

# HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN 2021 - 2023

NE Region Homelessness Strategic Management Group  
&  
NE Region Homelessness Consultative Forum





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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The North East Region comprises the local authority areas of Counties Louth, Cavan and Monaghan. Homelessness services are managed operationally at local level while the strategic and administrative obligations are the responsibility of the Regional Homelessness Strategic Management Group with Louth County Council as the lead, responsible agency by statute. The North East Regional Consultative Homelessness Forum is a parallel group comprising statutory, voluntary and community representatives providing direction and advice across all sectors of the Region.

Chapter 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009 is the statutory authority for the provision and of management of homelessness matters, designating housing authorities in the State as the responsible statutory providers of housing provision while also acknowledging the role of the Health Service Executive (HSE) in its statutory role of providing social and care support services.

### 1.1 ACTION PLAN

Section 37 of the Act requires housing authorities (now local authorities since the rationalisation/merging of the 81 housing authorities into 31 local authorities) to adopt action plans to address homelessness. Normally these plans are prepared by the regional homelessness strategic management group and for the North East Region, the 2021-23 plan will be its fourth 3-year plan since 2010. Once accepted at regional level, each local authority will present it to its representatives for formal adoption.

The Act also sets out the requirements of the homelessness action plans.

A homelessness action plan<sup>1</sup> shall specify the measures proposed to be undertaken to address homelessness in the administrative area or administrative areas concerned by the housing authority or housing authorities, as the case may be, the Health Service Executive, specified bodies, or approved bodies or other bodies providing services to address homelessness or the performance of whose functions may affect or relate to the provision of such services, including but not necessarily limited to measures to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) *the prevention of homelessness*
- (b) *the reduction of homelessness in its extent or duration*
- (c) *the provision of services, including accommodation, to address the needs of homeless households*
- (d) *the provision of assistance under section 10 (b) (i), as necessary, to persons who were formerly homeless, and*

<sup>1</sup> Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009



- (e) the promotion of effective co-ordination of activities proposed to be undertaken by the bodies referred to in this subsection for the purposes of addressing homelessness in the administrative area or areas concerned.

The Act also sets out the scope and content of the 3-year action plan and states that it should include:

- (a) any available information regarding the extent of the need for services to address homelessness, including, in the case of housing supports, any summary of social housing assessments prepared under section 21 in respect of homeless households
- (b) the costs of the proposed measures referred to in subsection (2) and the financial resources that are available or are likely to be available for the period of the homelessness action plan to the housing authority or housing authorities concerned, the Health Service Executive or any specified body, as the case may be, for the purposes of undertaking those measures and the need to ensure the most beneficial, effective and efficient use of such resources
- (c) such policies and objectives for the time being of the Government or the Minister in so far as they may affect or relate to the provision of services to homeless persons, and
- (d) such other matters as the Minister may specify in a direction given to the housing authority under subsection (4), including (except in the case of the first homelessness action plan) a review of progress made in the implementation of the homelessness action plan during the period of the previous plan.

## **1.2 POLICY CONTEXT**

The austerity of previous years has presented serious challenges for the provision of homelessness services throughout the State and the North East Region has been no exception. One of the key challenges arising from that recession and the crisis in the housing sector is the emergence of relatively new groups and numbers of people who are homeless. The supply of housing also declined with house prices rising as a result. People have been forced to rent and for longer periods, thus increasing demand for rented accommodation and driving up the rental prices. Such has been the relative instability in the economy and the market generally, that developers and house-builders have not been enticed into house-building programmes of any substance. A five-year slump in construction left the State facing a squeeze in the supply of new houses that drove sharp increases in property prices during 2014 and the number of new units built in 2014 was around 8,900. Subsequent years have shown a steep increase in housing builds, with the number rising to 21,100 in 2019. This increase is not uniform throughout the Country and in the North East region, for example, there has been limited private sector



construction in Co. Monaghan. The Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 has offered new challenges to the Country, not least in the construction industry.

According to the AECOM<sup>2</sup> 2020 Annual Review of the Construction Industry, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the construction sector has resulted in delays to project completions as well as pauses or cancellations in project starts. The report estimates a total of 19,500 completions in 2020 while predicting a partial rebound in activity in 2021. The Central Bank has estimated that some 34,000 houses need to be built annually until 2030 to address the likely future housing demand<sup>3</sup>.

