



## Homelessness Update 2017

### 1. Emergency Accommodation Usage - Families Experiencing Homelessness:

In December 2017, 1,121 families with 2,385 children resided in emergency accommodation.

The number of families in emergency accommodation, including hotels / B&Bs and other homeless accommodation, from January 2017 to December 2017 is detailed in Table 1, with the numbers decreasing in December 2017.

**Table 1: Number of Families in Emergency Accommodation January '17 - December '17**

	Jan '17	Feb '17	Mar '17	April '17	May '17	June '17	July '17	Aug '17	Sept '17	Oct '17	Nov '17	Dec '17
<b>No. Families in PEA (Hotels/B&amp;B's)</b>	764	801	815	750	794	710	753	704	726	716	758	688
<b>No. Families in STA/Hubs</b>	243	254	254	341	305	405	425	442	412	423	430	433
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,121</b>

Work is continuing on the development of family hub facilities in the Dublin region, which will provide more appropriate temporary accommodation for families experiencing homelessness.

There are now 17 family hub type facilities operating throughout the Dublin region, providing accommodation for up to 437 families at any given time. The DRHE, in conjunction with the other Dublin Authorities, is developing proposals for the development of more family hubs to reduce the number of families in hotels and to reduce the time spent in hotels, while at the same time working to accommodate families closer to their local communities, schools, etc.

An update of the facilities throughout the Dublin region is included in Table 2 below.

<b>Table 2 – Family Hubs operational in Dublin Region</b>				
	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>
<b>1.</b>	Mater Dei, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 9.	50	Crosscare	DCC
<b>2.</b>	Aisling House, 19/20 St. Lawrence’s Road, Dublin 3.	11	Respond	DCC
<b>3.</b>	High Park, Drumcondra, Dublin 3.	34	Respond	DCC
<b>4.</b>	Hazel House, Glasnevin, D11	14	PMVT	DCC
<b>5.</b>	Brookfield Court, Rialto, Dublin 8.	4	PMVT	DCC
<b>6.</b>	Sarsfield House, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.	12	Novas	DCC
<b>7.</b>	Clonard Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12.	25	Salvation Army	DCC
<b>8.</b>	Bram Stoker Clontarf, D. 3	25	PEA / Focus	DCC
<b>9.</b>	Anna Livia, O’ Connell Street, Dublin 1.	38	PEA / Focus	DCC
<b>10.</b>	The Townhouse, Dublin 1	98	PEA / Focus	DCC
<b>11.</b>	Viking Lodge, Dublin 8.	30	PEA / Focus	DCC
<b>12.</b>	Chuan Álainn, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.	9	Respond	SDCC
<b>13.</b>	Abberley, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.	40	PEA / Focus	SDCC
<b>14.</b>	Malahide Road, Co. Dublin.	12	PMVT	Fingal
<b>15.</b>	Kylemore, Swords, Co. Dublin.	6	PMVT	Fingal
<b>16.</b>	Millmount, Dundrum, D. 14.	12	PEA / Focus	DLRCC
<b>17.</b>	Monkstown, Co. Dublin.	17	PMVT	DLRCC
	<b>Total</b>	<b>437</b>		

## 2. Emergency Accommodation Usage in the Dublin Region 2017 – Singles and Couples:

In December 2017, there were 2,150 emergency bed spaces in place for singles and couples.

The DRHE is fully cognisant of the potential impact of severe weather to people who are rough sleeping and every possible effort was made in 2017 to ensure that there is adequate emergency accommodation provision for those that seek it and every effort is made to ensure that no person is forced to sleep rough. Capacity has been expanded by 200+ permanent bed spaces with an additional 50 temporary bed spaces available for the winter period.

However, the number of people accessing emergency accommodation has been steadily increasing since mid November 2017 and, thanks to the expansion of services, the number of people sleeping rough has decreased (see Table 3 detailing the facilities that opened in 2017). This was evidenced throughout the Christmas and New Year period when there was spare capacity in emergency accommodation and anyone that looked for accommodation was facilitated.

However, the requirement for further expansion of emergency accommodation continues to be reviewed and with the continuation of new persons being assessed as homeless, it is likely that further accommodation options will be developed. The Dublin Region Homeless Executive contingency measures were triggered throughout 2017 during more extreme weather such as the recent cold spells. Extra spaces are available along with a number of communal spaces across a range of existing services that will provide temporary shelter for those that need it and who are willing to accept it.

