



## 1 Dublin Region Homeless Executive Update

This report sets out the data collated and analysed by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) from January 2019 to November 2019. The DRHE provides funding to 22 Non Profit Organisations for in excess of 109 homeless services across the Dublin region. In addition, the DRHE coordinates and funds the provision of private emergency accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. The DRHE works to move people through emergency accommodation, supported with health and support services, towards a sustained exit from homelessness. This work is carried out through three main areas of operation, Prevention, Protection and Progression.

The DRHE would like to thank all our partners and statutory agencies for their continued support and cooperation. We work closely with them on a daily basis and, in 2019, working together we added an additional 300+ permanent beds for singles persons.

## 2 Families accessing Emergency Accommodation (EA)

### 2.1 Family Presentations

A total of 987 families (or an average of 90 families per month) entered emergency accommodation between January and November 2019. This represents a decrease when compared with the same period in 2018 when the average monthly number of presentations was 97. The monthly breakdown for 2018 and 2019 is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1.

Month	2018	2019
January	109	92
February	102	102
March	82	82
April	90	94
May	79	67
June	92	71
July	122	124
August	113	103
September	88	102
October	89	85
November	96	65
<b>Total to November 2018</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>987</b>
December	50	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>987</b>

While the number of families in need of emergency accommodation remains high, considerable progress has been made in relation to exits. From January 2019 to November 2019 a total of 1,030 families have exited emergency accommodation through the creation of new tenancies.

## 2.2 Families in Emergency Accommodation

In November there was 1,256 families in emergency accommodation across the Dublin region. This is the lowest number since June 2019 (1,249). Significant progress has also been made in reducing the number of families self-accommodating in hotels. In January 2019 there were 554 families self-accommodating and by December 2019 this figure has decreased to 424. There are 380 families being accommodated in family hub facilities across the region with these facilities offering better amenities to families until they can secure a longer term housing solution.

In addition, the DRHE has placed families and individuals in own door units. This type of accommodation allows families to live independently, while continuing to access housing advice and support. Although these families are not at risk of homelessness, they are receiving supports and DRHE staff continue to engage with them to support them into long-term tenancies. There are currently 202 families in these units and indications are that this number will continue to decrease in 2020.

## 2.3 Family Exits from Emergency Accommodation

In the context of the limited supply of social housing, work continues to exit people from homelessness. From January 2019 to November 2019, 1,030 families exited homelessness to tenancies, as detailed in Table 2. This figure has surpassed the total number of exits achieved in 2018, which was 780 families. Furthermore, in 2018 58% of families exited emergency accommodation to HAP tenancies, the remaining 42% exited to Local Authority Housing. In 2019 to date, the majority of exits, 59% (605) were sourced through the creation of Local Authority tenancies and the remaining 41% to HAP tenancies.

**Table 2.**

Timeframe	Housing Assistance Payment	Local Authority/ Approved Housing Bodies / Long Term Accommodation / Housing Agency Acquisition	Total
Jan - Nov 19	425	605	<b>1,030</b>

## 2.4 Supports Provided to Families in Emergency Accommodation:

Families in emergency accommodation are supported as follows:

- Hotels and B&Bs – The newly recruited Housing Support Officers working directly with families in hotels and B&B's supporting them to exit homelessness.
- Private Emergency Accommodation – Supports are provided by the Family Housing Assistance Team (FHAT). The team is currently operated, on behalf of the DRHE, by Focus Ireland.
- Supported Temporary Accommodation – Supports are provided by the NGO who operate each individual service.
- Family Hubs – Hubs operated by NGOs have staff assigned to support families out of homelessness. Where a hub is run by a private operator, the FHAT provide supports.

## 3 Single Adults Prevention & Presentations

### 3.1 Single Adults

In November there were 2,687 single adults in emergency accommodation in the Dublin region. Table 3 below gives a breakdown of the numbers of single people in emergency accommodation broken down by month up to November 2019.

Table 3.

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>2,572</b>	<b>2,493</b>	<b>2,481</b>	<b>2,508</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>2,687</b>

### 3.2 Presentations per month

Between January and November 2019 an average of 157 single adults entered emergency accommodation for the first time each month, a total of 1,727 individuals. The monthly breakdown is outlined in table 4 below.

Table 4.