According to the Housing Agency (Ireland)<sup>4</sup>, construction data indicates sufficient development land, a growth in construction activity over the past number of years and further progress in the completion of unfinished estates. In the private rented sector, new rents in Dublin have reached new highs, while rents in other parts of the country continue to rise.

Residents of private rented, social housing and some owner occupiers have been unable to retain their homes, putting demand pressure on the private rental market generally and driving rents up to levels which are unaffordable by people who are homeless and at risk of homelessness. Rental accommodation previously available to all people seeking accommodation has become scarce throughout the State, with the unintended consequence of service users remaining for longer than average periods in homelessness emergency accommodation and other temporary accommodation settings.

In terms of demand and supply, a growing population and smaller household sizes have implications for the number, type and location of housing needed, as does our current age profile (above EU average number of children) and projected growth in the numbers aged over 75. The number of households is increasing, but they are smaller in size. Based on Census 2016, a minimum of 81,118 homes were needed over the five-year period 2016 – 2020 to meet demand in our urban areas. The Housing Agency Report suggests that vacant homes offer potential to respond to this demand.

The latest Summary of Social Housing Assessments, for 2019, identified 61,693 households assessed as qualified and in need of social housing support. While the total recorded number of persons accessing homeless accommodation at the end of quarter 3 2020 was 8,656, a total of 4,401 sustainable exits from homelessness were recorded during the first three quarters of the year.

Throughout the State, emergency accommodation services may not have the capacity to assist the various target groups; and their protocols, safety and safeguarding procedures may be insufficient to accommodate children,

<sup>2</sup> Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations, and Maintenance Annual Review of the Construction Industry Island of Ireland 2020

<sup>3</sup> Central Bank of Ireland: 'Economic Letter: Population change and Housing Demand in Ireland' 10 December 2019\* Press Release

<sup>4</sup> National Statement of Housing Supply and Demand 2016 and Outlook for 2017-18 Housing Agency February 2017



resulting in the use of B&B and hotel services, sometimes on an extended basis.

While these locations guarantee safe accommodation, they are only suitable for very short periods and service users are generally outside of all the mainstream homelessness supports and services<sup>5</sup>. While this was the case generally throughout the State, some of the LA services in the North East do maintain floating support services to some service users in B&B and hotel accommodation.

While the incidence of homelessness has increased generally in recent years since the onset of the recession, five target groups have been identified in the North East which include some service users whose needs are not being addressed, to varying degrees, within the current provision, in addition to the incidence of homelessness by single. The target groups identified are:

- single women;
- women and children;
- fathers and children;
- parents with children;
- people with complex needs including addictions, untreated mental ill-health and dual diagnosis.

The targeted groups are an overall reflection of the needs of the region but may vary from County to County. For instance in County Monaghan single males under 55 were considered the client cohort most at risk.

Many initiatives, policies and interventions have been initiated at government level in recent years and this plan has taken account of a number of key policy directions in preparing the North East 2021-23 Homelessness Action Plan. These include:

- *Re-Building Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness – Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government July 2016*
- *Homelessness Policy Statement – (DOEHLG February 2013)*
- *The Way Home (2008-13) – a strategy to address adult homelessness in Ireland 2008-2013 (DOEHLG August 2008).*
- *Homeless Strategy – National Implementation Plan (DOEHLG 2009).*
- *National Health Strategy, “Slaintecare 2018”*
- *Primary Care Strategy, A New Direction 2001.*
- *National Drugs and Alcohol Strategy – (2017-2025)*
- *Vision for Change (2006) – a strategy to address mental health and homelessness.*
- *Youth Homeless Preventative Strategy (2001)*
- *National Intercultural Health Strategy, (2018-2023)*

<sup>5</sup> Care Planning, Throughcare Case Management, Intensive Support etc



- **National Housing First Implementation Plan 2018-2021**

The 2021-23 strategic plan takes account of the role that it plays in the planning and implementation of responses to homelessness in the NE Region. The Strategic Management Group and the NE Regional Homelessness Consultative Forum have met regularly during the implementation of the previous plans and have been involved in consultation and review processes that have informed the preparation of the 2021-23 plan.

