

Report to Housing SPC

Date: Friday 10th March 2017

Item No. 5

Homelessness Update

Use of Commercial Hotels

In 2016 a total cost for the use of commercial hotels for accommodating people experiencing homelessness was €38,941,522.43. Approximately 190 hotels were used for this purpose over this period.

Moves to Tenancies - 2016

In 2016 a total of 1,833 individuals moved from homelessness into tenancies. This was an increase on the 2015 number of 1,059. The 2016 number includes 974 Homeless Housing Assistance Payment (Homeless HAP) tenancies.

Strategy for the Provision of Accommodation for Families Experiencing Homelessness

The DRHE are coordinating a regional response to the Minister's commitment to end the use of commercial hotels for families by July.

In January 2017, there were 1,007 families with 2,046 children in homeless accommodation. These figures include 764 families with 1,551 children living in commercial hotels, and 243 families with 495 children living in other homeless accommodation. Of these families 335 were self-accommodating, meaning these families sourced their accommodation directly with hotels.

This delivery of accommodation is being pursued through a suite of housing provision options. These options include the Rapid Build Programme and the provision of new Local Authority owned units. There are currently 130 Rapid Build units and 70 Local Authority units under construction. Other options being pursued include Approved Housing Body leasing arrangements, Housing Agency acquisitions and the recently introduced Repair and Leasing Scheme.

In addition the following initiatives are ongoing:

The Development of new Supported Temporary Accommodation Facilities for Families

These new facilities will meet the needs of families who are currently experiencing homelessness and will provide a range of facilities which will support families in a more family friendly environment. Food will be served daily in the dining area of all facilities with a menu of healthy options available for both breakfast and dinner. A dedicated private room will be available in each facility for key working staff who will liaise on a regular basis with families and support them on their transition to more permanent housing. Recreational space, both internal and external (where possible) will be created for children to play. Access to computers and free wifi will be available and a dedicated homework room will also be available for children to study. Each family unit will have ensuite facilities. Communal laundry facilities will also be available.

Opportunities to secure new facilities for families continue to be explored. In February work commenced on one such in Clonliffe Rd. Drumcondra. This facility will be operated by Crosscare and will provide accommodation for approximately 50 families to include play space, cooking and laundry facilities and communal recreation space. Additional supports will also be available for families as they transition to other housing options that become available for them.

Homeless Housing Assistance Payment

Families who are experiencing homelessness will continue to be offered Homeless HAP, where appropriate, to assist them to secure a tenancy in the private rented sector. In January 2017, 22 families, including 12 families who were accommodated in commercial hotels and B& Bs, moved to tenancies through Homeless HAP. Details of all allocations to families experiencing homelessness in January 2017 are outlined below.

Dublin Region Allocations - Families

Type of Allocation					
Allocations - Families (January 2017)	Homeless HAP	LA/AHB	LTA	Private Rented	Allocations to Households
Families in Hotel / B&B	12	9	0	1	22
Families in STA/TEA	0	9	0	0	9
Families - did not access EA *	10	1	0	0	11
Total Allocations in the region	22	19	0	1	42

