

1. Dublin Region Homeless Executive Update

This report provides an overview of the data collated and analysed by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) from January 2019 to February 2019. The DRHE provides funding to 21 Non Profit Organisations for in excess of 108 services across the Dublin Region. In addition, the DRHE coordinates and funds the provision of private emergency accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. The DRHE drives a housing led approach to homelessness on a regional basis in conjunction with service providers throughout the sector. The DRHE works to move people through emergency accommodation with health and support services towards a sustained exit from homelessness. This work is carried out through three main areas of operation:-



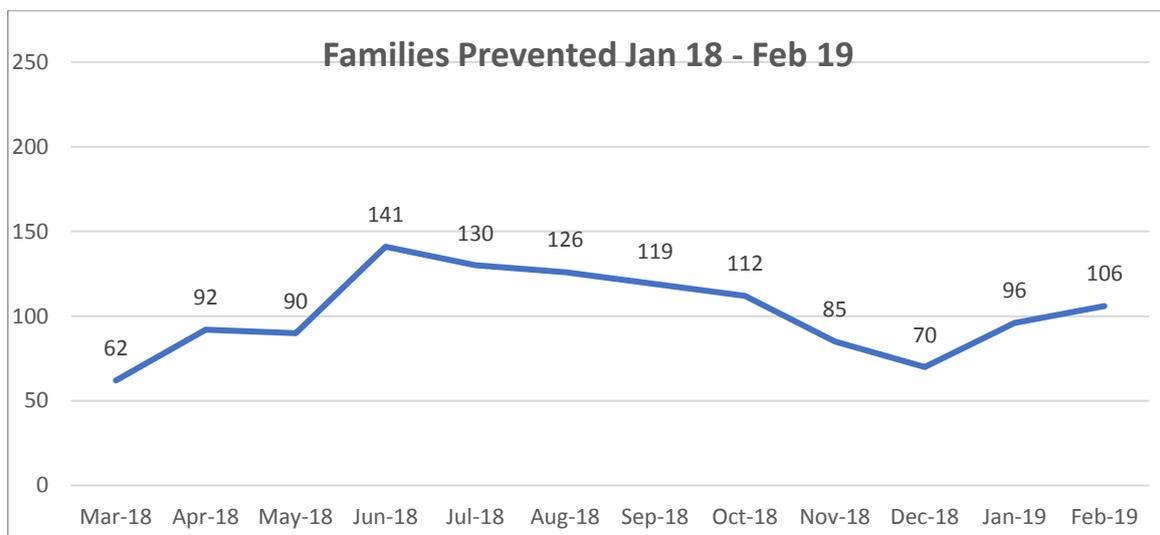
2. Prevention

Homelessness prevention continues to be a priority for the DRHE, our Prevention team engage with people presenting as homeless and work with them to prevent an episode of homelessness occurring. In January and February 2019, **308 households** (202 families with 384 children and 106 singles) were prevented from entering homelessness; this represents a **26%** increase on the January – February 2018 prevention figure of 244 households.

The main source of homeless prevention are tenancies created through the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). **85%** (263) of the 308 prevention tenancies were sourced through HAP, a 17% increase on the number of HAP prevention tenancies created in January to February 2018 (224). The introduction of Homeless HAP and the Place-finder service has been hugely important in driving additional capacity and effectiveness of HAP as a preventative option.

Figure 1 shows that the trend in the number of families prevented from becoming homeless dipped at the end of 2018, with a steady increase in January and February 2019.

Figure 1



2.1 DRHE Prevention Team

In 2017, the DRHE set up a designated homeless prevention team that work with families presenting as homeless to find an alternative solution to entering emergency accommodation. In 2019 thus far, the team met with 251 families and prevented 79 of these families from entering homeless services.

2.2 Presentations

In 2018, there was an average of 186 families per month presenting to homeless services. In 2019 to date, 396 new families have presented to homeless services. **Table 1** shows that 53% of family presentations were prevented from becoming homeless with 47% of families entering emergency accommodation. This clearly illustrates the importance of homeless prevention as one of the DRHE’s key strategies. **Figure 2** also highlights that family presentations to homeless services declined from August to December 2018 but have risen significantly in February 2019, the highest number of presentations since August 2018.