The 2021-23 plan is regarded as a document to provide a seamless continuation to the most recent plan and work within the NE Region. Services have been well-developed incrementally and strategically in the recent three years since 2018. Through the lead agency, Louth County Council, the NE Region liaises regularly with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and submits quarterly service user and financial data as required. The Department has agreed that the 2021-23 strategic plan should be workable document which progresses the developmental work being successfully implemented in previous planning periods.

The next section profiles homelessness in the NE Region, the services that exist to address homelessness and the key developments in the 2018-2020 period. The final section sets out the key objectives for the 2021-23 period.

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## **2. HOMELESSNESS IN THE NORTH-EAST REGION**

This section presents a summary profile of homelessness trends in the North East during the period of the previous plan, 2018-2020. It also focuses on the most recent data for 2020 which is prepared by the Region on the basis of the services provided by and through the local authorities of Cavan, Louth and Monaghan. These data are also reported to the Department of Housing, on a periodic basis.

### ***Homelessness 2018-2020***

Homelessness data is expressed in many different ways in different publications. Our study utilises ‘adults who are homeless’ as the unit of measurement, others, including the Department of Housing appeal to ‘households’ and ‘housing units’ in their nomenclature. Some also include children as ‘homeless’ which, unless specified by quantity, can present fallacious information particularly for planning purposes. These differences in presentation can also make comparative analysis incorrect. The number of children who are homeless is a significant and sensitive dataset which can inform planning, and our study prefers to utilise their occurrence within the context of families.

Thus, in some datasets two parents and five children of the one household may be presented as seven people who are homeless or two adults thus introducing some possibly misleading elements into the interpretation of the data.

### ***Homelessness in the State December 2020***

For December 2020, the Department of Housing data notes that, in the State, there were 970 homeless families comprising 1,426 adults and 2,327 dependents (mainly children). Included in the adult homeless data were 514 lone parents.

### ***Homelessness in the North-East December 2020***

In the North-East in December 2020, there were 9 families homeless, comprising 4 adults and 9 dependents (mainly children). All 4 adults were lone parents. The majority of people in the North-East recorded as homeless presented to Louth County Council.

## **2.1 PRESENTATIONS BY LA AND ACCOMMODATION TYPE 2018-20**

According to the data provided by the LAs, overall presentations in the region increased at a steady rate between 2018 and 2019 and then rose dramatically in 2020. This increase was due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the adoption of remote working. Homeless presentations were made over the phone and staff in Louth County Council reported very large volumes of presentations via this medium. These increases did not correlate to an increase in persons being placed in emergency accommodation and numbers decreased year on year during this period.





	2018	2019	2020
<b>Presentations North East Region</b>			
<b>Total Presentations pa</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>2,722</b>

Table 1 Presentations NE Region by LA 2017-19

**2.2 ADULT HOMELESSNESS AT END OF PERIOD**

The data capture also records the number of adults in homelessness services at the end of each period and this is presented in Table 2 below.

Accommodation Type	2018	2019	2020
STA Supported Emergency Accommodation	75	51	44
PEA Private Emergency incl B&B, Hotel	63	75	28
TEA Temporary Emergency Accommodation	3	1	17
Other	0	0	0
<b>Adults Homeless at End of Period North East Region</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>95</b>

Table 2 Adults Homeless at Period End 2018 to November 2020

Table 2 summarises the trend in addressing homelessness in the North East between 2018 and 2020. Adults in emergency accommodation provides a measurement of the type of accommodation used and one can see that significant use has made of B&B and hotel accommodation as well as the traditional, supported, emergency accommodation.

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented new challenges in the provision of Homeless Services. In order to reduce the risk of infection within STA services and in accordance with National guidelines in relation physical distancing a number of clients have been placed in temporary housing accommodation. This is reflected in the increased numbers of persons in TEA in 2020.

The acute increase in adults in temporary accommodation between 2015 and September 2018 has been stemmed and the numbers in December 2020 show a significant reduction in numbers when compared with Q4 2018. This has been the result of a number of factors including the introduction of a HAP place finder service in the region, the roll out of Housing First and the cumulative effect the Tenancy Support and Sustainment Services (TSS) which first became effective in September 2017. These services are tightly targeted at eight discrete cohorts in tenancies at risk of homelessness and in PEA accommodation to ensure that the most appropriate support services are being provided.

