



1. Dublin Region Homeless Executive Update

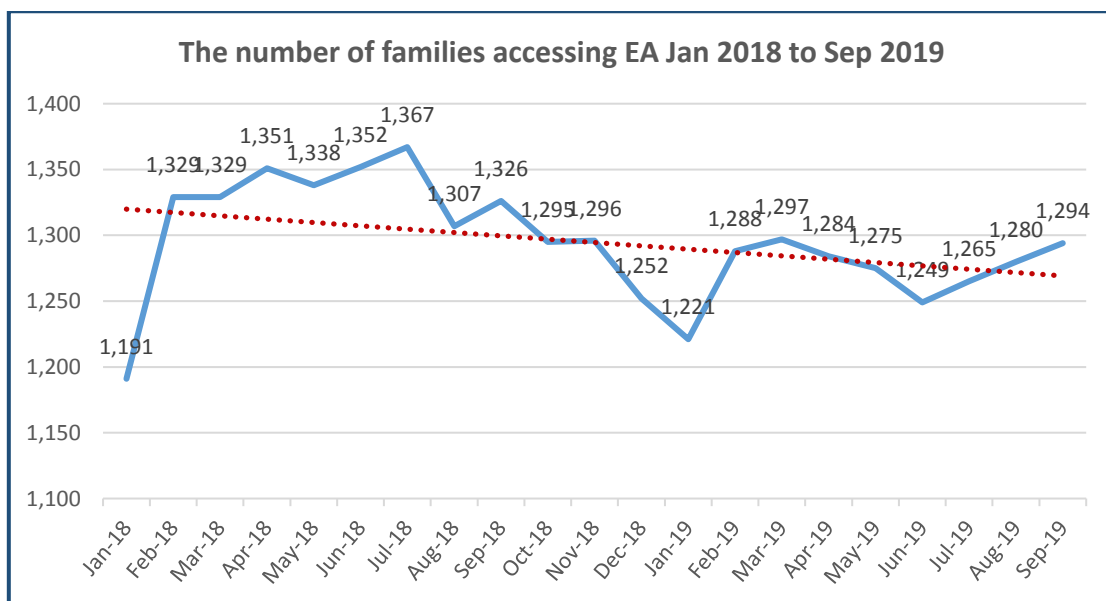
This report provides an overview of the data collated and analysed by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE). The DRHE provides funding to 22 Non Profit Organisations for in excess of 109 homeless services across the Dublin Region. In addition, the DRHE coordinates and funds the provision of private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

2. Protection - Families accessing Emergency Accommodation (EA)

2.1 Families accessing EA January 2018 - September 2019

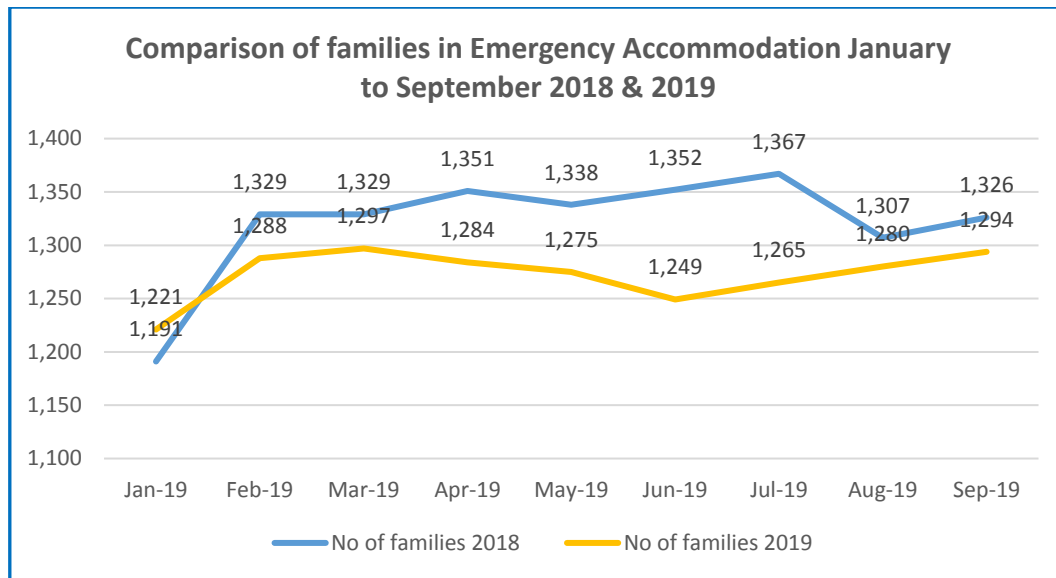
There are currently 1,294 families with 2,872 children residing in EA across the Dublin Region. **Figure 1** below clearly illustrates the **downward trend** in the number of families accessing emergency accommodation during the period January 2018 to September 2019.

