



**Housing SPC Meeting – Homeless Update**  
**23 February 2024**



**Homeless Services and Supports**

The recently published homelessness report for January 2024 indicates that 248 individual adults were accessing emergency accommodation in Galway City. Overall, the West Region has experienced an increase in homelessness of 419 adults in January up from 405 in December 2023.

79 families accessed emergency accommodation in Galway City in January 2024. This shows a decrease since December, of approximately 1 families (80). Securing Private Emergency Accommodation options continues to be a serious challenge in the City which is adding to the challenges on service users and providers.

**Temporary Emergency Accommodation:** Fairgreen Hostel and Abbey House provide emergency accommodation to 40 men and Osterley Lodge provides emergency accommodation to 12 women. Services are managed by COPE Galway and Galway Simon Community and remain at full capacity. The family Hubs remain at capacity and challenges remain for families in sourcing HAP accommodation.

**Housing First:** Housing First supports are provided by Galway Simon and Cope Galway to West Region under the Implementation Plan for Housing First 2022 – 2026. The plan from January 2022 a target set at 30 new Housing first tenancies over the 5 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. Under the new plan 17 active tenancies in the City have been created.

**Rough Sleepers Outreach Service:** Cope Galway staff with the support of a GP and nurse provide an outreach service a number of times per week to those who are not availing of the homeless accommodation services. 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 Winter 2023/24** is a low threshold, short term winter response with the primary aim of reducing risks of harm to people associated with rough sleeping in wintry weather. The overall objectives are to; minimise the risk of harm to people without shelter, particularly those who are rough sleeping, due to the cold and inclement weather conditions over the winter period; to work with people in identifying and progressing routes out of rough sleeping and homelessness and to act as a referral point to accommodation, housing, health and recovery services. The CWR will operate from November 2023 and April, 2024 in a unit leased by the Council in the East of the City on a night-to-night basis. The CWR will be managed by COPE Galway on behalf of Galway City Council. Weekly meetings regarding clients will be held with the Homeless Unit to ensure appropriate supports are put in place for the clients using the service.

	<p><b>Homeless Travellers:</b> The Council, with the support of Homeless Service Providers, assists with the provision of emergency accommodation, support and transition services to Travellers. 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 Traveller families are availing of private emergency accommodation.</li> <li>• 10 Traveller families are in transitional units</li> <li>• 5 Traveller families are accommodated in Garrai an tSionnagh Modular Hub</li> <li>• 2 Traveller families in Corrib Haven family hub</li> </ul> <p>Garrai an tSionnagh Emergency accommodation, Westside. The lease between Galway City Council and PMVT ceased on 6 February 2024. Galway City Council are in the process of seeking expression of interest from homeless services providers for the future management of the emergency accommodation. Galway City Council are currently liaising with the families occupying emergency accommodation to resolve their long term housing needs.</p>
<p><b>HAP Placefinder Service</b></p> <p><b>Tenancy Sustainment Service</b></p>	<p><b>HAP Homeless Place Finder:</b> 78 tenancies were set up by end of Q4 2023. Ten tenancies have been created to date in 2024.</p> <p><b>Tenancy Sustainment Service: Notice of Terminations, From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, Galway City Council have dealt with 189 Notice of Terminations.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>104</b> are compliant with the Residential Tenancies Act</li> <li>• <b>14</b> are pending review by Threshold</li> <li>• <b>71</b> households have outcomes, see below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>29</b> - received an allocation</li> <li>• <b>2</b> – found alternative HAP properties</li> <li>• <b>22</b> – Acquired and/or going through the acquisition process</li> <li>• <b>0</b> – placed in Long Term Leasing</li> <li>• <b>0</b> - were placed in Emergency accommodation</li> <li>• <b>4</b> - went to stay with to family or friends</li> <li>• <b>3</b> – NTQ’s were rescinded</li> <li>• <b>1</b> – found private rented accommodation</li> <li>• <b>0</b> - Closed applications</li> <li>• <b>9</b> – are going through the transboundary process</li> <li>• <b>1</b>- Invalid</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**New Schemes / Proposals**

**SQ Road Day Centre proposal:** The proposed development aims to provide a much-needed upgrade in the existing day centre facilities, along with additional resources. It will also accommodate temporary homeless accommodation year-round, with the focus on identifying and progressing routes out of rough sleeping and homelessness on a regular basis while also adapting during the winter months to increase the intake of vulnerable rough sleepers. The Stage 2 Application for the above was submitted to the Department on Friday 22nd July 2022. Stage 2 approval with a recommended budget of €4,215,073 was received in October 2022. Part 8 planning notification was published on the 8th December 2022 and the Part 8 approval for the scheme was received on 8th May 2023. This will now be progressed to design stage and delivery and completion date in Q2/3 2025.

**Newcastle Rd:** This project is currently under construction and will comprise 10 single bedroomed housing units for older people and for those who have compromised mobility or who are wheelchair users. Delivery of the units is anticipated in Quarter 4 2024. This housing development will be managed by Galway Simon Community and will 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. Funding approved (€2,718,376).

**CAS (Capital Acquisition Scheme):** CAS project proposals are being received from a number of Approved Housing Bodies for the housing needs of applicants under the specific categories (homeless, older people and people with disability). Single unit acquisition applications are being progressed with Approved Housing Body Sophia Housing Association. One CAS acquisition is currently in progress with delivery projected at end of quarter 1, 2024.

**Individual Unit Acquisitions**

Acquisitions under the Tenant in-Situ scheme continue. The following is the current position for 2024.

<b>2024 Acquisitions To-date.</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Conveyancing On-going</b>	<b>Expressions of Interest on hands</b>
Tenant In-situ	0	22	26

**Other developments:** Discussions are ongoing with Galway Simon and COPE Galway in relation to several possible schemes to provide additional supports including refurbishment of a number of properties around the city for homeless services.