The consultation process for this TSS plan revealed that traveller individuals and families comprise an increasing cohort of presentations. Given that homelessness solutions may be different for the Traveller cohort, it has been suggested that the NE Region establish a specific line of communication to ensure that the current responses to homelessness meet their specific needs. The first task would be to collect service user data on the cohort since the



national data suggests that Traveller access to homelessness services are 9% throughout the State but 31% in regions outside urban Dublin.

The Housing First Model commenced in December 2019 and is serviced by Peter McVerry Trust throughout the entire North East Region. The model specifically targets individuals that have a long term history of homelessness and require multi-disciplinary supports. As of December 2020 15 individuals have been placed in tenancies in Louth, 4 in Cavan and 2 in Monaghan.

The HAP place finder model has enabled the Local Authorities to directly assist individuals and families that have found themselves homeless, in sourcing private rented accommodation, as well as providing financial assistance towards deposits and first months rent. A primary function of the HAP Place finder service has been to act as a preventative tool to assist those that find themselves at risk of becoming homeless. This service accounted for 194 referrals to private rented accommodation in 2020, an extremely substantial increase from previous years, as is detailed further on in this report.

Other important details of adults accessing homelessness services in the NE Region in December 2020 include:

- The gender mix was 76% men and 24% women;
- 56% of adults were between 25 and 44 years of age, 24% between 45 and 64 years, 11% over 65 years and 8% between 18 and 24 years;
- 93% of adults accessing mainstream emergency, supported temporary accommodation have a key worker and have a care plan;
- 15% of adults accessing private emergency accommodation have a key worker and care plan;
- 20% of presentations in Q4 2020 were new to homelessness services while 80% were repeat presentations;
- At the end of Q4 2020, 33% of adults in all emergency accommodation had been residents for less than 6 months and 67% for 6 months or more.

### **2.3 FAMILY HOMELESSNESS**

Family homelessness did not seem to be a major issue in the North East until 2016 and this reflects the national situation. Data for the NE Region until 2016 recorded minimal family homelessness and may have reflected the expediency with which NE local authority housing services and women and children refuge services responded at that time. However, data included in the Strategic Plan for Homelessness 2018 to 2020 dated September 2017 recorded some 24 families in homelessness services, comprising 36 adults and 65 dependents. Lone parent families accounted for 12 of the 24 total. The intervening period has shown a sharp reduction in these figures throughout the region. As of December 2020, 4 families, with 9 dependents are recorded as being homeless. All 4 of these are lone parent families.



This number of homeless families in the North East Region is the lowest number for any region in the Country. Dublin with has the highest number with 755 families followed by the Mid East (53) and South west (50). These figures fluctuate month on month but there has been a general downward trend in the North East throughout 2020. Those families that find themselves homeless remain a housing priority for local authorities in the Region.

Region	Region Population (CSO 2016)	% Population (CSO 2016)	Total Families	Total Adults	(of which) Lone Parent Families	Total Dependents
Dublin	1,345,402	28%	755	1,131	379	1,864
South-West	689,750	14%	50	71	29	119
Mid East	559,404	12%	53	71	35	127
South-East	511,070	11%	14	19	9	21
West	453,413	10%	42	67	17	90
Mid-West	385,172	8%	30	37	23	51
Midlands	291,941	6%	16	18	14	34
North-East	265,740	6%	4	4	4	9
North-West	256,084	5%	6	8	4	12
Total	4,757,976	100%	970	1,426	514	2,327

Table 3 Family Homelessness and Proportionate Regional Population (CSO Census 2016) State

#### 2.4 MEASURING IMPACT

In the current services’ delivery model adopted by the NE Region, there is a clear commitment to not only housing-led solutions to the incidence of homelessness, but to keeping people in their tenancies where there is a risk of homelessness.

The Local Authority has tested the effectiveness of the North-East model of service delivery and compared the number of people accessing homelessness services in a period of time with the number of people who remained in services at the end.

The rationale of the approach relies on the fact that there will always be emerging homelessness by individuals, and to a lesser extent, families. Relationship and family breakdown by partners and children will regretfully always occur for a variety of causal factors.

