



## Homeless Update

### Housing SPC Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

The most recent homelessness report from August 2021 indicates that 200 individual adults were accessing emergency accommodation in Galway City. This compares to 224 individuals during the same period last year (August 2020). It indicates that while there was a drop in numbers from pre covid times, there is still a consistent demand for homeless services.

#### 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 2021/2022 will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> November in the Glenoaks Hotel for a period of 6 months. This facility has capacity for 30 people. At this juncture the vaccination rollout continues and there has been a high uptake among this cohort with specific clinics being run by Cope Galway. The Service will be managed by Cope Galway on behalf of the City Council. Cope Day Centre is also a vital resource during the CWR. The Cold Weather Response is a dual approach, focusing on expanding current capacity to meet demand for emergency accommodation and providing a targeted response for people who are long-term rough sleeping and those people reluctant to engage with homeless services. Regular meetings will take place between Galway City Council and the Service Providers to address and put in place solutions to meet the long term needs of this cohort. Basic services will be provided to this group during the winter months.

#### 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). In addition to the Hubs, there were 33 families availing of Private Emergency Accommodation at weekend ending 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Progression from the Hubs to other forms of more stable accommodation is ongoing. The McVerry Trust have acquired a number of properties in the city under CAS funding and families have been offered tenancies.

## HAP Homeless Placefinder

73 homeless households or those on NTQs have availed of homeless HAP since January 2021. There are currently 57 valid NTQs noted to Homeless Services with a further 5 pending validation.

## 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 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. A review of the Implementation Plan for Housing First from 2022 to 2026 will be published by year setting out new targets for each region.

### Housing First Targets for the West region 2018 - 2021

	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Total</b>
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 west region to be in a position to put in place Housing First tenancies.

Dermot Mahon

A/ Director of Services Housing & Social Inclusion