

Midlands Region Local Authority Homelessness Performance Report Quarter 4 2016

Performance Report for Quarter 4 -2016: Relating to the Protocol Governing Delegation of Section 10 Funding for Homeless Services to the Midlands Region

Part 1

1. 2016 Target for Accommodating Homeless Persons with Full Tenancies

Table 1: Individuals moved on to independent living					
Target number of units for 2016	Number of Accommodation Units Delivered with Full Tenancies	Quarterly Total Units	Total Units to Date in 2016	Quarterly Total Persons	Total Persons to Date in 2016
No Target Applied	Local Authority Lettings: number of new lettings, re-lets, leasing, purchase/acquisitions, NAMA and other delivery mechanisms	17	54	26	80
No Target Applied	AHB Lettings: number of new lettings and re-lets (via LA nominations), LTS (long-term supported accommodation) leasing, purchase/acquisitions (via CALF and/or private finance), CAS, NAMA and other delivery mechanisms	11	43	14	46
No Target Applied	Private Rented (RAS and Rent Supplement, HAP etc.)	9	54	10	59
	Totals	37	151	50	185

A point to note in the region, one that is likely reflected in all of the other 8 homeless regions, is the lack of availability of private rented accommodation. The significant shortage in accommodation available in this sector has a series of subsequent repercussions. The first, as reflected in the above table, is that Local Authorities are utilising more social housing allocations (LA owned properties as well as RAS/Leasing), for homeless persons. This trend has continued from Q3, with Q4 seeing ongoing significant increases in direct provision of Local Authority owned properties being allocated to homeless persons. Q4 (December) saw the introduction of HAP across the remaining all counties in the region. This new scheme will take time to develop across the region.

At the same time, it should be recognised that applicants on “general” housing lists will experience knock on waiting times for accommodation, in the current climate. Furthermore, the above statistics do not take into account the significant amount of properties that Midland Local Authorities have had to require in order to address the ever increasing numbers of RAS/Lease NTQs and terminations, to date in 2016.

A second consequence of the lack of private rented accommodation in the region is the length of time homeless clients are spending in emergency accommodation. Facilitating a “move on” for individuals and families is proving challenging with the absence of a robust private rented sector, as an alternative source of affordable and sustainable accommodation. Given that designated Section 10 emergency beds are consistently full, the Midland Local Authorities have reluctantly had to refer clients to private emergency accommodation i.e. B&Bs and Hotels. Q4 of the financial report clearly shows the significant increase in PEA spending, compared with the same quarter in 2015, an action that does contradict the Government policy of adopting a *Housing First* approach in addressing the needs of homeless individuals and families.

The yearly budgetary allocation to PEA, by the Statutory Management Group, was fully utilised by the end of Q2 in the region. The reality is that accommodation, in both the rented and social housing sector, has constricted considerably in 2016, thereby jeopardising this *Housing First* approach. Every effort is being made, in terms of continuing to target personnel and financial resources at a Housing First approach, while at the same time each of the four Midland LAs have made significant efforts in Q4 in order to address this issue, via allocating properties directly to homeless clients, coupled with the provision of associated supports. The challenge remains and will continue for the remainder of 2016, it is envisaged.

Part 2

2. Number of new presentations on a daily basis

	New	Repeat
Number of presentations in reporting period	34	26
Number of days in reporting period	92	92
Daily average	0.37	0.28

Every effort continues to be made, through a multi-disciplinary approach, to address the needs of potential homeless cases, before they materialise. The Midland region continues to offer Regional Case Working and Housing First initiatives, in this regard, as well as the operation of effective HAT teams in all four counties in this region. Reports on the effectiveness, both in terms of cost and positive outcomes for homeless persons will be included as appendices at the end of this report.

