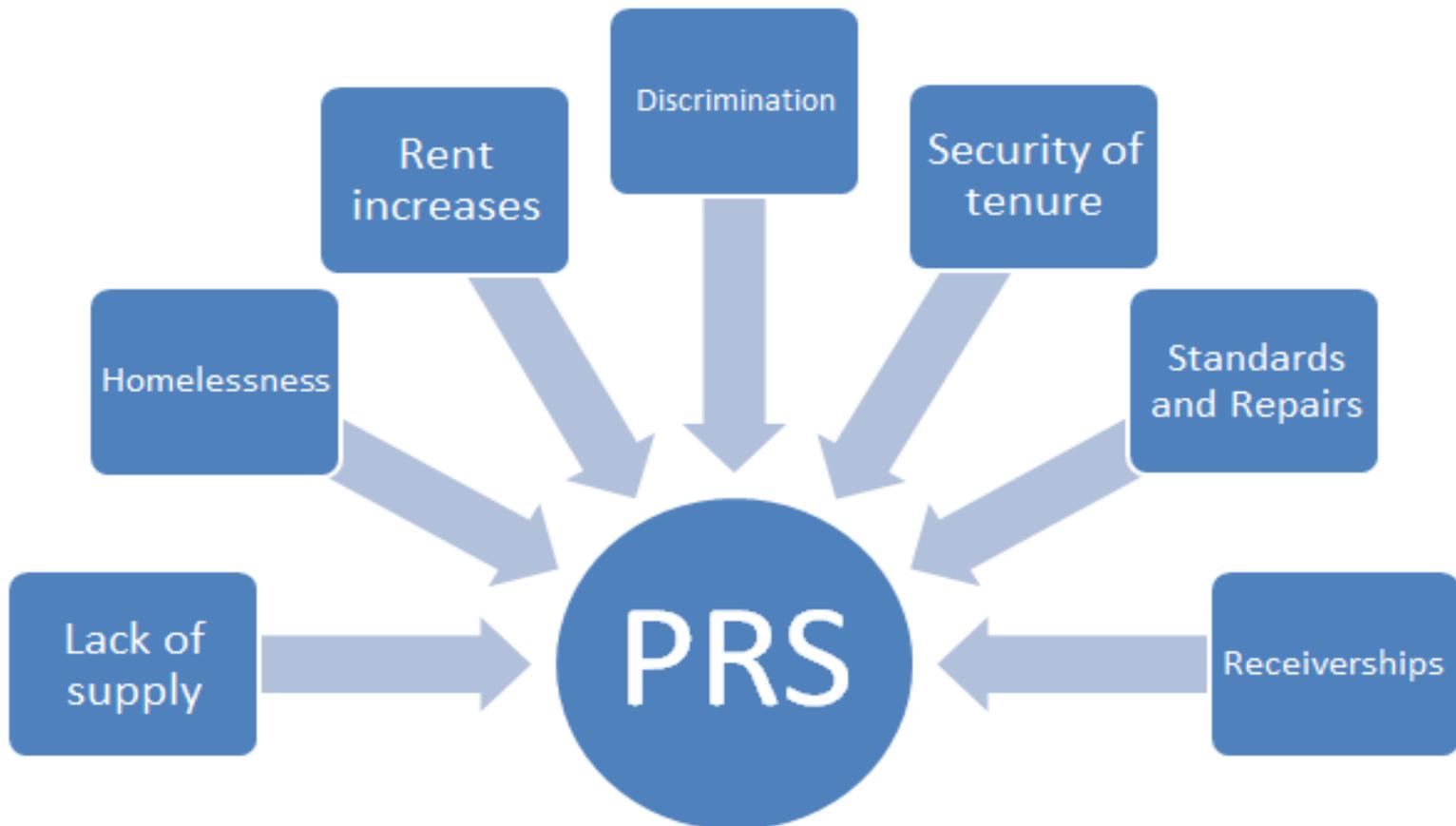
## IMPORTANCE OF RENTAL SECTOR

In Galway 40% + of population live in Private Rented Sector

### Percentage of People Living in Private Rented Sector



# PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR (PRS) ISSUES



# AVAILABILITY OF RENTAL PROPERTIES



# AFFORDABILITY

- Rent Pressure Zones – Limits annual rent increases to 4%
- Galway City Q4 2017 12.4%
- Galway County Q4 2017 14.1%
- Average Rent Galway = €1,096
- Rents as a percentage of take home pay increasing