Table 1

Total Family Presentations, Preventions and Entry into Emergency Accommodation (EA), Mar 2018 – Feb 2019													
Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
Preventions	62	92	90	141	130	126	119	112	85	70	96	106	1,229
Entered EA	82	90	79	92	122	113	88	89	96	50	92	102	1,095
Total Presentations	144	182	169	233	252	239	207	201	181	120	188	208	2,324

3. Protection – Emergency Accommodation

3.1 Overview of all Households accessing EA, January – February 2019

Table 2 below provides an overview of the numbers of adults (singles & couples), families and children in all Emergency Accommodation (EA) from January to February 2019.

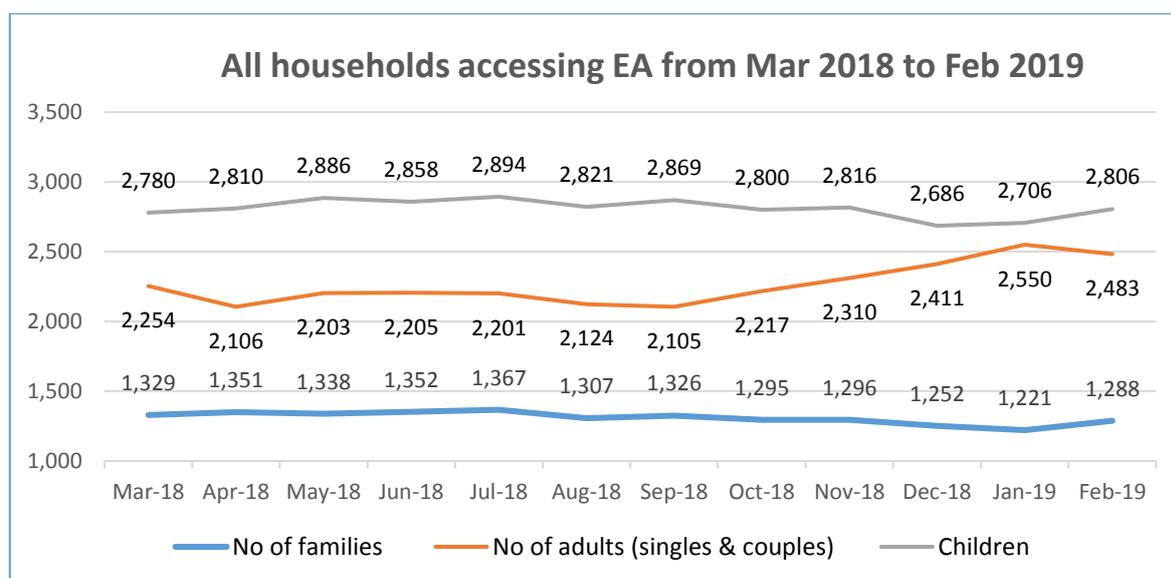
Table 2

Month	No. of families	No. of individual adults in families	No. of children in families	No. of adults (singles & couples)
Jan-19	1,221	1,708	2,706	2,550
Feb-19	1,288	1,825	2,806	2,600

Figure 2 illustrates the households accessing emergency accommodation broken down by category i.e. family, single adults and children for the period March 2018 to February 2019. It clearly shows the increase in February 2019 of 67 families. The number of children also increased from December 2018 to February 2019 by 120 across all emergency accommodation. The increase in family presentations as illustrated above in **Table 1** coupled with a lower number of exits to tenancy for families in February (detailed in **Figure 6**), have contributed to the overall increase in the number of families accessing emergency accommodation.

The figure also highlights a substantial upward trend in the number of individuals accessing EA since October 2018 with a decrease in February 2019. This increase is, in the main, due to the DRHE's expansion of emergency accommodation for singles, which in the last quarter of 2018 increased by in excess of 300 beds.