Additional Information:

Table 3: Number of placements or unique individuals in emergency accommodation				
Service	Number	Number Offered Accommodation	Number of 'No shows'	Number unable to be accommodated due to insufficient capacity
Placement Service	94	82	6	12

The number of individuals and families who have been unable to be housed, as a result of being homeless, has decreased considerably in Q4. The reality of the current housing and homeless crisis is that: 1. Regional Local Authorities are offering increased B&B/Hotel beds (PEA) for homeless families, and it is envisaged that by the end of 2016 spending on PEA in the region stands at €387,673. This increased spend falls outside the confines of the agreed 2016 and financial assistance will have to be sought from the DoHPCLG. 2. Regional LAs have had to adopt rigorous assessment regimes, in line with statutory regulations, with homeless presentations.

As with the DRHE, the Midland Region S10 emergency beds are shared between each of the four Midland Local Authorities. i.e. Beds are managed on a regional basis and as such homeless clients in Portlaoise, for example, could be referred to an emergency bed in Longford, based on vacancy rates reports from PASS. Every effort will continue to be made to curb PEA spending in the region, going forward. The fact of the matter is that there are a substantial number of referrals to housing departments seeking B&B/Hotel accommodation, as opposed to emergency facilities. A significant number of clients are unduly intimidated and afraid of the perception of hostel type accommodation and, as such, once booked into an established emergency facility, via PASS, there are a significant number of homeless clients, on an ongoing quarterly basis, who do not show up at the establishment in question.

The geographical spread of homeless facilities in this region is substantial. Every effort is made to accommodate homeless clients, particularly homeless families, as near as possible to where familial ties are, as well as trying to accommodate education and health links. However, this is not always possible and where S10 sanctioned and paid for emergency beds are available, such measures have to be the first consideration for homeless placements.

3. Number of persons in emergency accommodation for longer than 6 months

Table 4: Number of persons in emergency accommodation for longer than 6 months				
	Number of Persons on last day of Quarter	Resident < 6 Months	Resident > 6 Months	
Emergency Accommodation			<i>Consecutively or continuously in emergency accommodation for longer than 6 months</i>	<i>Non-consecutively or cumulatively in emergency accommodation for longer than 6 months in the previous 12 month period</i>
Temporary Emergency (i.e. accommodation owned by a housing authority, AHB or by a homeless service)	46	39	7	0
Private Emergency (i.e. accommodation rented directly from landlords)	0	0	0	0
Other Private Emergency Accommodation (i.e. hotels and B&Bs)	23	23	0	0
Total	69	62	7	0

Homeless Service Providers continue to engage with clients who present with challenging and complex needs. The complexities involved here, coupled with the ongoing scarcity of Local Authority and private rented accommodation, necessarily means that clients are remaining longer in emergency beds. Homeless Action Teams are pivotal in addressing the needs of homeless clients, from a holistic and multiagency perspective.

Statutory, Voluntary and Community professionals continue to liaise, outside of the HAT process, regarding the ongoing needs of homeless persons, in the region. CADS and the Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force have come together with the Midlands Simon Community, representatives from the Ana Liffey Drugs Project and Merchants Quay Ireland, as well as the Lead Local Authority, to devise and implement clear referral and case working protocols for homeless clients who have addiction issues.

Going forward, it is hoped that strengthened links and referring processing can be established with county community mental health teams, given that there are a number of clients in emergency facilities who have significant mental health issues and cannot be moved on to more appropriate accommodation, due to their poor mental health.

Table 5: Number of clients with a support plan		
Accommodation Category	Total Number of Persons During the Quarter	Number with a Support Plan
Temporary Emergency (i.e. accommodation owned by a housing authority, AHB or by a homeless service)	64	32
Private Emergency (i.e. accommodation rented directly from landlords)	0	0
Other Private Emergency Accommodation (i.e. hotels and B&Bs)	45	3
Other(Long Term LA Owned Properties)	0	0
Totals	109	35

4. Number of persons leaving emergency accommodation

Table 6: Number of persons leaving emergency accommodation	
Moved to new/independent accommodation	37
Staying with family or friends	7
Relocated to another country	0
Departure to Medical Facilities: Hospital	2
Departure to Medical Facilities: Residential Treatment	0
Departure to Correctional Facilities: Prison (on remand)	0
Unknown (Barred from Emergency Accommodation)	28
Total	74