Overcrowding and unsafe housing conditions are also causal factors and have emerged over the past few years as people have been losing their tenancies and houses for financial affordability reasons.

‘Buy-to-let’ and other landlords may also decide to sell their properties or have had their properties re-possessed by financial institutes, depriving sitting tenants of continuity of tenure and this has been an incremental cause of homelessness.



Chart 1 below notes the frequency of presentations and the number of adults remaining in homelessness services at the end of the year.

### Homeless Persons/Presentations

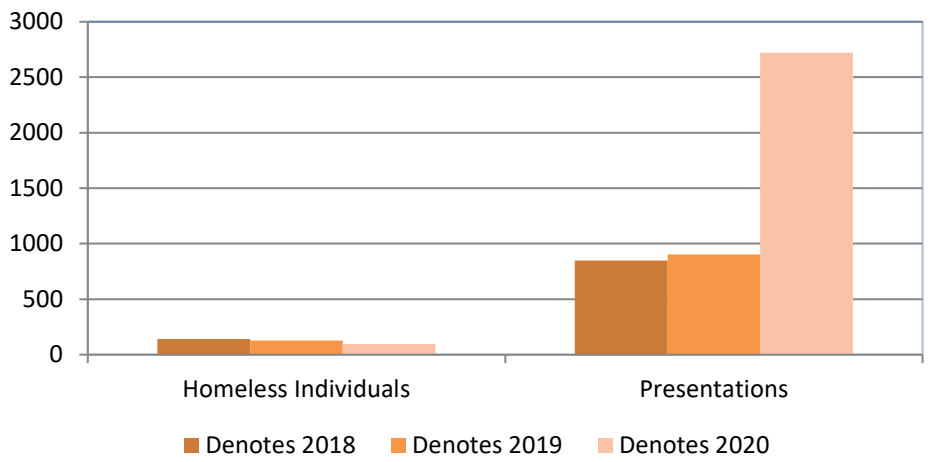


Chart 1 Presentations and PE Adult Homelessness 2018 - 2020

The move to remote working during the Covid-19 pandemic has led to an a very substantial increase in presentations to Homeless services in the North East Region in 2020. Notwithstanding this fact, the numbers of Individuals in Homeless Services has continued to reduce.

An additional impact measurement of NE homelessness services is the identification of adults who are moved to independent living from emergency accommodation with full tenancies, in a year.

### Homeless Outcomes 2017-2020

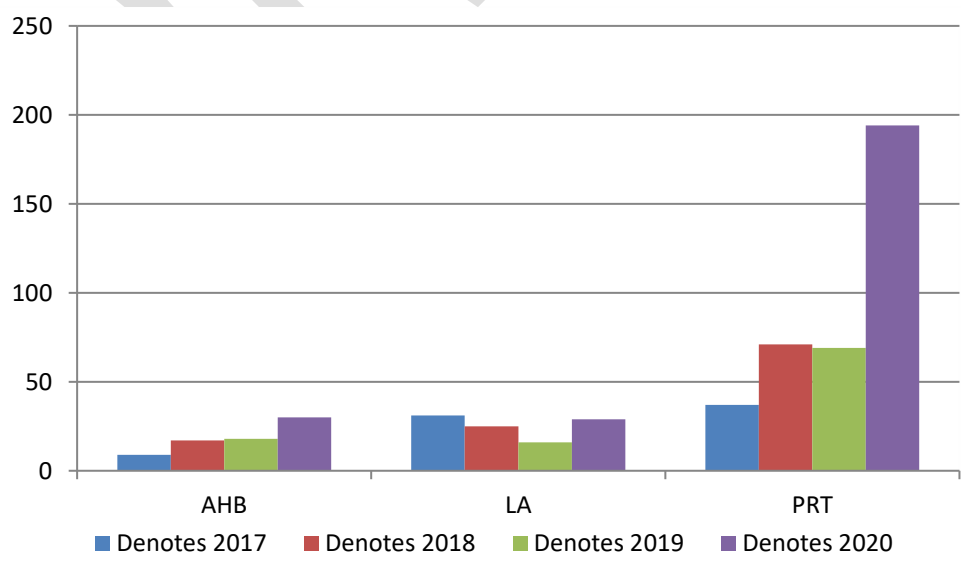


Chart 2 Adults from NE Region Emergency Accommodation to Housing 2017-2020



Chart 2 demonstrates the referral rate to mainstream housing in the NE Region from 2017 to 2020. There has been a small but steady increase in movement to AHB housing throughout the period. There has been a dramatic increase in movement to private rented accommodation in 2020. A number that has been stagnant at between 60 to 70 placements per year has risen to almost 200 in the year 2020. This reflects the impact of the HAP place finder model which has been utilised extensively over the past 12 months.

