

Housing for All – Pathway 2

Pathway to Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion.

Amongst the pathways contained in *Housing for All* is the *Pathway to Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion*. This pathway is underpinned by a range of actions to address homelessness with an ultimate goal of working to end homelessness by 2030.

Housing for All recognises that reducing and preventing homelessness is a top priority for the Government and there is a particular focus on reducing the number of homeless families and individuals. The Government is committed to a housing-led approach as the primary response to all forms of homelessness. This includes the prevention of loss of existing housing through the provision of adequate support to people in their homes, as well as significant enhancements to secure tenancies in the private rented sector. *Housing for All* sets out the strategic direction for policy and actions on homelessness at national level and the policies outlined therein should inform amendments to, and reviews of, existing Homelessness Action Plans. *Housing for All* also recognises the criticality of interagency supports which are required to address the complex combination of social, health and economic needs of homeless persons and those at risk of homelessness, in addition to their specific housing need.

Housing for All contains further actions in relation to addressing housing supply, affordability, issues in the rented sector and refurbishment/renewal. While supply is critical to ensuring there is sufficient accommodation for all, the actions specifically targeting homelessness recognise the complexity and variety of factors leading to homelessness and issues for some households in sustaining tenancies, and seeks to support and end homelessness for those affected.

In setting overall aims and objectives of a Homelessness Action Plan, the core principles set out in *Housing for All* should be to the fore. ***Housing Policy Objective 3: Work towards Ending Homelessness by 2030***, is the underpinning objective for the 18 actions specifically aimed at addressing homelessness. Each action includes a timeline for delivery as well as a designated responsible body or bodies. It is important that Homelessness Action Plans contain measures to address relevant Actions, particularly those that are identified as to be led by Local Authorities, or jointly led with other key agencies involved in the preparation of the Homelessness Action Plans (including the HSE and TUSLA). Any measure included will need to set out how the measure will be progressed and monitored.

6.1 The Eradication of Homelessness

Reducing and Preventing Homelessness, with the ultimate goal of ending homelessness is a key objective of *Housing for All*. The Minister, with the support of the Government has already signed the ‘Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness’. In signing the declaration, Ireland has agreed to promote the prevention of homelessness, access to permanent housing and the provision of enabling support services to those who are homeless. The Declaration commits to working towards ending homelessness by 2030 and this commitment has been reaffirmed in *Housing for All*. This will involve working with the relevant stakeholders and supporting policy measures with adequate funding. Measures set out in the Homelessness Action Plans should be framed in terms of that overall objective.

Action 3.1 of *Housing for All* confirms the Department’s commitment to, “actively participate through the newly established European Platform on Combatting Homelessness to advance the Lisbon Declaration on Combatting Homelessness signed in June 2021.” There is a strong emphasis on reducing the number of homeless families and individuals, and supporting people experiencing homelessness into long-term sustainable accommodation. Actions to work towards this key objective, consistent with the aforementioned priorities should underpin Homelessness Action Plans, i.e. the prevention of homelessness, access to permanent housing and the provision of enabling support services to those who are homeless.

Number	Action	Timeline	Lead	Status
3.1	Actively participate through the newly established European Platform on Combatting Homelessness to advance the Lisbon Declaration on Combatting Homelessness signed in June 2021	Ongoing	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)	<p>The Government is committed to a housing-led approach as the primary response to all forms of homelessness.</p> <p>This includes Housing First Services in line with the National Housing First Implementation Plan.</p> <p>In parallel with Housing First Services, it has been identified that adequate levels of Housing Led Services are required for people who do not meet the vulnerability thresholds of Housing First but still have an acute housing need.</p>

				<p>For individuals who have experienced entrenched homelessness and rough sleeping over many years, some will require High Support Services outside of the Housing First model.</p> <p>Specialist supported accommodation services are required for women who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence, and who are homeless. Work to meet the objective of Eradicating Homelessness by 2030, as outlined in the Lisbon Declaration on Combatting Homelessness, will be ongoing</p>
3.2	Establish the National Homeless Action Committee	Q4 2021	DHLGH, DoH, DCEDIY, DSP, DoJ, DoE, LAs, HSE, Tusla	Plan published in December 2021.
3.3	Publish a new <i>Housing First</i> National Implementation Plan	Q4 2021	DHLGH, DoH, HSE, LAs	Completed
3.4	<p>Target 1,200 new <i>Housing First</i> tenancies from 2022 to 2026</p> <p><i>West Region: Continue to expand Housing First in line with New Implementation Plan</i></p>	<p>2022 to 2026</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	DHLGH, DoH, HSE, Galway City Council, Galway, Roscommon Mayo County Councils , Galway Simon and COPE Galway	<p>Galway Simon and COPE Galway deliver the service on behalf of West Region. Continue to advocate for higher target number of tenancies in the West. Continue to address the shortage of the one bedroom Units to achieve Housing First solutions and target number of tenancies. Continue to advocate for an increase in funding for non-pay related costs associated with the delivery of HF service in the West region including travel expenses, given the geographic area that must be covered in West Region. Liaise with Department of Housing for contribution for appropriate office space to house multi-disciplinary team. Continue to liaise with Director for Housing First re implementation plan.</p>
3.5	<i>Housing First</i> will be underpinned by the delivery	Q4 2021 and ongoing	DHLGH, Galway City Council	COPE Galway & Galway Simon Community and Galway City, Las and HSE Continue to explore opportunities for one bedroom accommodation