Given the length of time that homeless persons in 2016 have to stay in emergency accommodation, there is a significant number that simply cannot continue remain here and as such chose to return to family/friend's homes where overcrowded conditions sometimes exist or to properties where fractious familial relationships exist. Exclusions from emergency services are a last resort for vulnerable clients. However, health and safety protocol, coupled with best child welfare practices, must be enforced by Providers. Providers work hard at keeping homeless clients motivated while in emergency accommodation, but this task is proving more difficult, given the increased time being spent here.

5. Occupancy rate in emergency accommodation

Total number of beds available at 30/12/2016	59
Number of beds occupied at 30/12/2016	46*

NB: A number of units in the women and children's hostels have multiple beds and as such once a unit is occupied other beds cannot be utilised here. There are no allocated PEA beds (i.e. SLAs not in place with private providers) in the region. But this type of emergency accommodation is used regularly in the region.

6. Number of persons moving on into independent living with support

Persons moved on into independent living with support	Secure Licence	Secure Tenancy
Number in supported accommodation	0	6
Number in local authority owned accommodation with support	0	3
Number in private rented accommodation with floating support services*	0	3

*(*This category includes RAS/Leasing and AHB Accommodation)*

Additional Information:

SLI Service Provider	Number of Persons Currently Supported	Number of Persons Previously Supported but No Longer Requiring Support
Focus		
Simon(*SLI Mullingar and Athlone)	7*	
Other	2	
Total	9	

** Note: SLI funding under Leasing Scheme*

7. Number of persons moving on into independent living without support

Table 10: Number of persons moving on into independent living without support	
Persons moved on into independent living without support	
Number in private rented accommodation without support	6
Number in local authority owned accommodation without support	12
Number in other (non-private rented and non-local authority owned) accommodation without support	7

It is important to note that every client in supported emergency accommodation in the midlands region is assigned a key worker. There is a growing use of hotel/B&B accommodation and key working cannot form part of these placements, due to resource issues. However, every client who is in either STA or PEA in the region is presented at HAT in order to devise appropriate exit strategies and sustainable accommodation outcomes.

8. Number of persons sleeping rough voluntarily and involuntarily

Table 11: Number of persons sleeping rough voluntarily and involuntarily		
Persons sleeping rough		With a Support Plan
Number of persons sleeping rough voluntarily at 31/03/15		N/A
Number of persons sleeping rough involuntarily at 31/03/15		N/A
Number of persons sleeping rough with a PASS record		N/A

Additional Information: No viable data available – not reported on for Midlands Region

Table 12: Number of persons recorded as rough sleepers engaging/in contact with Outreach Team (Note : Not reported in Midlands Region)	
Persons recorded as rough sleepers engaging/in contact with Outreach Team	During the Quarter
Number of persons in contact with Outreach Team Bedded Down	N/A
Number of persons in contact with Outreach Team Not Bedded Down	N/A
Total Individuals in contact with Outreach Team	
Number of persons who also used Emergency Accommodation	

Part 3

9. Meetings of the Management Group and Consultative Fora

Table 13: Details of Management Group, Consultative Fora and HATs – Q3		
	Dates of meetings held in the quarter under review	Membership Details
Statutory Management Group*	December 2nd, 2016	4 Local Authorities; HSE (Community Services Manager); Prison Services (Governor-Midlands Prison)
Regional Homelessness Consultative Forum*	December 2nd, 2016	Local Authorities; HSE; Prison Services; Elected Reps; DV Services; Addiction Services; DSP; Voluntary Housing Service Providers;
Homelessness Action Team (HAT)	Each Local Authority in the region holds a HAT meeting every fortnight.	Midlands Region incorporates the counties of Westmeath, Laois, Longford and Offaly. All 4 no counties are operating the HAT process.

Quarter 4 - 2016: END

Signed:

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**Received
Homeless Unit**