Figure 1



The graph shows that the number of families accessing EA peaked in July 2018 to 1,367 and has since continued to fluctuate and the general trend appears to be dropping. **Figure 2** details the comparison between the average number of families per month staying in EA for the first nine months of 2018 and 2019 and highlights a **decrease of 3.6%** from 1,321 to 1,273.

Figure 2



2.2 Family Presentations

In 2018, a monthly average of 186 families presented to homeless services, compared to an average of 178 families per month so far in 2019. **Table 1** shows that to date in 2019, 1,615 new families presented to homeless services, of which **48% were prevented** from becoming homeless and 51% of the families entered emergency accommodation.

Table 1

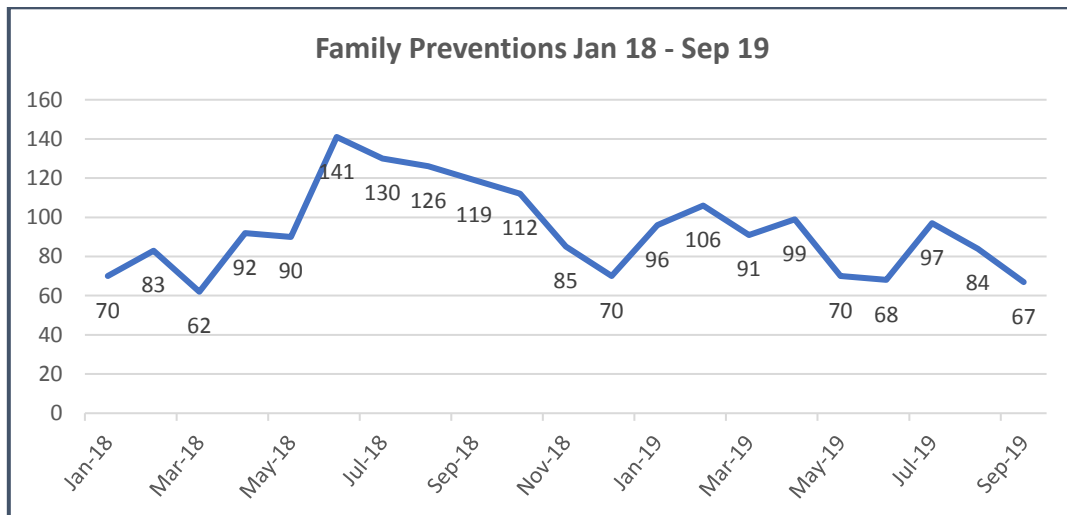
Families Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total
Preventions	96	106	91	99	70	68	97	84	67	778
Entered EA	92	102	82	94	67	71	116	102	102	828
Total Presentations	188	208	173	193	137	139	213	186	169	1,606

3. Homeless Prevention – Families

The work carried out in homeless prevention continues to be a priority for the DRHE, our prevention team meet with people presenting as homeless and work with them to prevent an episode of homelessness occurring. From January to September 2019, **778 families** with **1,438 children** were prevented from becoming homeless.

The main source of homeless prevention are tenancies created through the Homeless Housing Assistance Payment (AHAP). **92%** of the 778 tenancies were sourced through HHAP. The DRHE has enhanced the Place-finder service across the Dublin region to support households who are at risk of becoming homeless. **Figure 2** shows the numbers of families prevented from entering homelessness during the period January 18 to September 19. The fluctuating availability of suitable properties in the private rented market directly influences the sourcing of HHAP tenancies.