2.5 FINANCING SERVICES

2.5.1 EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

People accessing services must present to one of the local authorities where housing and homeless assessments are carried out. On the basis of these assessments, housing and other options are discussed with service users and decisions made. The priority of all parties in homeless services is to prevent persons having to access to homelessness services and temporary, emergency accommodation and to implement early interventions.

All referrals to services are addressed by the Homeless Action Teams (HATs) which meet bi-weekly in Louth and monthly in Cavan and Monaghan. The HATs ensure that for all service users, assessments are made, and, that where applicable, care plans are drawn up, a key worker appointed and their case managed throughout the pathway.

Interventions by local authorities may result in referral to mainstream housing, emergency accommodation or to tenancy sustainment services. In the NE Region, there were 57 beds available for emergency accommodation – 30 in Dundalk Simon, 21 in Drogheda Homeless Aid, 3 in Drogheda Women’s & Children’s Refuge and an additional 3 throughout the Region.

Facility	County	Bed Night Capacity
Dundalk Simon Community	Louth	30
Drogheda Homeless Aid Association Ltd	Louth	21
Drogheda Women’s & Children Refuge Centre Ltd	Louth	3
Castleblayney Trust	Monaghan	3
<b>Total Emergency Accommodation Bedspaces NE</b>	<b>NE Region</b>	<b>57</b>

Table 4 Emergency Accommodation North East Region 2017

There are 2 service providers for women fleeing domestic violence in the Louth area, Drogheda Womens Refuge and Dundalk Womens Aid. These services are not funded under section 10 Homeless funding and referrals are made directly to the service provider rather than through the local authorities. Domestic



violence cases are recorded separately but it is, nonetheless, an acknowledged and common cause of homelessness.

**2.5.2 TENANCY SUPPORT AND SUSTAINMENT SERVICES**

The newly-defined Tenancy Support and Sustainment Services were implemented in September 2017 and comprise services targeted at eight specific groups. Ten persons are employed to carry caseloads comprising service users identified and referred by the local authorities in Cavan, Louth and Monaghan.

Table 5 outlines the services and target groups identified for Tenancy Support and Sustainment Services and include service users in cohorts including:

- ▶ Families at risk,
- ▶ Addictions,
- ▶ Mental Health,
- ▶ Intellectual Disability and
- ▶ Prison Aftercare.

Eight employees carry caseloads for these sectors while Cavan and Monaghan have a caseload manager each.

Target Group	Discrete Target Group
TG 1	TSS Services for Single Persons as Risk – Louth County Council Administrative Area
TG 2	TSS Services for Families at Risk - Louth County Council Administrative Area
TG 3	TSS Services for Addictions - Louth Local Authority
TG 4	TSS Services for Mental Health related issues - Louth County Council Administrative Area
TG 5	TSS Services for Intellectual Disability & Behavioural Issues - Louth County Council Administrative Area
TG 6	TSS Services Relating to Prison/Aftercare – Regional Basis (Louth, Cavan and Monaghan)
TG 7	TSS Services – All Needs – Cavan County Council Administrative Area
TG 8	TSS Services – All Needs – Monaghan County Council Administrative Area

**Table 5 Profile of Tenancy Support and Sustainment Services Sept 2017**

This is a unique approach to housing-led interventions and services and is the first service of its kind in the State to specifically target discrete target groups with specific needs. The NE Region will monitor the services closely in a formal manner utilising formative evaluation techniques. The rolling evaluation exercise will facilitate service adaptation to meet emerging need as well as provide a solid analysis of its effectiveness and impact not only on service user outcomes but on the regional response to homelessness generally.

