



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2019

In accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Galway City Council has been instructed by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government to carry out a Housing Needs Assessment for 2019.

The Council will be writing to certain applicants currently on the housing waiting list to reassess their eligibility for housing support. All applicants **must reply in full** to this correspondence. Completed returns with all necessary documentation enclosed, should be submitted to Housing Department, Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway **not later than 10th May 2019**.

Failure to submit a completed return in this timeline will result in your application for housing support being closed by the Local Authority.

Should you have any queries, or need assistance in completing the Housing Needs Assessment, please contact any of the following:

- Housing Unit, Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway 091 894370
- COPE Galway Day Centre, Seamus Quirke Road, Newcastle, Galway 091 525259
- COPE Galway Family Services, Calbro House, Tuam Road, Galway, 091-527571
- Galway Simon Community, 18 Tuam Road Centre, Tuam Road, Galway, 091-381828
- Galway Traveller Movement, 1, The Plaza, Headford Road, Galway 091 765390
- Threshold Galway Advice Centre, 5 Prospect Hill, Galway 091 563080
- Galway Migrant Service, 3 The Plaza, Headford Road, Galway 091 773466

Signed: D. Mahon,
A/Director of Services,
Housing, Environment & Climate Change, Recreation & Amenity

Date: 18th April 2019

Irish and English versions of the Housing Needs Assessment Application Form are available.

Homelessness Update for Housing SPC Meeting – 2 May, 2019

Western Region Homeless Numbers

Jan: 358
Feb: 349
March: 348
April: 341

Families:

Jan: 81	Dependants	179
Feb: 79	Dependants	201
March: 85	Dependants	213
April: 80	Dependants	218

Galway City: 52 families currently in Private Emergency Accommodation

Galway County: 20 families in PEA

No of families in transitional housing units: 13

Currently there are 94 notices of termination on hand.

Homeless HAP Place Finder Service

Since the commencement of the Homeless Place finder Service in June 2018, 94 households have been accommodated in total. 44 of this 94 have been accommodated since January 2019.

This figure is made up of both those who were accessing Emergency Accommodation and households that were prevented from entering Emergency Services.

Family Hub - Corrib Haven

Refurbishment works at Corrib Haven are almost complete and it is expected that it will be operational early in Q2. The facility, which will be managed by COPE Galway, will provide temporary accommodation and support for up to 12 families. It is anticipated that the facility will be a welcome addition in easing the dependence of Hotels and B&Bs particularly in light of the the upcoming tourist season. The facility is fully equipped with laundry and cooking facilities to which families will have access to and giving a degree of independence not currently available in private emergency accommodation.

Modular Family Hub

Galway City has been selected as a pilot for modular housing to meet the needs of homeless families. 15 units will be situated on a site in the ownership of the Council. The Council will manage the project build including all ancillary site works. Peter McVerry Trust has been identified as the service provider who will manage the facility once operational. Emergency accommodation will be provided for 15 families with emphasis on exit strategies from the moment of occupation.

Subsequent to the public meeting held on 28th February in Westside Community Centre the proposed access arrangements have been reviewed and amendments made which take the expressed views on board. Vehicular access to the site will be via the Westside Enterprise Park and there has been positive engagement in this regard with Fiontarlann Teo who hold the lease for the units to the rear of the park in closest proximity to the modular hub site. The procurement process for the purchase of the modular units is underway with a contract award expected by end of April 2019. An enabling works contract will commence in June 2019 with the overall facility complete and ready to operate in October 2019.

Housing First

Service Reform Fund (SRF) has been established to support the implementation of reforms in Disability, Mental Health and Homelessness in Ireland. The SRF Homelessness Programme is being implemented through an integrated approach by the Dept. of Housing, Dept. of Health, Local Authorities and the HSE. This is in line with Rebuilding Ireland.

Approval for a Housing First Project for Galway City through the Service Reform Fund has been granted for a 3 year period to commence in June 2019. The Housing First Project approach integrates tenancy and wrap around health supports thereby addressing complex health needs of Housing First participants. Galway City Council has committed to the sourcing of 30 Housing First tenancies with wrap around health services provision. Work is ongoing with Mental Health Services, HSE, Local Authorities and Service Providers on project commencement.

Cold Weather Response – Winter 2018/19

The Homeless Cold Weather Response (CWR) concluded on the 23rd April 2019 which was managed by COPE Galway and Galway Simon on a nightly basis where suitably qualified staff were on site continuously throughout the period of the initiative to provide support and assistance to the clients. Homeless Service providers will continue to engage with clients in seeking a long term solution to their housing needs. There was sufficient capacity to meet the needs of those individuals sleeping rough over the duration of CWR.

On behalf of Galway City Council I would like to take this opportunity to compliment all staff involved in the running of the initiative

An initial review has shown the following:

Number of individuals who used the CWR: 239

Average Stay: 11 nights (95 stayed one night only and the longest stay was 80 nights)

Average Occupancy: 17 people per night (74% occupancy on 23 beds available)

Homelessness Funding 2019

Funding of homeless services for the West Region in 2018 was €5,890,000 of which the private emergency costs for the city were in the region of €2,217,414. The cost of homeless services provision in the city was €4,715,406.

An estimate of €8,800,000 was submitted for 2019 of which half is approximately for private emergency costs for the Region. Allocation received is €2,600,000. Further exchequer funding may be recouped where additional expenditure is required as a result of homeless presentations.

Homeless Regional Action Plan

Work has commenced on the drafting of Regional Homeless Action Plan 2019-2021. A consultation workshop with the Regional Homelessness Forum will be held in June. Further to same a draft plan will be brought to the Housing SPC for consideration.