Figure 3



In 2017, the DRHE established a designated homeless prevention team that work with families presenting as homeless to find an alternative solution to entering emergency accommodation. From January to September 2019, the team met with 414 families and prevented 320 of these families from entering homeless services. Some of these are included in the above figures and other families were prevented by alternative options such as; remaining in the family home, renewal of tenancy and / or renegotiation with landlord.

4. Progression of families through homelessness

The number of families in all emergency accommodation is categorised by type for September 2019 as detailed in **Table 2**. Significant progress has been achieved in moving families from hotels / B&Bs to Family Hubs, there are approximately 396 families with 776 children residing in Family Hub Type Accommodation across the Dublin Region. In addition, the newly appointed Housing Support Officers are working directly with families in hotels / B&B's and supporting them to exit homelessness.

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. These families are not at risk of homelessness and the Family Support Team continue to engage with them and provide appropriate supports. There are currently 214 families with 589 children in these units.

Table 2

September 2019	No. of families with children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Children
Hotels and B&Bs	752	1,124	1,774
Private Emergency Accommodation	106	147	230
Supported Temporary Accommodation	40	53	92
Family Hubs	396	538	776
Total	1,294	1,862	2,872

3.1 Families exiting homelessness to tenancy

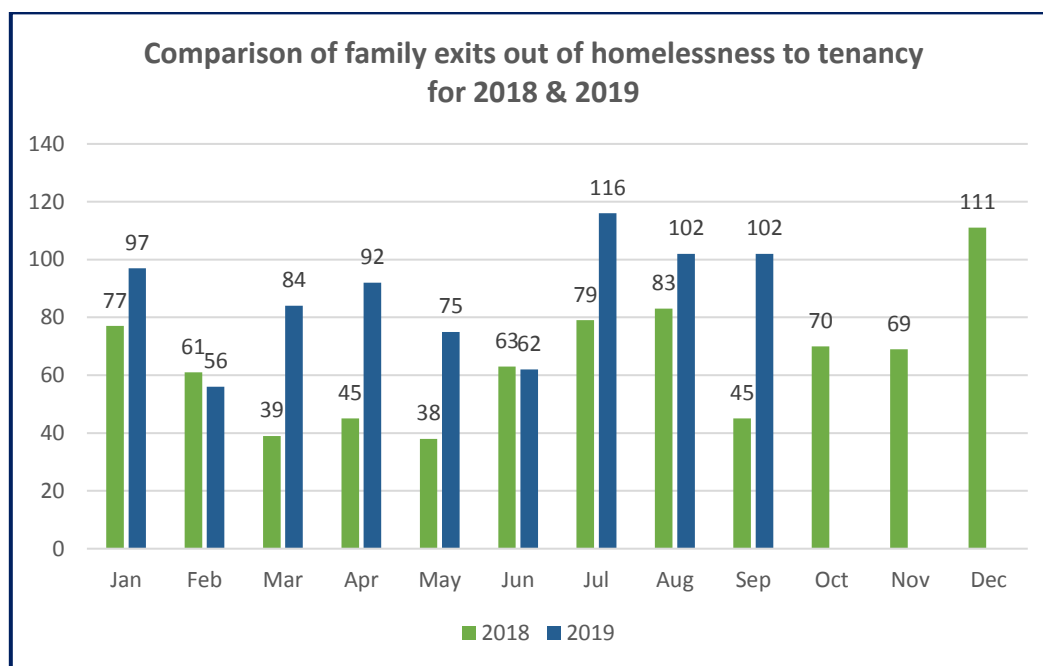
In the context of limited supply of social housing, work continues to exit people from homelessness. From January 2019 to September 2019, **787 families** with **1,820 children** exited homelessness to tenancy as detailed in **Table 3**. This figure has already surpassed the total number of exits achieved in 2018, which was 780 families. Furthermore, in 2018 the main exit option for households was via the HAP scheme. In contrast, in 2019 to date, 58% (454) of exits were sourced through the creation of Local Authority/ Approved Housing Bodies / Long Term Accommodation / Housing Agency Acquisition tenancies.