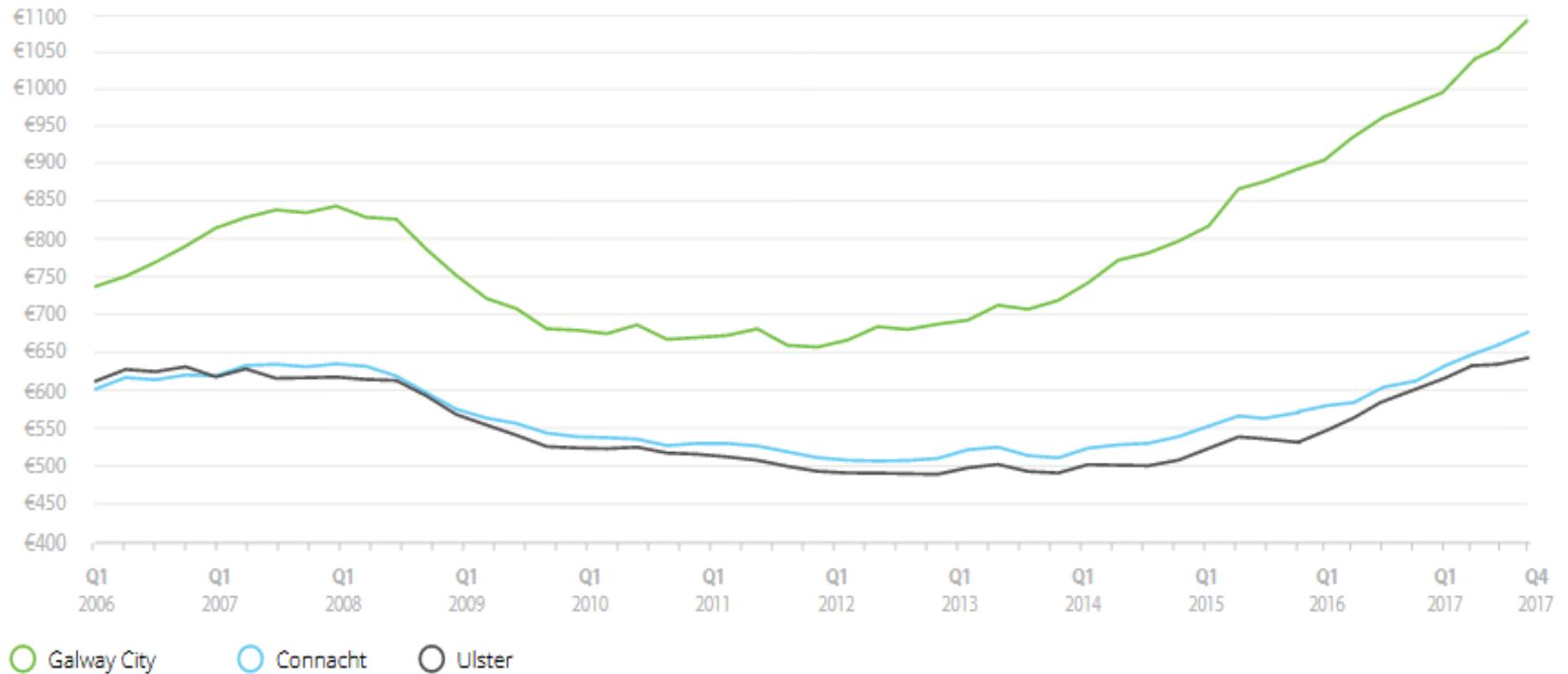
# HAP AND RENT SUPPLEMENT TENANTS PRICED OUT OF THE MARKET

Table 1: Available properties to rent within RS/HAP limits across 11 study areas on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

