



1. Dublin Region Homeless Executive Update

This report sets out the data collated and analysed by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) from January 2020 to April 2020. On behalf of the four Dublin Authorities, 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 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.

As always, the DRHE would like to thank our partners and statutory agencies for their continued support and co-operation. The strong level of collaboration between our statutory and non-statutory partners, the HSE, the other Dublin local authorities has enabled us to source much needed additional accommodation over the past number of weeks to ensure we reduced the risk of Covid-19 infection within the homeless population. In this regard, it is acknowledged that there has been a major success in safeguarding homeless households, as the level of positive cases amongst the homeless population remains very low.

In a report to Councillors in May, we outlined in detail the accommodation sourced for COVID-19 and we will continue to keep you briefed as we progress through this challenging situation.

2 Families accessing Emergency Accommodation (EA)

2.1 Family Presentations

There are currently 974 families in emergency accommodation and this is the lowest number recorded since June 2016. It is anticipated that there will be a further reduction in the May numbers.

A total of 230 families entered emergency accommodation for the first time between January and April 2020. This represents an average of **57** families per month and, is a significant decrease, when compared to the same period last year (January – April 2019) when the average monthly number of new family presentations was **92**. The number also represents a continuing downward trend from the

2018 number of families presenting, which was 383 for the January to April period, or an average of **96** families per month.

The monthly breakdown of families presenting for the comparable periods 2019 and 2020, is outlined in table 2.1 below

Table 2.1

Month	2019	2020
January	92	94
February	102	80
March	82	42
April	94	14
Total	370	230

While we acknowledge the number of families in need of emergency accommodation remains higher than we would like, considerable progress has been made and continues to be made. Between January and April 2020, 783 families were either prevented from entering emergency accommodation or exited emergency accommodation to new tenancies. Table 2.2 represents the family exits from emergency accommodation to tenancies and Table 2.3 represents the total number of preventions achieved.

Table 2.2

Month	Total Families
January	106
February	146
March	98
April	122
Total	472

Table 2.3

Month	Total Families
January	77
February	91
March	81
April	62
Total	311

2.2 Families in Emergency Accommodation

While there were 974 families in emergency accommodation across the Dublin region in April 2020, significant progress has been made in reducing the number of families self-accommodating to 316.

There are a further 331 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 some 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 the DRHE staff continue to engage with them to support them into long-term social housing solutions.

2.3 Family Exits from Emergency Accommodation

The DRHE continues to work tirelessly to assist households to secure longer term social housing solutions and, as a result, no longer need emergency accommodation. A total of 472 families exited from emergency accommodation to tenancies between January and April 2020 (see Table 2.4 below). This is considerably higher than the same period in 2019 when 222 households secured tenancies.

Table 2. 4

Timeframe	Housing Assistance Payment	Local Authority/ Approved Housing Bodies / Long Term Accommodation / Housing Agency Acquisition	Total
January 2020	34	72	106
February 2020	52	94	146
March 2020	51	47	98
April 2020	64	58	122
Total	201	271	472

In addition to the above, 311 families were prevented from entering homelessness during the same period.

Table 2.5

Month	Total families prevented
January	77
February	91
March	81
April	62
Total	311

3. Single Adults Prevention & Presentations

3.1 Single Adults

As of the end of April 2020, there are 2,854 single adults in emergency accommodation. This number is down slightly on number of 2,906 last month, and all indications are that this number will have decreased further in May.

3.2 Presentations per month

Between January and April 2020, an average of 145 single adults per month entered emergency accommodation for the first time, which totals 582 individuals to the end of April 2020. The number of newly homeless single adults is declining month on month – See Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1

2020	Total Singles
January	216
February	160
March	108
April	99
Total	582

3.3 Single exits in 2020 by tenancy type

So far in 2020, the number of single adults who have exited emergency accommodation to a tenancy is 246. Table 3.2 below represents the exits between January and April 2020.