In the area of prison releases, the Regional Lead Authority has an interagency protocol with the Prison and Probation Services which ensures that the Housing Authority is aware of all pending releases thus ensuring that such clients are not released into homelessness and receive TSS support on their return to the community.

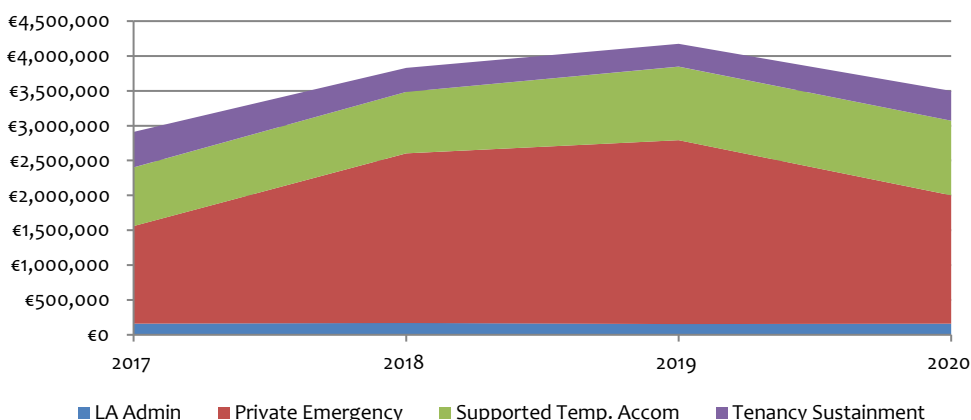


Cavan County Council reported that early intervention has proved a critical factor in the prevention of homelessness. This may include assessment for potential homelessness at application stage in RAS/HAP applications and early referral to TSS services in the case of complex needs clients.

**2.5.3 FINANCIALS**

Chart 4 below records the application of Local Authority financial resources to service provision in the North East. The previous Plan stated that ‘Expenditure has increased from €1.14m in 2014 to a budgeted €1.97m in 2017’. This increase in expenditure continued in subsequent years culminating in the sum of €4.2m being expended in 2019. This reflects the commitment of the North East Local authorities to use all available resources to address the issue of homelessness in the region. The reduction on overall spend in 2020 is due to the concerted effort to reduce the numbers availing of homeless accommodation and to move individuals and families into more permanent, long term forms of housing.

**Funding of Homeless Services 2017-2020**



**Chart 3 Financial Profile of Homelessness Service Provision 2017-2020**

The greatest increase between 2017 and 2019 has been in the funding of private emergency accommodation, which increased by approximately 88% during this period. This was due to the number of persons seeking homeless assistance outstripping the availability of beds in more ‘traditional’ homeless accommodation. As numbers of homeless persons reduced in 2020, this was reflected in the reduction in spending on private emergency accommodation.

Core funding for women and children’s refuge services has been subsumed by Tusla since 2014 and is no longer the responsibility of homelessness services,



though Drogheda Women's Refuge provides a small number of bedspaces on a formal, funded basis.

## 2.6 SUMMARY

The main purpose of presenting the headline data above is to provide the strategic focus for the specification of services for the 2018-20 period. The North-East Region implements an evolving range of services which has the in-built capacity to address emerging need in the course of its implementation.

For the previous plan, the Tenancy Support and Sustainment Services were tendered out and delivered on sectors of identified need bases, and were re-tendered following a refinement of the service delivery. For the North East, Tenancy Support and Sustainment Services delivered in such a targeted way are regarded as essential components of the 'housing-led' suite of homelessness services. Therefore, the priority is to maintain individuals and families in their tenancies and to return them to permanent housing and independent living as soon as possible. There is little doubt that if the supply of suitable accommodation was available, more people accessing homelessness would be resettled in permanent housing settings and the NE Region has the enthusiasm and the mix of services to deliver.

## 2.6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 2021-23

In this planning exercise, the North-East Region has reviewed its performance in the 2018-20 planning cycle and identified the work that it intends to continue and develop for the 2021-23 cycle. The main objective for 2021-23 is to ostensibly build on the achievements of the recent three years while continuing to develop services in Cavan, Louth and Monaghan in response to emerging need.