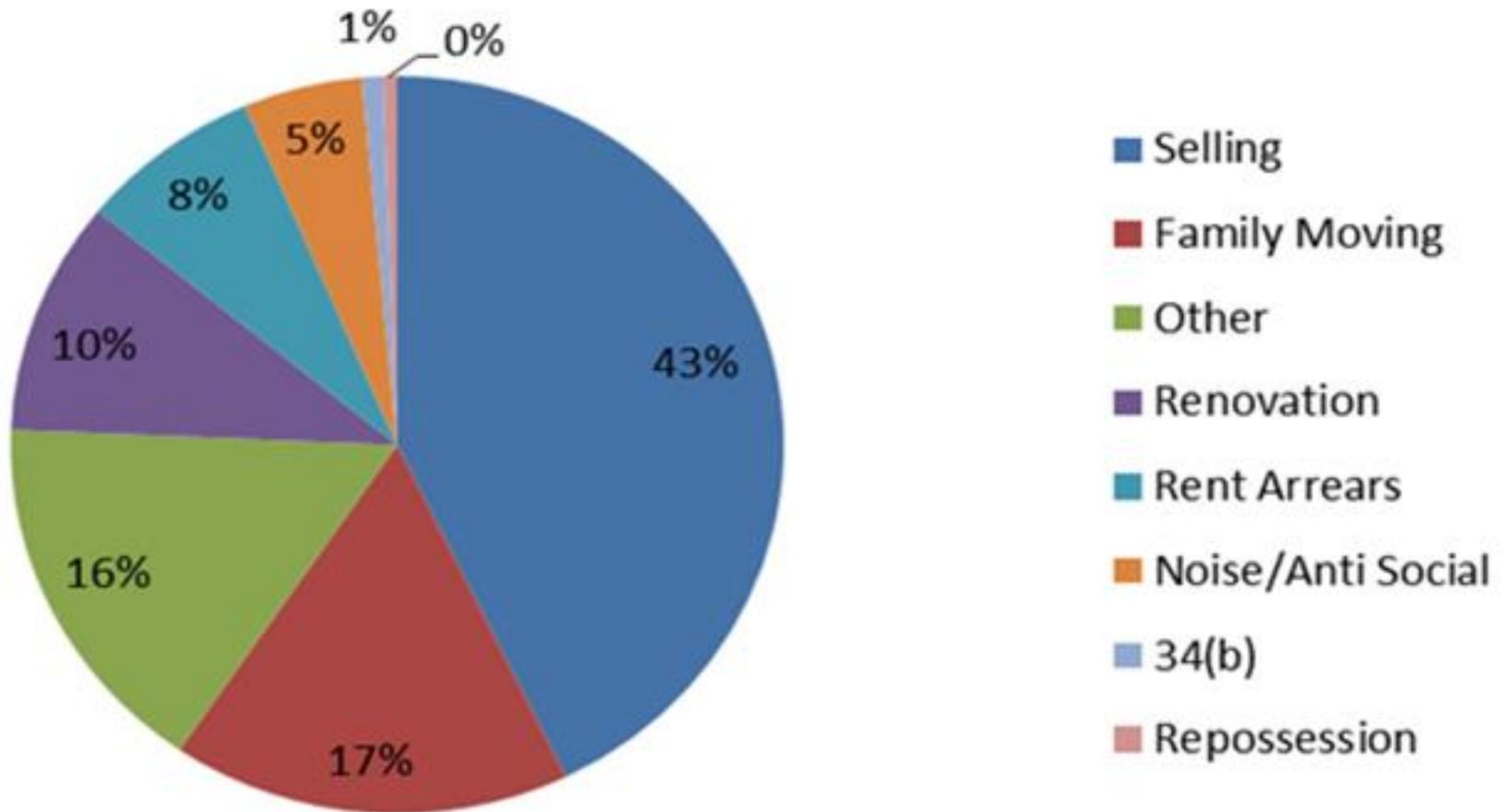
LOCATION	Average number of properties available to rent with no min cost	Average monthly rent one-bed property vs RS/HAP Limit for single person	Average monthly rent two-bed property vs RS/HAP Limit for Couple/One-parent + 2 Children	Single person Total number of properties available to rent within RS/HAP Limits	Couple Total number of properties available to rent within RS/HAP Limits	Couple/One Parent + 1 Child Total number of properties available to rent within RS/HAP Limits	Couple/One Parent + 2 Children Total number of properties available to rent within RS/HAP Limits		
Athlone	13	€650	€450	€813	€625	0	0	1	0
Cork City Centre	31	€984	€550	€1412	€925	0	0	3	0
Dublin City Centre	211	€1898	€660	€2839	€1250	0	1	4	0
Dundalk	27	€725	€575	€917	€1050	0	0	10	9
Galway City Centre	15	€1200	€575	€1298	€875	0	0	0	0
North Kildare	100	€964	€575	€1230	€1050	0	1	3	0
Leitrim	38	€465	€340	€522	€475	0	0	6	5
Limerick City Centre	16	€708	€420	€980	€700	0	0	1	1
Sligo town	18	€650	€460	€758	€575	0	0	0	0
Portlaoise	29	€N/A	€420	€834	€610	0	0	0	0
Waterford City Centre	40	€675	€430	€861	€575	0	0	1	0
Total	538	€892		€1133		0	2	29	15

