



Homeless Update Housing SPC Meeting 28th May, 2021

The most recent homelessness report from April 2021 indicates that 199 individual adults were accessing emergency accommodation in Galway City. This compares to 240 individuals during the same period last year (April 2020). 51 Families (with 111 dependants) accessed emergency accommodation in Galway in April 2021. This compares to and 65 families with 180 dependants in April 2020. Approximately three-quarters of the families are Traveller households.

Exits from Homelessness 2020

A total of 180 adults and their dependants exited from emergency accommodation or were prevented from entering into emergency accommodation in the West Region in 2020. This compares to the 246 individuals who exited homelessness in 2019. Note that the West region includes Mayo and Roscommon County Councils as well as Galway City and County.

Duration of Stay in Emergency Accommodation – West Region

At the end of 2020, 270 adults were in emergency accommodation in the West Region. 44% (119) were residing in emergency accommodation less than 6 months and 56% (151) were in emergency accommodation for over 6 months.

2021 Funding for Homeless Services in West Region

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have advised Galway City Council as the agreed lead housing authority for the West Region with regard to homelessness and as such takes the lead role in the management and disbursement of Exchequer funding within the Region of its allocation for 2021. As established in previous years these delegated arrangements are being implemented by way of a protocol with Galway County, Mayo and Roscommon. An amount of €4,500,000 has been allocated as the 2021 Exchequer contribution towards services scheduled in the West Region under the delegated arrangements. In accordance with the statutory provisions, housing authorities must provide funding of no less than 10% towards services scheduled in the West Region. In respect of funding outside of the protocol supplementary funding will be recoupable for expenditure on private emergency costs less the local authorities' contribution of 10%.

Cold Weather Response / Continued Covid Response

The Cold Weather Response winter 2020/2021 ceased on April 30th as planned. The number of persons accessing CWR averaged 30 per night in April. Galway City Council sought expressions of interest from property owners due to the ongoing requirement for a Covid Response from May to Oct 2021 in order to provide continued support for clients who accessed fulltime beds at the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. There is also an ongoing requirement to provide en-suite bedrooms for those who must self-isolate or are a confirmed case. One expression of interest was received from the Glenoaks Hotel which qualified under the assessment criteria. It is planned that the Glenoaks will

provide c. 25 full-time beds for the next 6 months in line with Covid-19 and public health requirements. The service will continue to be managed by COPE Galway. On 18th May, the Government extended the emergency Covid 19 powers, which were due to expire on 9th June to November 2021 as an ongoing precaution against the pandemic.

Supported Emergency accommodation for families – Galway City

Families in hubs are supported by hub operators to identify and secure an independent tenancy, whether it be a local authority property or a HAP-supported tenancy in the private rented sector. There are two family hubs in the City, Corrib Haven (12 units) operated by COPE and a modular hub operated by Peter McVerry (15 Units).

Modular Family Hub Westside – one year open!

The Modular Family Hub at Westside was completed in April 2020 and handed over in May to Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) to manage on City Council's behalf under an agreed service level agreement. Families in private emergency accommodation were identified and moved into the Hub on a phased basis throughout May 2020, having regard to Covid 19 restrictions on social distancing. Since the PMVT Hub commenced operations, 27 families have been accommodated to date. Over the past year 14 families have progressed from the Modular Hub into more secure housing solutions including HAP and to properties acquired by PMVT under CAS/leasing, while a number of other families have returned to extended family accommodation.



As families in the Hub are accommodated in alternative housing solutions, other families in private emergency accommodation are continuously identified for accommodation provided in the Hub. PMVT continue to actively source and secure properties in the city under CAS / Leasing in order to progress families into more secure tenancies from the Modular Hub. The living environment at Westside for families greatly increases their quality of life as they have access to own door accommodation, cooking and washing, more space and greater stability which is conducive to maintaining independent living, not possible in private emergency accommodation. Living in this environment greatly assists families in building their life-skill capacities while engaging more effectively with PMVT in partnership with Galway City Council in finding long term housing solutions.

Families are provided with structured housing supports which leads to better outcomes for families moving on. A short period of tenancy support continues once a family moves on. To date, there is no evidence that any of the families have re-presented for homeless services.

HAP Placefinder

47 homeless households or those on NTQs have availed of homeless HAP since January 2021. There are currently 50 NTQs noted to Homeless Services.

Housing First

Galway Simon Community in partnership with COPE Galway were awarded the contract to deliver the tenancy sustainment service under the Galway City Housing First Project with a start date of 1 June 2019. Since the beginning of 2021 Housing First tenancies are published on a quarterly basis. To date 19 individuals had been housed under Housing First in Galway city.

Housing First Targets for the West region

	2018/19	2020	2021	Total
Galway City	5	10	15	30
Galway County	4	6	9	19
Mayo	1	2	3	6
Roscommon	1	2	3	6

Extension of Housing First to the remainder of the Region

A successful proposal was recently approved to expand the current Housing First contract, which was initially limited to Galway city, to the remainder of the region. Funding has been approved for this proposal which will allow every local authority in the region to be in a position to put in place Housing First tenancies.

A review of the Implementation Plan for Homeless First is underway at national level and new targets will be advised before year end.

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