Month (2019)	Total Singles
January	172
February	151
March	147
April	155
May	151
June	141
July	213
August	169
September	138
October	170
Nov 2019	120
<b>Total to Nov</b>	<b>1,727</b>

### 3.3 Single exits in 2019 by tenancy type

In the same period a total of 531 single adults exited emergency accommodation to tenancy. The monthly breakdown by tenancy type is outlined in Table 5 below:

**Table 5.**

Month	HAP	LA	LTA	Rapid Build	AHB	Housing Agency Acquisition	PR	RAS	Total Households
Jan-19	30	8	0	3	2	3	6	0	52
Feb-19	17	6	3	0	5	2	3	0	36
Mar-19	5	7	8	0	10	1	2	0	33
Apr-19	24	9	0	0	4	0	2	0	39
May-19	17	18	3	1	12	0	2	5	58
Jun-19	28	7	3	0	9	0	0	0	47
Jul-19	19	11	9	0	11	0	0	2	52
Aug-19	32	15	8	0	10	0	1	1	67
Sep-19	20	12	12	0	8	0	1	0	53
Oct-19	24	8	9	0	9	0	0	0	50
Nov-19	23	7	6	0	5	2	1	0	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>531</b>

In addition 659 adults were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the creation of a new tenancy. The monthly breakdown outlined in Table 6 below shows Single Adult Preventions in 2019 (prevented from entering EA through the creation of a new tenancy)

**Table 6.**

Month (2019)	Total Singles
January	55
February	51
March	63
April	61
May	60
June	61
July	69
August	68
September	54
October	56
Nov 2019	61
<b>Total to Nov</b>	<b>659</b>

### **3.4 Capacity**

Emergency accommodation capacity has increased over the last year to meet rising demand, with an increase of 300+ permanent beds for singles. However at the same time, we continue to work hard on advancing 'housing-led' solutions that effectively end the experience of homelessness. In the face of increased demand for access to available emergency accommodation, the rate of provision of affordable housing options to persons experiencing homelessness particularly singles in Dublin remains insufficient.

Bed capacity and increases in demand for accommodation are consistently monitored by staff in the DRHE. At times full capacity is reached early in the night, but beds become available at later stages due to bookings not being utilised. Throughout the Christmas and New Year period of 2019 / 2020 any person that requested accommodation was placed and there was spare capacity every night. To put this into context, over the Christmas period:

- The highest number of 109 empty beds was on a night in December 2019
- There was an average of 53 empty beds each night in December 2019
- There was an average of 19 empty beds each night in November 2019
- On average throughout 2019, there were 9 empty beds each night during the year.

## **4 Housing First**

The Dublin Region Housing First Service has housed 113 homeless individuals in 2019 up to the end November, of which 89% have successfully retained housing. The overall total number of individuals housed under Housing First is now 356. This Housing First service is delivered by the Peter McVerry Trust, with targets to deliver 405 additional Housing First tenancies over the three-year period to June 2022. A steady supply of single person units with the appropriate wraparound supports will be critical to accelerate this goal.

A Street Outreach Service, operated by Dublin Simon Community, is assertively engaging with people sleeping rough across the Dublin region. This service operates 365 days a year from 7am Mon-Fri/9am Sat-Sun until 1am. The team of outreach workers meet daily with people sleeping rough, including people in tents, to support them into temporary homeless accommodation. The National Director of Housing First has been supporting the eight regions outside Dublin to deliver Housing First in line with the Housing First National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2021. Housing First services are operating in Cork, Limerick, Galway and the South-East and Housing First providers have been appointed following tendering processes in the four remaining regions. The University of Limerick will shortly commence a National Evaluation of the Housing First programme.

## **5 The Winter 2019 Rough Sleeping Count**

The Winter 2019 Rough Sleeping Count (RSC) took place on the night of Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November into the morning of Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. The results from the count show that there were 90 individuals sleeping rough across the Dublin Region on that night. (Winter 2018; 156 and Spring 2019; 128 were counted rough sleeping). Of the 90 individuals 63 were male, 17 were female and the remaining 10 individuals were not identified.

This huge reduction in the numbers of people counted as sleeping rough can be attributed to the assertive on street engagement by the Dublin Simon Outreach Team and the PMVT Housing First Intake team, working in cooperation with the DRHE outreach team. (Please note; a provisional figure of 92 was reported, following the completion of the verification process 2 duplicates were identified and removed).

## **6 Reasons for family homelessness – January 2019 to June 2019**

In the first six months of 2019, a total of 508 new families were accommodated in emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region whom had no active or previous PASS record, i.e. they were 'new' to homelessness. A review of the initial assessments conducted with families upon their presentation to homeless services reveals two primary reasons for homelessness;

1. Leaving private rented accommodation on foot of a Notice of Termination (NOT) and
2. Leaving family or friend's accommodation due to relationship breakdown or overcrowding.

A small number of families reported 'other' reasons for their presentation to homeless services.

- 47% (n=232) gave the primary reason for their presentation to homeless services related to a loss or inability to secure private rented accommodation;
- 43% (n=213) attributed their presentation to homeless services because of family circumstances including: overcrowding living situations; relationship breakdown; and general family circumstances;
- 10% of families (n=46) reported 'other' reasons for their presentation to homeless services;
- There was insufficient information available for the remaining 17 families.

*\*2 detailed reports on families' experience of homelessness are available at*

<https://www.homelessdublin.ie/info/publications>

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