	<p>of additional one-bed social housing homes</p> <p><i>West Region: Continue to target one bed units using CAS, LA & AHB Stock, HAP/RAS/LTL</i></p>	Ongoing	<p>Galway County Council</p> <p>Mayo County Council</p> <p>Roscommon County Council</p>	<p>Continue to advocate with National Housing First Office for a change around accommodation type to be provided, specifically to permit the use of two bedroom units in light of an acute shortage one bed units in particularly in Galway City.</p>
3.6	<p>Provide capital funding to develop further supported emergency accommodation for families and individuals experiencing homelessness</p>	Q4 2021 and ongoing	DHLGH	<p>Continue to liaise with DHLGH regarding the redevelopment of the Homeless Day Centre on Seamus Quirke Road and seeking sufficient funds to develop same.</p>
3.6.1	<p><i>West Region: Continue to review family homelessness and seek opportunities to reduce reliance on PEA by exploring possibility of whether further family HUBs are required;</i></p>		<p>Galway City Council</p> <p>Galway County Council</p> <p>Mayo County Council</p> <p>Roscommon County Council</p> <p>Homeless Service Providers</p>	<p>Invest in early intervention and homeless prevention services to minimise the risk of individuals and families requiring Emergency Services.</p> <p>Continue to incorporate further accommodation provision for individual homeless people. Further capital funding will be required for the redevelopment of COPE Galway Waterside House for individuals.</p> <p>Commence process of redevelopment of the Fairgreen Hostel site to upgrade the accommodation to current standards.</p> <p>Commence process of redevelopment and upgrading of High Support Homeless Services to current standards, including fire compliance and recommended best practice.</p>
3.6.2	<p><i>Pilot the introduction of Housing First for families</i></p>			
3.6.3				<p>Continue to advocate with the Department and Housing Agency re need to review HAP limits.</p>

	<p><i>Source own door suitable accommodation as a response to family homelessness, continue to review and advocate for increase to HAP income levels and early intervention mechanisms where possible by ensuring a robust exit plan is in place in a timely manner for households entering homeless services.</i></p> <p><i>Examine the option of funding for age appropriate localized responses for older people residing on homeless hostels and PEA placements</i></p>			<p>Continue to work with AHBs to provide accommodation options for homeless families and individuals with support if required.</p> <p>Develop proposals for early intervention and prevention for families at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Continue to advocate to the Department for assistance in addressing the challenges of migrant homelessness, which is contributing to persistent levels of rough sleeping in Galway City.</p> <p>Examine the provision of own door emergency accommodation for families to reduce reliance on private emergency accommodation, to operate a more empowering model of provision for families.</p> <p>Develop 10 one bed age appropriate fully accessible units in Newcastle.</p> <p>Examine opportunities to develop further supported housing solutions for older people.</p>
<p>3.7</p>	<p>Prepare and publish guidelines with standards for the development and refurbishment of emergency accommodation</p>	<p>Q2 2022</p>	<p>DHLGH</p>	

3.8	Issue guidance to Local Authorities on their Homeless Action Plans prepared under section 37 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009; this guidance will link directly with, and be informed by, <i>Housing for All</i> and reflect current policy and actions	Q4 2021	DHLGH	Completed
3.9	Support the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) to pilot a scheme to convert Local Authority and AHB owned emergency accommodation facilities to own-door permanent social housing tenancies	Q2 2022	DHLGH	Request outcomes of the pilot and learning from same.
3.10	Maintain Covid-19 public health measures for people who are homeless and consolidate improvements in health care delivery	Ongoing	DoH, HSE Galway City Council Galway, Mayo Roscommon County Councils	Ensure capacity for isolation if necessary.