**Table 3 - Additional Capacity for singles and couples delivered by year end 2017**

Premises	Operator	Type	Capacity
<b>Drumcondra D 9</b>	PMVT	STA	30
<b>Portobello</b>	PO	PEA	21
<b>Clonskeagh D 6</b>	Dub Simon	LTA	13
<b>Cabra Road D 7</b>	PMVT	STA	60
<b>Little Britain St D 7</b>	Depaul	STA	26
<b>Longfields D 2</b>	Dub Simon	STA	30
<b>Balfe Road D 12</b>	PMVT	STA	28
<b>Ellis Quay D 7</b>	PMVT	STA	10
<b>Total</b>			<b>218</b>
<b>*Tallaght, D. 24 - PMVT STA with capacity for 15 to open early 2018, which will bring the number of additional emergency beds progressed during 2017 to 233.</b>			

### 3. Overall Tenancies created in 2017 for people experiencing homelessness

In 2017 a total of 2,772 tenancies were secured for families (1,749) and singles / couples (1,023) either through Housing Assistance Payment tenancies or social housing allocations. A total of 1,434 households left emergency accommodation to take up tenancies while 1,338 households were assisted and prevented from entering emergency accommodation.

As detailed in Table 4, there were a total of 2,772 tenancies secured in 2017:

	HAP	Social Housing	Private Rented	TOTAL TENANCIES (households)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2,772</b>

Overall in 2017, 1,749 (63%) tenancies were secured for families and 1,023 (37%) tenancies were allocated to singles / couples (37%) including those prevented from entering homelessness and those exiting homelessness. To ensure those persons who take up tenancies are able to sustain those tenancies and avoid returning to homeless services, a range of visiting supports are available, including HAIL for persons with mental health issues or SLI (Support to Live Independently) which provides general support for a period of six months.

Departures from emergency accommodation continue to account for most tenancies (52%) while prevention accounts for 48% of tenancies created.

#### 3.1 Families exiting from Hotels / B&Bs in 2017:

Work continued throughout 2017 to reduce the duration of time families spent in commercial facilities. In 2017, 1,263 families moved from hotels / B&Bs to either Supported Temporary Accommodation or tenancies, as detailed in Table 5 below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
26	42	80	285	159	76	100	104	86	104	72	129	1,263

### 3.2 Social Housing - Dublin City Council

A record number of homeless households were housed by Dublin City Council in 2017. By the end of 2017 a total of 483 households were housed through social housing (including with Approved Housing Bodies). This figure includes a number of specific initiatives to reduce the number of homeless either in commercial hotels or rough sleeping. The breakdown is as follows:

- 189 Housed in Casual Vacancies
- 83 Rapid Build
- 183 Voluntary Housing
- 7 Long Term Leasing
- 21 Housing Agency Acquisitions

A sustainable approach was agreed to the new developments which allowed a tenancy mix in the new builds.

## 4. Prevention

The Prevention team continues to engage with families and singles who are seeking homeless accommodation to explore options to prevent them from entering homelessness. Furthermore, the Placefinders Team continue to seek to source Housing Assistance Payment tenancies in the Dublin Region. As detailed in Table 6, a total of 1,338 households were prevented from entering emergency accommodation and re-housed in 2017; 817 families and 521 singles / couples.

As we move into 2018, prevention will continue to be a priority for the Dublin Region Homeless Executive and we will strive to make more progress on the number of preventions realised in 2017.

**Table 6: All households (Singles and Families) prevented from entering homelessness by tenancy type: Jan – Dec 2017**

	HAP	Social Housing	Private Rented	TOTAL TENANCIES
<b>Total</b>	1,171	166	1	1,338

## 5. Reasons for family homelessness January to November 2017

The total number of new families who accessed emergency accommodation in the 11 month period from January to November 2017 was 913 (December figures not verified at the time

of writing this report). An analysis of these household's circumstances at presentation to the four local authorities in the Dublin Region reveals that:

- **48%** of families (n=414) stated that the primary reason for their experience of homelessness related to a loss or inability to secure private rented accommodation.
- **48%** of families (n=415) stated the primary reason for their homelessness was due to family circumstances including: overcrowding living situations; relationship breakdown; and general family circumstances.
- **4%** of families (n=30) left their accommodation for other reasons including no income source, victim of anti-social behaviour, etc.

Link to reports- <http://www.homelessdublin.ie/publications>

## **6. Engagement with People Who Are Sleeping Rough:**

The Housing First Intake team, which is funded by the DRHE, works with our Central Placement Service and the HSE funded Safety Net service to provide accommodation options, street level healthcare and prioritisation for accommodation under the Housing First programme.

The DRHE has increased the staffing in the team to allow them develop a patch approach in order to further build relationships with rough sleepers. Overall Housing First has continued to have a high housing retention rate of 91% among the 181 persons who have participated, of which 164 did not return to rough sleeping / emergency accommodation.

The new National Director for Housing First has been announced and will be appointed shortly. The National Director of Housing First will be responsible for coordinating and driving a national cross-Government approach to Housing First. The National Director for Housing First will report to the Director of Homeless Services and will be based in the Civic Offices.

**Eileen Gleeson**  
**Director of Dublin Region Homeless Executive**  
**1<sup>st</sup> February 2018**