Table 3

Timeframe	Housing Assistance Payment	Local Authority/ Approved Housing Bodies / Long Term Accommodation / Housing Agency Acquisition	Total
Jan - Sep 19	333	454	787

Figure 4 highlights the **48% increase** in the number of families exiting homelessness to tenancies for the period January to September 2018 and the same period in 2019. The primary source of these tenancy exits is through Local Authority / Approved Housing Bodies / Long Term Accommodation / Housing Agency Acquisition tenancies. As detailed, the number of exits varies monthly and is dependent on supply of social housing options.

Figure 4



5. 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; leaving private rented accommodation on foot of a Notice of Termination (NOT) and 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

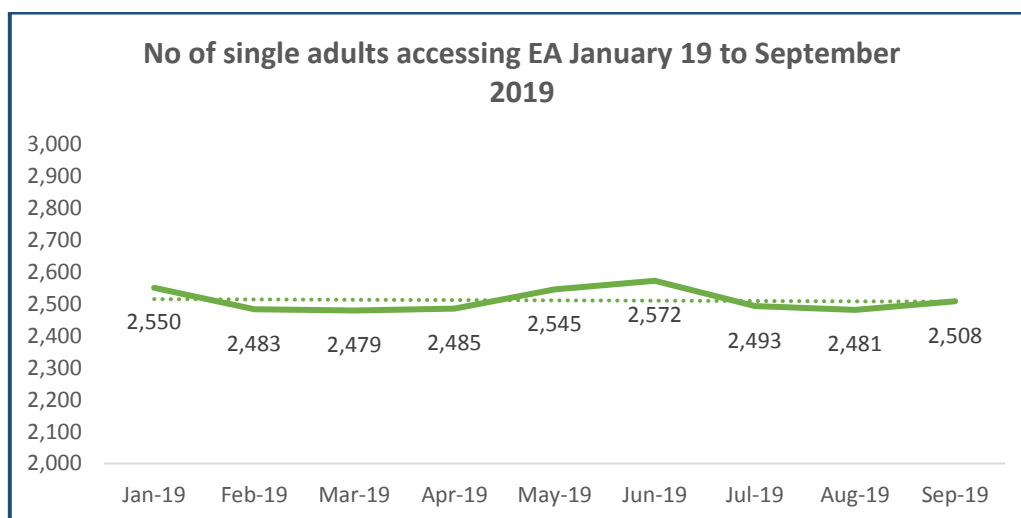
<https://www.homelessdublin.ie/info/publications>