The Region regards its current service provision as adequate to meet need and has made great strides in being innovative to meet the housing-led policy as outlined in Government documents.

Innovation has been an influential component on both the supply side of housing and on the demand side for services.

### **Supply Side**

On the supply side, the Region has continued to bring back units of housing into service, a process which has been accelerated by the Government funded void houses programme in 2020. The region has also remained committed to the acquisition of additional housing stock. 17% of all housing tenancies allocated in 2020 were to homeless households which is an acceptable flow of homeless adults and families to permanent housing, and the Region is committed to at least maintaining, if not augmenting its strategy to increase housing stock. At the same time, it will continue its work in upgrading social housing stock and private rented accommodation using statutory instruments





where possible and will encourage additional development through the Capital Assistance Scheme for investment proposals.

Social leasing, HAP and RAS have all made significant impacts on the continued supply of housing also. The recent extension of measures that were previously only available to the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive such as Homeless HAP and the Placefinders model is a welcome addition to the resources available. The effect of the place finder model in the North East Region during 2020 has previously been evidenced in this report.

**Demand Side**

On the demand side, the Region is committed to providing emergency accommodation to all people who experience homelessness within its remit and to continue to develop its preventative responses which have been transformed in recent times.

In particular, the Region is committed to working with its statutory and voluntary sector partners in addressing service user issues of mutual concern and where reciprocal co-operation provides identifiable positive outcomes.

The key actions to be implemented in the 2021-23 period are noted in the tables below and are based on 4 main areas of priority:

1. Prevention of Homelessness
2. Protection of service users through emergency, accommodation and support services
3. Progression to longer term/permanent accommodation
4. Oversight and Governance

**Theme 1: Prevention of Homelessness**

Action No	Action Description	Ownership	Timeline
1.1	Prevention of homelessness through specifically targeted Tenancy sustainment and Support Services	Local Authorities/Contracted TSS Service Providers/ HSE/Prison & Probation Services	Ongoing
1.2	Prevention of Child Homelessness	Local Authorities/Contracted TSS Service Providers/ HSE/ Tusla	Ongoing
1.3	Source accommodation and financially assist persons/families at risk of homelessness through the HAP Place finder model	Local Authorities/ Contracted TSS Service Providers	Ongoing

**Theme 2: Protection of Service Users**

Action No	Action Description	Ownership	Timeline
2.1	Provide Emergency accommodation for persons in need.	Local Authorities/Contracted Homeless Service Providers/ PEA Providers	Ongoing
2.2	Provide Emergency Accommodation for families in need	Local Authorities/Contracted Homeless Service Providers/ PEA Providers	Ongoing
2.3	Provide dedicated support services for those in Emergency Accommodation	Local Authorities/ Contracted Homeless Service Providers/ TSS Service Providers/HSE/Tusla	Ongoing
2.4	Provide supports for parents in Emergency accommodation through National Childcare Scheme	Local Authorities /Childcare Providers/Pobal	Ongoing

**Theme 3: Progression from Homeless Services**

Action No	Action Description	Ownership	Timeline
3.1	To provide permanent homes for Homeless individuals and families	Local Authorities/AHBs	Ongoing
3.2	To assist exits from homelessness into private rented accommodation through the HAP Place finder model	Local Authorities/ TSS Service Providers	Ongoing
3.3	To provide a home and a stable environment for the long term homeless and the most vulnerable through Housing First.	Local Authorities/Peter McVerry Trust/HSE	December 2021
3.4	To provide transitional accommodation for the long term homeless in preparation for independent living	NGOs/Local Authorities	Ongoing

**Theme 4: Oversight and Governance**

Action	Action Description	Ownership	Timeline
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No			
4.1	Report to Central Government on the progress of the actions and commitments set out in the Homelessness Action Plan.	Local Authorities	Quarterly
4.2	Monitor the efficiency of Homeless Service provision in the region through the NQSF.	Local Authorities/ Homeless Service and TSS Providers	Quarterly
4.3	Ensure Service Level Agreements are in place with all Homeless Service providers in the region.	Local Authorities/NGO	Annual
4.4	Ensure that all data in relation to Homeless Services in the region is recorded accurately and efficiently, with particular emphasis on the roll out of the PASS 2 system.	NGOs/Local Authorities	Ongoing

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