# AFFORDABILITY

Connacht/Ulster Trends Q4 2017



# TENANCY TERMINATIONS



# WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Additional social housing  
will relieve some of the  
pressure on the PRS

Build-to-rent and  
affordable rental

Roll out RPZs nationally,  
public rent register,  
regulation and oversight  
by the Residential  
Tenancies Board

Increase maximum rent  
limits for HAP and RS

Improve Security of  
Tenure for tenants

# TRAVELLERS

- The lack of culturally appropriate accommodation and homelessness are enormous problems for the Traveller community.
- Irish Traveller Movement data found that almost 7,000 Travellers - nearly one in four Travellers living in the country - were either sharing housing or bays or living on unauthorized halting sites in 2016.
- Census 2016 shows that the rate of Traveller homelessness is almost 13 times that of the general population.





- **New study documents evidence that Traveller Accommodation Consultation and Planning is Tokenistic and Dysfunctional adding to issues of homelessness.**
- A new study, was presented as part of the country's first Traveller Accommodation Inquiry ( November 20<sup>th</sup> 2017), identifying evidence of widespread disaffection with Local Traveller Accommodation Consultation Committees (LTACC) and extremely low levels of trust amongst Travellers in political institutions to deliver accommodation for the community.
- The study, carried out by the Department of Limerick's Department of Politics and Public Administration, finds that from the perspective of Traveller representatives the LTACCs and the current system for the provision of accommodation cannot and does not deliver appropriate outcomes for the Traveller community.

## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

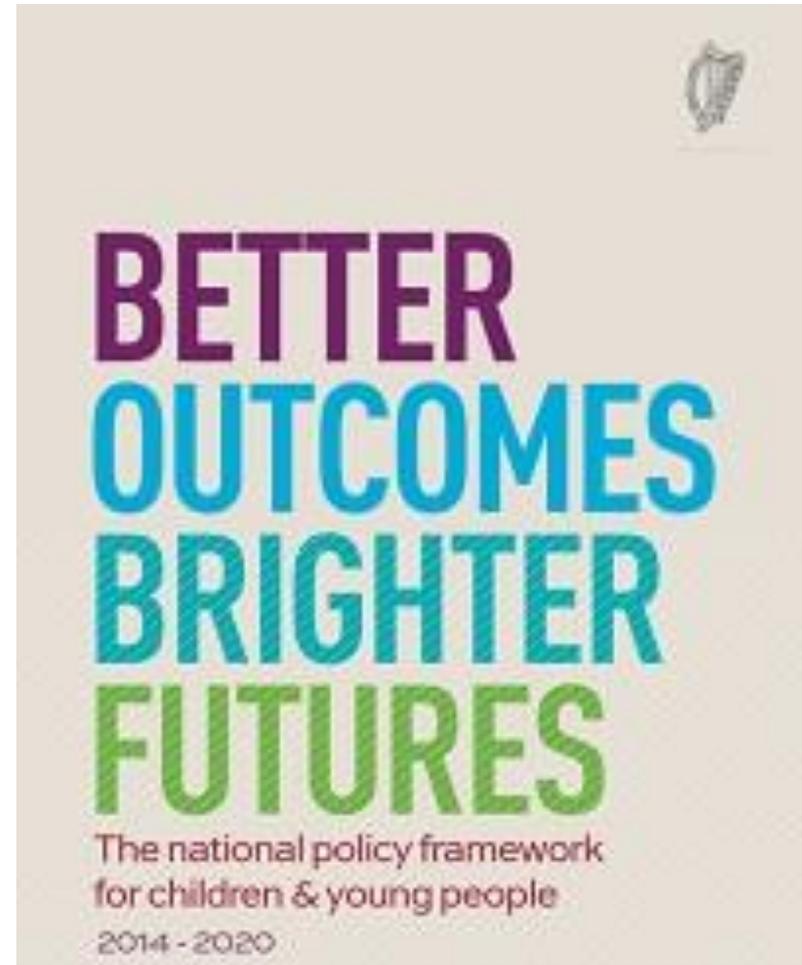


**CRISIS**

- The Galway Traveller community said that accommodation has to be delivered by a specialist agency, independent of the local authority and removed from the bias of local politics.
- In the immediate term, the Galway Traveller Community said that a local taskforce specific to Galway City and County needs to be established to bring a multi-agency approach to seeking solutions to and dealing with the enormity of the Traveller accommodation crisis .
- Homelessness and the Traveller community is a crisis within a crisis and needs to end.

# CHILDREN & HOMELESSNESS

- **Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures** – Govt. recognises: Neglect or abuse by a parent, or an inability to parent due to substance misuse or addiction, a disability, mental health difficulties, **homelessness** or domestic violence are key factors leading to children being placed at risk and potentially entering the care system.
- Govt. commits to: Progress the **Social Impact Investment pilot project** for homeless families with children in the Dublin region and consider its application nationally as part of implementing a housing-led approach to end long-term homelessness for all homeless families with children. And, Implement and monitor the **National Travellers/Roma Integration Strategy**, with a particular focus on Traveller accommodation



# WHY CHILDREN MATTER

## A Child Protection Issue:

- Proximity to and in many cases shared facilities with strangers.
- Regular contact with staff who may not have been sufficiently Garda vetted; leaving children vulnerable to individuals who may seek to prey on them.
- Proximity to adults drinking alcohol and the associated behaviours (i.e. inebriation).
- Lack of adequate play facilities and stimulation.
- Cramped living conditions, meaning in some cases older mixed gender siblings may be sharing beds.
- Strain on parental mental health and parenting abilities and the associated impact on child behaviour and mental health



# WHY CHILDREN MATTER

## The Impact on Children:

- Behavioural problems
- Adverse impact on children's education (lack of quiet space to study; lengthy school commutes)
- Discipline deteriorated
- Lack of certainty
- Lack of play
- Lack of space
- Overcrowding
- Boredom
- Reduced socialisation
- Nutrition issues



# MOVING FORWARD

- Children’s Rights Alliance Report Card 2018 – the **lowest grade** awarded was for ‘Child and Family Homelessness’, receiving an ‘E’, unchanged since last year.
- The **lack of minimum standards in emergency accommodation** is a primary concern. It is unacceptable to place children in hotels for long durations without having first put in place minimum physical and management standards to ensure the safety and protection of children.
- Purpose-built homes (‘family hubs’) are useful, but only as a **temporary** measure. Families need a clear, time-defined exit plan into permanent housing.
- Scotland - **Rights-based approach with legislation** that reduces time for children in emergency accommodation to two weeks (looking at reducing this to one week). IHREC has suggested Ireland put a three month time limit on emergency accommodation stays.
- **Increase in supply** is the only real solution

## Grading for Report Card 2018

Overall Grade	2017	2018
	D+	C-
<b>Right to Education</b>	D+	C
Educational Disadvantage	D	C
Religious Diversity in Schools	D	C-
Disability and Additional Needs in Education	C+	B-
<b>Right to an Adequate Standard of Living</b>	C-	D+
Child and Family Homelessness	E	E
Parental Leave and Income Supports	C+	C
Prevention and Early Intervention	C+	C
<b>Right to Health</b>	D+	C-
Primary Care	D	C-
Mental Health	D-	D+
Physical Health and Wellbeing	C	C-
<b>Rights in the Family Environment and Alternative Care</b>	D+	B-
Guardian <i>ad Litem</i> Service	D	C+
Child Protection	C	B
Child Victims of Crime	D	C+
<b>Rights in Early Childhood</b>	C+	D+
Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care	C-	D
Subsidised and School-Age Childcare	B	C
Childminding	C	D
<b>Right to Equality</b>	D	C-
Traveller and Roma Children	E	D+
Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children	D-	D+
LGBTI+ Children and Young People	C+	B-

# TIME TO TALK ABOUT SOLUTIONS...