6. Protection - Individuals accessing EA January 2019 to September 2019

5.1 Individuals accessing Emergency Accommodation January 2019 – September 2019

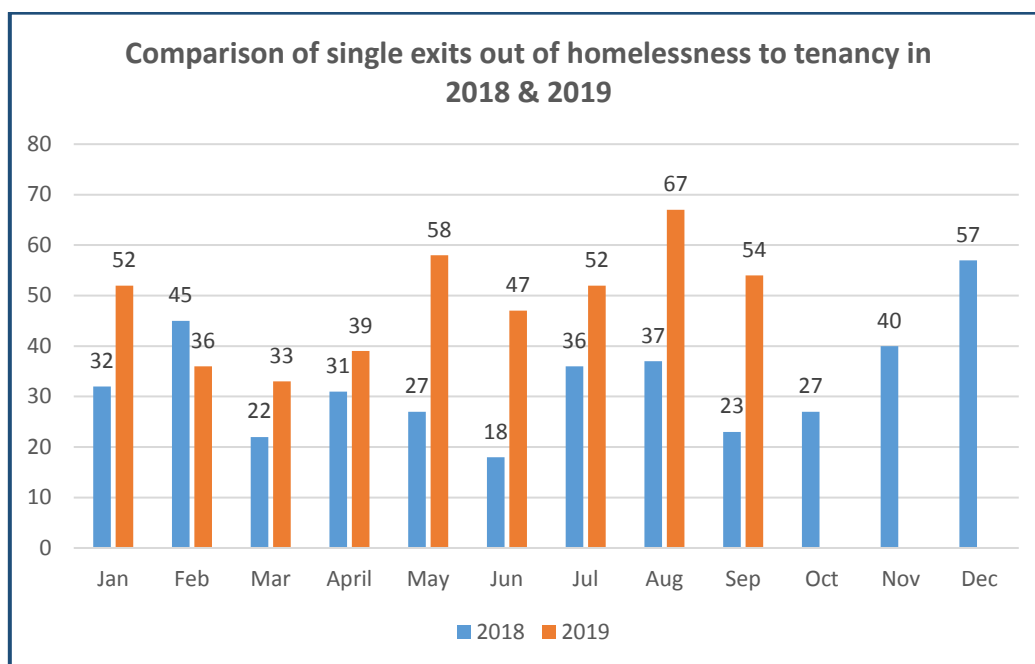
Across the Dublin Region for the month of September 2019, the number of single adults accessing emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region was 2,508. **Figure 4** highlights that the number of individuals accessing EA has not significantly changed through the period January 2019 to September 2019.

Figure 4



During the same nine-month period, **539 singles were prevented** from becoming homeless and **438 singles exited** emergency accommodation to tenancy. Again as with the family exits the number of singles exiting homelessness has also very significantly increased on the figures from 2018. There has been a **64% increase** in the number of single exits from homelessness to tenancy for the period January to September 2019, compared to the same timeframe in 2018 as highlighted in **Figure 5**.

Figure 5



Our temporary accommodation capacity has increased over the last year to meet rising demand but at the same time, we continue 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 particularly singles in Dublin remains insufficient.

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.

7. Dublin Outreach & Housing First

7.1 Dublin Outreach

Dublin Outreach is an assertive street outreach service provided by Dublin Simon Community on behalf of the Dublin Region Homeless Executive. The teams engage and work with people sleeping rough to support them into temporary homeless accommodation. The service operates 365 days a year, until 1am. The Outreach Teams also ensure that people sleeping rough are linked with other appropriate health services such as addiction and mental health

services to prevent further rough sleeping. The team are very familiar with the locations of people sleeping rough across the Dublin Region and work persistently with individuals to support them into emergency accommodation. This process can take time and multiple contacts, as some people do not want to engage (for whatever reasons) but the teams persevere with every person working to achieve a successful outcome.

Since mid-September, Dublin Simon Outreach have moved **34 people** from tents to accommodation. The team also carry out weekly counts confirming the number of people sleeping rough in the Dublin Region. During the week 28th October to 3rd November 2019, **125 people** were counted and confirmed as rough sleeping in the Dublin Region.

7.2 Housing First

The Dublin Region Housing First Service has housed **341 people** with complex needs up to end September 2019, of which **88%** have successfully retained housing. This service is operated by the Peter McVerry Trust and focuses on creating new and managing existing Housing First tenancies in the Dublin region. This service also provides wraparound visiting housing supports and mental health / addiction supports.

7.3 National Housing First.

The National Director of Housing First has also been supporting the eight regions outside Dublin to commence delivery in line with the Housing First National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2021. Housing First services and now operating in Cork, Galway, Limerick and the Southeast and tendering processes were completed in the remaining four regions. 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 number of years. A steady supply of single person units with the appropriate wraparound supports will be critical to accelerate this goal

8. Challenges

- *Demand on Services*

Data from the DRHE illustrates that in excess of **47%** 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 fundamental to addressing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and for the expansion of Housing First. There are currently more singles adults **(2,508)** in emergency accommodation than adults in families **(1,862)**.

- *Complexities of homelessness*

We are continuing to work closely with the HSE to ensure that appropriate support services and living arrangements are provided for people in emergency accommodation. However, progress in this area is slow and requires more urgency. The DRHE recognise the complex interaction between homelessness and health and 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

November 2019