



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government



**National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability
2011 - 2016**

First Report on Implementation: September 2012-December 2013

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Glossary of Terms

AHBs – Approved Housing Bodies

CAS – Capital Assistance Scheme

Congregated Settings – as defined in '*Time to Move on from Congregated Settings, A Strategy for Community Inclusion*' where ten or more people share a single living unit or where the living arrangements are campus-based

DECLG – Department of Environment, Community & Local Government

Deinstitutionalisation – the transitioning of people with intellectual, physical and mental health disabilities from institutional care to more appropriate community based living arrangements

DPER – Department of Public Expenditure & Reform

DFI – Disability Federation of Ireland

HSE – Health Service Executive

HDSGs – Housing & Disability Steering Groups

HIQA - Health Information and Quality Authority

Housing Agency – Housing & Sustainable Communities Agency

IMG - Implementation Monitoring Group

NAMA – National Asset Management Agency

NDA – National Disability Authority

NDS – National Disability Strategy

NSUE – National Service Users Executive

RAS – Rental Accommodation Scheme

VFM – Value for Money

Executive Summary

This is the first progress report on the implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability and covers the period September 2012 to December 2013.

The Strategy was published in late 2011 and followed by a National Implementation Framework in July 2012. A Housing Subgroup was established by the Housing Agency in September 2012 and is charged with overseeing the implementation of the Strategy's objectives and to provide support and guidance to local authorities.

Chapter 3 of the report outlines the significant progress which was made by the Housing Subgroup during 2013 under a range of themes:

- Interagency Cooperation
- Supports for Local Authorities
- Deinstitutionalisation
- Funding to support implementation
- Information; and
- Reporting Framework

Chapter 4 outlines the various challenges and blockages which were identified during 2013 and sets out recommendations to address these to ensure successful implementation of the Strategy's objectives in 2014 and beyond.

Chapter 5 outlines the priority objectives for 2014 which will form part of the work plan for the Housing Subgroup. These include an increased focus on actions relating to the housing needs of people with mental health disabilities and people currently residing in communities with an unmet housing need and the transitioning of 150 people from institutional care to more appropriate community living arrangements.

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the Department of Health acknowledges the work of the Housing Subgroup and the Strategy's Implementation Monitoring Group who has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy.

Chapter 1: Overview

1. The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011 – 2016, which was published in October 2011, sets out the Government’s framework for addressing the housing and related support needs of people with a disability. The Implementation Framework for the Strategy, published in July 2012, assigns responsibility for implementation to relevant stakeholders and outlines the detail for the on-going monitoring and reporting process for the Strategy, including the development of an annual report on implementation.

2. This first report on implementation covers the period from September 2012 to December 2013 and outlines the progress made in achieving the overall vision of the strategy, i.e. ‘to facilitate access, for people with disabilities, to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, with promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living’.

3. This report will inform the future implementation process for the Strategy and should be read in conjunction with the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011 – 2016 and the Strategy’s National Implementation Framework. These documents are available on the DECLG website www.environ.ie

Chapter 2: Monitoring, Reporting & Implementation

Implementation Monitoring Group

1. Overall monitoring and reporting of progress on implementation of the Strategy is overseen by an Implementation Monitoring Group (IMG) which was established as part of a robust monitoring and reporting regime. The IMG, which is chaired by DECLG, comprises representatives of D/Health, HSE, NDA, NSUE and disability organisations representing people with physical, sensory, intellectual and mental health disabilities. The IMG has met 6 times since its establishment in May 2012 and was consulted in the development of this progress report.

2. The Terms of Reference adopted by the IMG and the members at December 2013 are set out in Appendix 1.

Housing Subgroup

3. Implementation of the Strategy is being driven by the Housing Agency. The role of the Agency is to support DECLG, local authorities and approved housing bodies (AHBs) in the delivery of housing and housing services. In order to progress implementation of the Strategy, the Agency nominated a project manager and established a dedicated Housing Subgroup in September 2012.

4. To end December, the Housing Subgroup has met on 11 occasions and is implementing an agreed work plan which focusses on progressing a range of priority actions outlined in the Strategy. The Subgroup is chaired by the Agency and comprises key statutory agencies and disability stakeholder groups. The Terms of Reference adopted by the Subgroup and the members at December 2013 are set out in Appendix 2.

5. The key areas of progress on implementation of the Strategy from September 2012 to December 2013 are set out in Chapter 3. In order to ensure a focussed approach and to identify key challenges arising in 2013, a number of local authority pilot areas were identified for implementation of specific actions from the Strategy. These pilot areas are Cork City Council, Louth County Council, Limerick City & County Council and the Dublin Authorities.

Chapter 3: Progress on Implementation

1. Progress on implementation is reported under a number of key areas:

- Interagency Cooperation
- Supports for Local Authorities
- Deinstitutionalisation
- Funding to support implementation
- Information
- Reporting Framework

➤ **Interagency Cooperation**

The provision of person centred delivery of housing and related supports requires a robust interagency framework to facilitate integrated delivery of services to people with disabilities. Progress made in the reporting period is as follows:

- The framework of interdepartmental cooperation adopted during the development of the Strategy continued throughout the reporting period and supported effective implementation.
- Linkages and synergies were developed between the 3 groups involved in the implementation of the Strategy, i.e. the Housing Subgroup, the IMG and the Congregated Settings National Implementation Team, which supported effective interagency working to drive implementation and identify key challenges and solutions.
- DECLG circular issued to all local authorities in November 2012 informing them of the establishment of the Housing Agency Housing Subgroup and setting out proposals to establish Housing & Disability Steering Groups (HDSGs) on a pilot basis within a number of pilot local authority areas to provide a mechanism for agencies to work together to deliver integrated and strategic responses for people with disabilities.
- HDSGs were established in 5 local authority areas in 2013, Cork City Council, Louth County Council, Limerick City & County Council, Dublin City Council, and South Dublin County Council. The Terms of Reference adopted by the HDSGs are set out in Appendix 3.

