

Housing SPC Meeting – Homeless Update February 2022

Homeless Services and Supports

The most recent homelessness report from December 2021 indicates that 242 individual adults were accessing emergency accommodation in Galway City. This compares to 182 individual adults respectively during the same period over the previous year (December 2020). Overall the region has experienced an increase in homelessness of approximately 41% since December 2020.

41 families (with 91 dependants) accessed emergency accommodation in **Galway City** in December 2021. This compares to 35 families with 78 dependants in December 2020.

Accommodation Supports for Singles/Couples:

Temporary Emergency Accommodation: Fairgreen Hostel and Abbey House provide emergency accommodation to 40 men and Osterley Lodge provides emergency accommodation to 12 women. These services are managed by COPE Galway and Galway Simon Community and remain at full capacity.

Housing First: Housing First supports are provided by Galway Simon and Cope Galway to West Region. Since commencement in 2019, 21 tenancies have been created in the city. The Implementation Plan for Housing First 2022 – 2026 was launched in late December. The targets set over that period for Galway City is 30, this figure incorporates 10 tenancies that were outstanding, as Galway City were delayed in implementing the last plan so the timeline ran from June 2019 – June 2022. This new plan is from January 2022 for a three year period. The City Council are working with Galway Simon and Cope Galway to source and purchase one bed units under CAS. A number of tenancies have been sourced from Council Stock and AHBs. However, it remains challenging to find good quality one bedroom accommodation in the city.

Rough Sleepers Outreach Service: Cope Galway staff with the support of a GP and nurse go out a number of times per week to those who are not availing of the CWR. Supports and information are offered to this group including medical services. There a number of non-nationals sleeping out in this cohort and work is ongoing to achieve a long term outcome to their homelessness.

Cold Weather Response 2021/2022: The Cold Weather Response commenced on 1st November and will be in place until 30th April, 2022 at the Glenoaks Hotel. The numbers accommodated in the Cold Weather Response over the Christmas period i.e. 24th December to 3rd January 2021, ranged between 24 and 32 per night with an overall average of 28 per night. A total of 36 individuals were accommodated of which 12

were new presentations; a number of these were referred to their places of origin over the Christmas period and the remainder were referred to the relevant local authority for assessment. The number of presentations using the CWR during the winter period so far is higher than numbers recorded during previous years. The CWR provided sufficient bed space capacity for all those seeking shelter over the Christmas and January period. It is notable that at least two thirds of the occupants are non-HRC or have an alternative centre of interest.

Private Emergency Accommodation: Galway City Council is currently providing Emergency Accommodation, including private emergency accommodation to:

- 41 families in Private Emergency Accommodation (comprised of 24 Traveller families)
- 11 families are housed in transitional accommodation with 7 of the transitional units directly provided by Galway City Council
- 14 families are housed in the Westside modular housing project (capacity for 15)
- 9 families in Corrib Haven Family Hub
- 13 single people are also in Private Emergency Accommodation

Family Hub and Modular Housing: Corrib Haven Family Hub and the McVerry Hub at Westside continue to provide emergency accommodation to families. Families are to be progressed into more secure accommodation options with other families in private emergency accommodation being transferred to Corrib Haven/Modular Units as units become available and having regard to Covid public health guidelines. Service Providers continue to actively source properties under HAP/CAS/Leasing in order to progress families into tenancies from Corrib Haven and the Modular Units. 11 families are housed in transitional accommodation of which 7 of these units are directly provided by Galway City Council. Since the PMcVT Hub commenced operations, 32 families have been accommodated to date. 18 families have progressed from the Modular Hub into more secure housing solutions including HAP and to properties acquired by PMcVT under CAS/leasing, while a number of other families have returned to extended family accommodation. PMcVT acquired 4 properties in the city in 2021.

Homeless Travellers: The Council, with the support of Homeless Service Providers, assists with the provision of emergency accommodation, support and transition services to Travellers. Traveller families account for 80% of the cohort seeking emergency accommodation. The Homeless HAP Placefinder Officer continues to work with Travellers to secure a HAP supported tenancy. Allocation of units (LA/AHB) continue to be made to the families in homeless services having regard to Scheme of Letting Priorities and Estate Management Strategy. Traveller families continue to be challenged in finding private rented accommodation.

- 4 Traveller families have been accommodated through the HAP Homeless Placefinder Service since January 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Traveller families are availing of private emergency accommodation • 9 Traveller families are in in transitional units • 5 Traveller families are accommodated in the Modular Hub • 4 Traveller families in Corrib Haven family hub • 11 Traveller families from Homeless Services have been offered a social housing option.
<p>HAP Placefinder Service</p> <p>Tenancy Sustainment Service</p>	<p>HAP Homeless Place Finder: Since the commencement of the service in June 2018, 352 tenancies have been set up under Homeless HAP. 85 tenancies were set up in 2021. 36 of these households are families previously accommodated in Emergency Accommodation or who were given a valid Notice of Termination in their privately rented tenancies. The remaining 49 are singles in the same circumstances.</p> <p>Tenancy Sustainment Service: The Galway City Council Tenancy Sustainment service was launched in November 2020. Over much of 2020 and 2021 there have been periods where evictions were suspended due to Covid 19. The number of valid Notices of Termination on file at year end 2021 was 67 comprising of 9 in RAS properties, 36 in HAP tenancy's and 22 in the Private Rented Sector. There were a further 12 pending validation by Threshold. The Tenancy Sustainment Service has to date dealt with 228 cases where Notice to Quits were received by tenants with a termination date after 1st April 2020. There have been 115 cases where a valid NTQ was served and the outcomes for these cases, following intervention from Tenancy Sustainment and the Housing Department, are as follows: social housing allocation 43; HAP 39; LTL / Leasing 8; Private rented 2; Emergency accommodation 15; Family / Friends 8.</p>
<p>New Homeless Capital Developments</p>	<p>SQ Road Day Centre proposal: Stage 1 approval received with a recommended budget of €3,548,437. The proposal for Seamus Quirke Road includes for 6 apartments on the first floor (4 x one bed and 2 x two bed) and a further 4 apartments on the second floor (4 x one bed). A total of 10 apartments. All 8 of the one bed studio apartments are designed so that they can be adapted to make a 4 bed emergency accommodation dormitory to serve as a Cold Weather Response option if required. The units are not envisaged as permanent accommodation. They are transitional units for a homeless person on a path to permanent accommodation.</p> <p>Newcastle Rd: Stage 2 approval (€2,080,753) has issued to Galway Simon Community who are proposing to construct 10 single bed roomed housing units for older people and for those who have compromised mobility or who are wheelchair users. This housing development will be well managed and offer security to older people including older homeless service users. It will have a very significant social value and location is excellent in terms of proximity to public transport, amenities and services. Stage 3 application pending.</p> <p>CAS (Capital Acquisition Scheme): CAS project proposals are being received from a number of Approved Housing Bodies for the housing</p>

	<p>needs of applicants under the specific categories (homeless, older people and people with disability). Single unit acquisition applications are being progressed with Approved Housing Bodies Galway Simon, COPE, and Peter McVerry Trust. 11 CAS acquisitions were completed in 2021.</p>
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Other developments: Discussions are ongoing with Galway SIMON and COPE Galway in relation to a number of possible schemes to provide additional supports including refurbishment of a number of properties around the city for homeless services.