Figure 2



3.2 Families accessing Emergency Accommodation January – February 2019

The number of families in all emergency accommodation is categorised by type for February 2019 as detailed in **Table 3**. Significant progress has been achieved in moving families from hotels / B&Bs to Family Hubs, currently there are approximately 392 families residing in Family Hub Type Accommodation across the Dublin Region.

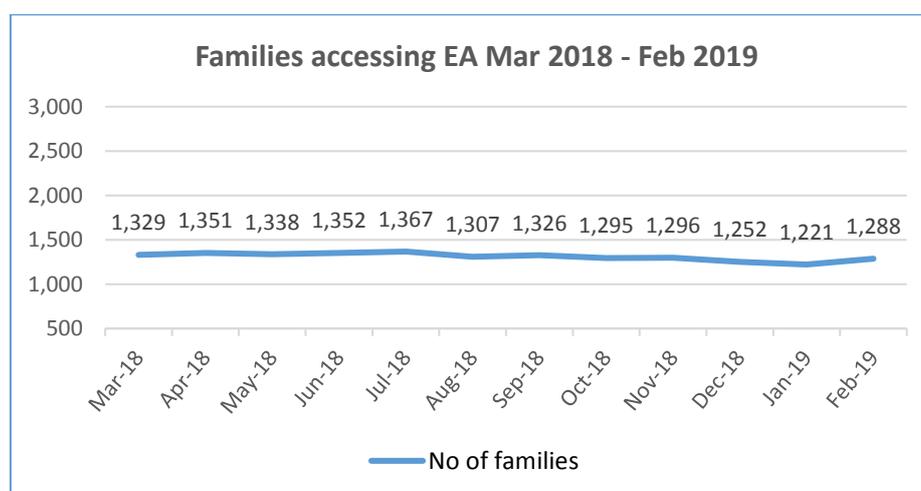
In addition, rather than placing families in emergency accommodation, the DRHE has been endeavouring to place families and individuals in fully furnished, own door units that allow families to live independently. Although they are not at risk of homelessness or in emergency accommodation, these families are receiving supports and staff continue to engage with them to support them into long-term tenancies. There are currently 217 families with 617 children in these units.

Table 3

February 2019	No. of families with children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Children
Hotels and B&Bs	740	1,079	1,724
Private Emergency Accommodation	114	153	215
Supported Temporary Accommodation	42	56	86
Family Hubs	392	537	781
Total	1,288	1,825	2,806

Figure 3 below illustrates that over the last twelve months the number of families in Emergency Accommodation peaked in July 2018 and remained relatively stable until February 2019, which saw a significant increase of 67 families. Notwithstanding, **Figure 3** also demonstrates that in the twelve month period the net figure for families residing in emergency accommodation shows a decrease of 3.1%, n = 41.