3.11	Continue to increase access to health supports and protections for homeless individuals, with an individual health care plan to be provided for all homeless individuals that need one and improved access to mental health services	Ongoing	DoH, HSE Galway City Council Galway, Mayo Roscommon County Councils	Continue to collaborate with HSEw in ensuring appropriate access to health and ensure care plans are in place for each household if necessary.
3.12	Finalise a model of health care for people experiencing homelessness, including a health/vulnerability assessment tool to assist in determining suitability for Housing First and level of support needed	Q2 2022	DoH, HSE Galway City Council Galway, Mayo Roscommon County Councils	Work with HSEw and Service Providers in finalising model and develop an assessment tool to assist in determining suitable health care approaches
3.13	Strengthen integrated care pathways for people who are homeless with chronic health needs based on an inclusion health model, to achieve better health outcomes and	Ongoing	DoH, HSE COPE Galway Galway, Simon Community	Continue to advocate to Department for support for co-location of Homeless MDT (GP, RGNs, Addiction, Psychology, OT) for Homeless Services and HSEw Slí Nua Community Mental Health Team for People who are Homeless

	to reduce the incidence of premature death			
3.14	Expand the case management approach for homeless people living with drug or alcohol addiction and enhance treatment options	Q2 2022	DoH, HSE Galway City Council Galway, Mayo Roscommon County Councils, Probation Service, COPE Galway, Galway Simon Community	Continue to develop Case Management approach that includes interagency work (HSE, Drugs Services, Túsła, LAs, Prison Services, Probation, DSP, Galway Simon Community and Cope Galway) to ensure that people leaving prison or coming out of care do not come straight into Emergency Homeless Services.
3.15	Develop a Youth Homeless Strategy <i>A draft Youth Homeless Strategy is currently underway. Collaborate with other agencies to identify young people at risk of facing homelessness when they reach adulthood Ensure all young people leaving state care have access to Housing Waiting List and</i>	Q1 2022	DHLGH, DCEDIY, Tusla, HSEw Galway City Council Galway, Mayo, Roscommon County Councils	First draft completed and when available provide to West Region. Continue three way partnership between Galway City Council, Túsła and Galway Simon Community to develop Youth Service for young adults (18-24) at risk of and experiencing homelessness in the West – including prevention and tenancy sustainment services; supported housing and Túsła CAS (tenancies for careleavers). Explore opportunities for similar models within the Region.

	<p><i>Social Housing supports such as HAP/RAS/LTL</i></p> <p><i>Minimise the length of stay in homeless emergency accommodation. Ensure immediate access to mediation and other agencies if young person is at risk of being homeless</i></p> <p><i>Examine option of young families having access to own door accommodation</i></p>			
3.16	<p>Enhance family support and prevention and early intervention services for children and their families through a multiagency and coordinated response, and disseminate innovative practice</p> <p><i>An enhanced preventative model with access to outreach, tenancy sustainment and resettlement</i></p>	Ongoing	DCEDIY, Tusla, DHLGH, Galway City Council, Galway, Mayo, Roscommon County Councils	<p>Continue to advocate to Department on the provision of funding for intervention and prevention measures.</p> <p>Work with stakeholders to ensure early intervention, such as Threshold and Galway Simon Community Prevention Services.</p>

	<i>should be developed to provide early intervention together with access to other stakeholders.</i>			
3.17	<p>Expand Street Outreach Services to engage with rough sleepers in other key urban areas outside Dublin</p> <p><i>Put in place a dedicated street outreach service to ensure engagement, relationship building, access to services and supports including primary care interventions.</i></p> <p><i>Discuss at national level access to social welfare supports for vulnerable Non-HRC and migrants who are sleeping rough in the region with a review of conditions pertaining to economic migrants</i></p>	Q4 2021 and ongoing	<p>DHLGH Galway City Council and Service providers</p> <p>DHLGH Galway City Council Galway County Council Mayo County Council Roscommon County Council</p>	<p>Examine the need for additional emergency accommodation year round in the City, with a view to having access to accommodation as part of the street outreach service. Support the provision of Street/Other Outreach Services to people who are unhoused across the Region</p> <p>Continue to advocate with the Department regarding a relaxation of the Habitual Residency conditions in order to access homeless services and allow vulnerable migrants access to accommodation and support.</p>

<p>3.18</p>	<p>Identify and provide enhanced tenancy sustainment supports to families experiencing long-term homelessness to help them exit from homelessness and maintain their homes</p> <p><i>Increase funding for Tenancy Sustainment and Resettlement Services</i></p> <p><i>Increase to to a variety of accommodation options for families in the main own-door accommodation</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DHLGH, DCEDIY, Tusla, Galway City Council, Galway, Mayo, Roscommon County Councils</p>	<p>Continue to advocate for resources to support those in shared community accommodation which continues to grow for singles.</p> <p>Support Prevention Services, including Tenancy Sustainment and Integrated Case Management Services for Families and Individuals with complex support needs at risk of homelessness.</p>
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