Table 3.2

Month	Singles
January	43
February	68
March	39
April	96
Total	246

Table 3.3

Month 2020	Total Singles
January	53
February	64
March	70
April	45
Total	232

Alongside Table 3.2, Table 3.3 shows the number of adults prevented from entering emergency accommodation by securing of tenancies and avoiding homelessness. The prevention figure for the same period in 2019 was 230 and 174 during the same period in 2018.

Table 3.4 – Single EXITS from EA to tenancies Jan – Apr 2020 (No Preventions)

Tenancy Type Jan – Apr 2020									
Local Authority	HAP	LA	LTA	Rapid Build	AHB	Housing Agency Acquisition	PR	RAS	TOTAL Households Single Adults
January 2020	24	8	5	0	2	1	3	0	43
February 2020	32	19	2	0	11	1	3	0	68
March 2020	23	7	5	0	3	0	1	0	39
April 2020	33	56	2	0	3	0	2	0	96
Total	112	90	14	0	19	2	9	0	246

4. Capacity

Emergency accommodation capacity has increased over the last year to meet the rising demand. Staff in the DRHE consistently monitor bed capacity and the emerging trends in order to meet the demand for accommodation. All emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region is now operated on a 24-hour basis, with meals provided. In addition, all bookings into emergency accommodation are now on a rolling or longer term placement.

The DRHE has, in the past number of weeks, sourced a number of new facilities providing emergency accommodation. This new accommodation has enabled us to reduce the concentration of individuals (sharing) in our existing emergency accommodation and facilitated improved safe distancing options. The numbers residing in higher concentrated congregated settings has significantly reduced as a result of this strategy.

However, we continue to work 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 in Dublin, particularly singles, remains insufficient.

5. Housing First

25 homeless individuals were provided with permanent social housing by the four local authorities, under the Housing First Programme, in March and April 2020. This brings the total Housing First numbers to 324 in the Dublin Region. The Housing First Programme is delivered by the Peter McVerry Trust, who supports homeless individuals into housing and provides them with wrap around tenancy and health supports in order to sustain their home.

A Street Outreach Service, operated by Dublin Simon Community, on behalf of the DRHE, assertively engages with people sleeping rough across the Dublin Region. This service operates 365 days a year from 7am - 1am Monday to Friday and 9am – 1am Saturday and Sunday. Outreach teams meet with people sleeping rough, including people in tents, to support them into temporary accommodation. The Outreach Service works in close collaboration with Housing First. The team bring sandwiches and snacks along with clean clothes, hand sanitisers and face masks to anyone sleeping rough.

6. Showers

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, while day services are unable to operate their full range of services, the Street Outreach Service run by Dublin Simon Community is offering showering facilities to people who are rough sleeping and not accessing accommodation. The Outreach Team will bring the person to a showering facility run by Dublin Simon Community and provide them with toiletries, towels and fresh clothing as required. However, the priority remains to support people into emergency accommodation where showers, meals and other supports are available onsite.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the DRHE, on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities, is the lead agency with responsibility for responding to homelessness across the Dublin region. We operate in a challenging landscape and work closely with the four local authorities and all relevant stakeholders to respond to and, where possible, prevent homelessness.

While we are not through the COVID 19 period yet, and there may be many more challenges that will come our way, we are confident that along with our partners, we will continue our efforts to minimise the risk of Covid-19 infection within the homeless population.

The past few weeks have shown just how challenging this landscape can be. We would like to acknowledge the dedication and resilience of our staff and to thank our Statutory and non-Statutory partners, who have been working hard to maintain all homeless services over the past weeks.

The necessity to work collaboratively is recognised and appreciated by all stakeholders and we will continue to work together to provide sustainable solutions to homelessness, driving a housing led approach, while also providing the ancillary supports required to help people to exit homelessness.

Eileen Gleeson,

Director, Dublin Regional Homeless Executive

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