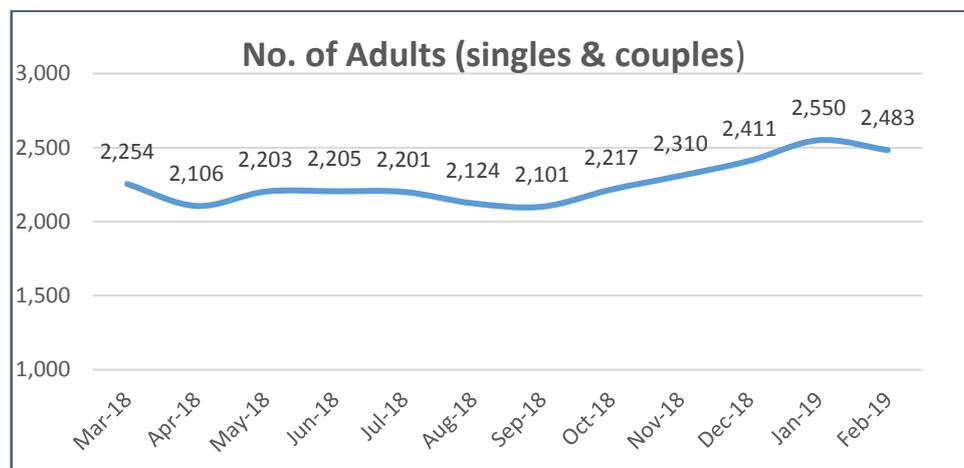
Figure 3



3.5 Individuals accessing Emergency Accommodation September 2018 – February 2019

Across the Dublin Region for the month of February 2019, the number of singles accessing all emergency accommodation types in the Dublin Region was 2,483. **Figure 4** highlights a significant upward trend in the number of individuals accessing EA since October 2018 with a decrease in February 2019. This increase is, in the main, due to the DRHE's expansion of emergency accommodation for singles, which in the last quarter of 2018 increased by in excess of 300 beds. During the twelve-month period March 2018 to February 2019, 680 singles were prevented from becoming homeless and 481 singles exited emergency accommodation to tenancy.

Figure 4



Our temporary accommodation capacity increased in 2018 to meet rising demand but at the same time, we continued to work hard on advancing 'housing-led' solutions that effectively end the experience of homelessness. However, 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 remains insufficient.

The requirement to expand emergency accommodation is under constant review and the DRHE is fully cognisant of the impact of severe weather at this time of year on people sleeping rough. In November, the DRHE activated the Cold Weather Strategy 2019. The approach has been two fold, existing emergency accommodation capacity has expanded and we continue to deliver a targeted response to people who are long-term rough sleeping and people who may not be in regular contact with services.

Bed capacity and increases in demand for accommodation are consistently monitored throughout the day and night 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.

3.6 *Housing First*

The Dublin Housing First Regional Service has housed 258 homeless individuals to end February 2019, of which 86% have successfully retained housing. This service was recently re-tendered with targets to deliver 405 additional Housing First tenancies over the next three years. A complementary Street Outreach Service will assertively engage with people sleeping rough across the Dublin region and support them into temporary accommodation. The National Director of Housing First has been supporting the eight regions outside Dublin to commence delivery in line with the Housing First National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2021. Our shared goal of ending rough sleeping and long-term homelessness in Dublin is dependent on the expansion of the Housing First Programme over the next few years. A steady supply of single person units with the necessary wraparound supports will be critical to accelerate this goal.

4. Progression - Exits from Emergency Accommodation

4.1 *Households exiting homelessness to tenancy*

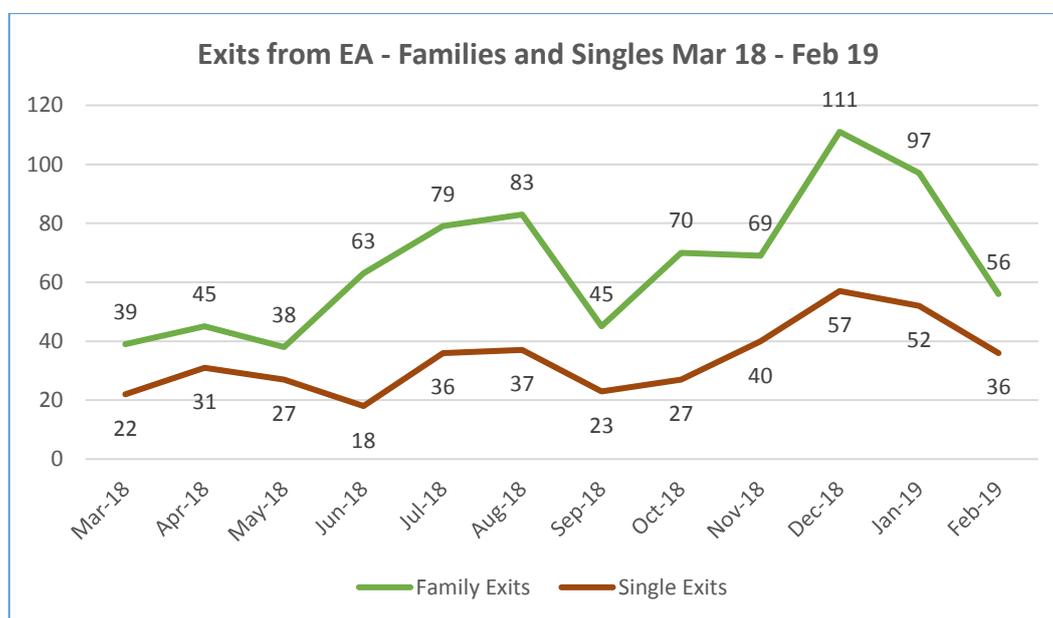
In the context of limited supply of social housing, work continues to exit people from homelessness. To date in 2019, **241** households (families and individuals) exited homelessness to tenancies as detailed in **Table 4**.

Table 4

Month	Housing Assistance Payment	Local Authority/ Approved Housing Bodies / Long Term Accommodation / Housing Agency Acquisition	Private Rented	Total Households
Jan - Feb 19	120	112	9	241

Figure 5 below illustrates the number of exits from homelessness to tenancy for both families and singles across the Dublin Region, the main source of these tenancy exits is through the Housing Assistance Payment. As detailed, the number of exits varies monthly and is dependent on supply of social housing options. From January to February 2019, 153 families moved from hotels / B&B's and Supported Temporary Accommodation to tenancies. **Figure 5** however also shows a decrease in the number of family exits in February 2019, for both HAP and Local Authority lettings.

Figure 5



Work to exit households from homelessness is an essential aspect of the DRHE function and directly contributes to the overall net decrease in families accessing emergency accommodation over the last twelve months referred to in **Figure 4** above. **Table 5** details the Emergency Accommodation status of the families that exited homelessness.

Table 5

Month	Number of families who moved from hotel / B&B to tenancy	Number of families who moved STA / HUBs to tenancy	Total families exited to tenancy
Jan - Feb 19	76	77	153

5. Reasons for family homelessness – September 2018 to February 2019

The total number of new families who accessed emergency accommodation in the six-month period from September 2018 to February 2019 was 517. An analysis of these household's circumstances, at presentation, to homeless services across the four local authorities in the Dublin Region reveals that:

- 40.62% (n=210) gave the primary reason for their presentation to homeless services related to a loss or inability to secure private rented accommodation.
- 40.81% (n=211) attributed their presentation to homeless services because of family circumstances including: overcrowding living situations; relationship breakdown; and general family circumstances.
- 8.51% of families (n=44) reported 'other' reasons for their presentation to homeless services.
- There was insufficient information available for the remaining 52 families (10.06%).

Table 6: Reasons for family homelessness, September 2018 – February 2019

	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Total
Private Rented Sector	39	48	43	14	27	39	210
Family Circumstance	41	32	42	24	37	35	211
Other	5	5	9	6	12	7	44
Missing/incomplete information	3	4	2	6	16	21	52
TOTAL new family presentations	88	89	96	50	92	102	517

6. Challenges

- *Demand on Services*

In the twelve month period March 2018 to February 2019, 2,324 families presented to homeless services and 53% of these families were prevented from entering emergency accommodation. Data from the DRHE illustrates that in excess of 40% of families entering homelessness are coming from the private rented sector. Prevention alone is not sufficient, the strengthened role of the RTB in the area of enforcement is essential to ensure that additional protections for tenants are operating as intended. The provisions in the new Rental Tenancies (Amendment) Bill will allow the RTB to be more proactive in taking enforcement action, without relying on tenants to initiate cases.

- *Supply*

An increase in the overall supply of social housing is critical to addressing homelessness in the longer-term and is crucial in both preventing people from entering homelessness and exiting emergency accommodation. The delivery of single person social housing over the coming years is essential in terms of addressing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and for the expansion of Housing First. There are currently more singles adults in emergency accommodation than adults in families.

- *Complexities of homelessness*

We are continuing to work closely with the HSE so that the appropriate support services and living arrangements are provided for people in emergency accommodation, however progress is slow. It is clear that there are a range of extensive medical needs present for people in both long and short-term emergency accommodation. Many vulnerable people such as those released from hospital, state care and prison often have no other option than to present as homeless. Specific care packages and additional step down facilities are required to relieve the pressure on homeless services.

Eileen Gleeson
Director of Dublin Region Homeless Executive
April 2019