➤ **Supports for Local Authorities**

A suite of guidance tools is being provided to assist housing authorities in implementing the Strategy at local level in order to meet the housing needs of people with disabilities living in the community and transitioning from institutional care. Progress made in the reporting period as follows:

- An interim protocol in relation to the provision of housing supports for people with disabilities was developed by the Housing Subgroup and adopted for implementation by local authorities in May 2013.
- More detailed national guidance to support local authorities in the provision of housing supports for people with disabilities is currently under development by the Housing Subgroup and will be issued to all local authorities early in 2014.
- *Social Housing and People with Mental Health Difficulties* guidance document was developed by the NDA and circulated to local authorities in May 2013 to assist authorities in identifying and assessing the housing needs of people with mental health disabilities.
- The Housing Agency is collating a suite of disability specific training material which will be provided to local authorities. A process will be developed for monitoring the usage of training materials and assessing evolving training needs over time.
- Further supports will be developed by the Housing Subgroup based on learning from the pilot Housing and Disability Steering Groups, including guidance on developing protocols to ensure that people with disabilities on the waiting list are properly identified and are actively considered for any social housing being planned by the authority or AHBs.

➤ **Deinstitutionalisation**

Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities addresses the right of people with disabilities to live in the community with a choice, equal to others, of where and with whom to live. The Report of the Working Group on Congregated Settings – *Time to Move on from Congregated Settings, A Strategy for Community Inclusion* – documented the unsatisfactory living arrangements in these centres and set out the research evidence that living

in dispersed housing in the community brings with it a better quality of life compared to living in a residential centres.

The transitioning of people with intellectual, physical and mental health disabilities from institutional care to more appropriate based living arrangements is being progressed within an agreed strategic framework, involving relevant agencies involved in the provision of services, thereby ensuring that individual choice and living preferences are reflected and addressed. Progress made in the reporting period is as follows:

- A significant level of work has been undertaken by the Housing Agency Project Manager to progress the programme in 2013. This included liaising with, and providing guidance and supports to, AHBs, service providers and local authorities, to enable the identification of suitable properties for individuals ready to transition in 2013.
- DECLG is developing an adapted shared leasing model which will be used to facilitate people with disabilities who have expressed a preference for sharing accommodation. This model will ensure that the leasing initiative is positioned to effectively meet the long term housing needs of people with disabilities. New documentation has been prepared for use in the application process for the shared leasing model.
- The protocol developed by the Housing Subgroup and issued to local authorities in 2013 provided guidance to the authorities in carrying out the assessment of housing need for people with disabilities who are transitioning from institutions in line with Government policy. The protocol also applies to people with disabilities making a housing application from the community.
- A Support Template has been developed by the Housing Subgroup which will provide information to local authorities in respect of the non-housing support requirements of people transitioning from institutional care and will assist with the undertaking of assessments of housing need. Piloting of the template has commenced in Cork City Council.
- The Housing Subgroup has developed a process mapping framework for (a) the assessment and allocations procedures and (b) the leasing

procedures for the deinstitutionalisation process which will ensure transparency and uniformity of approach to the process.

- The HSE, under the remit of the Congregated Settings National Implementation Team, has developed a data template to track the transitioning of people with intellectual disabilities from congregated settings. The data will be collected by the HSE on a quarterly basis and used by DECLG, Housing Agency and local authorities to plan strategically for the delivery of appropriate housing solutions for people with disabilities due to transition during 2014 and beyond.
- The Housing Agency issued an Expression of Interest to AHBs in Cork, Louth, Limerick and Galway which will support planning for the housing aspects of the deinstitutionalisation programme in 2014. Panels have been formed for each of the areas and the housing needs and preferences of a number of people that have been identified as ready to transition have been issued to the AHBs on the panel.
- A conditions survey on low and medium support community mental health residences was initiated by the Housing Agency in 2013 and 2 properties in Louth have been surveyed to date. The survey will be extended to other identified areas during 2014. The outcomes of the surveys will inform the framework for the transfer of ownership of the properties from the HSE to the local authority sector, with a view to supporting residents to achieve more independent living arrangements, where appropriate.

➤ **Funding to Support Implementation – Deinstitutionalisation and Independent living in the community**

In line with the Strategy's objective of providing mainstream housing choices for people with disabilities, funding is required to support the additional housing need arising from the deinstitutionalisation programme and to meet the housing needs of people with disabilities in the community to achieve more independent living. Progress made in the reporting period is as follows:

- €1 million was provided in 2013 under DECLG Vote to support the housing needs arising for people with disabilities transitioning from institutional care. The funding was made available through a transfer of funds from

the Department of Health to DECLG. This funding facilitated the purchase of 7 properties to provide new homes in the community for 15 people with physical, mental health and intellectual disabilities leaving institutional care.

- Over €12 million was provided by DECLG in 2013 to support AHBs to purchase properties for people with disabilities under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS). Up to 135 people with physical, intellectual and mental health disabilities will be accommodated under the scheme, the majority of these people are residing within communities. The provision of CAS funding to AHBs is on the basis that the HSE has committed to providing on-going revenue funding for the personal, health and care supports required by the individuals availing of this housing option, in line with the Support Costs Protocol agreed between local authorities and HSE.
- Over 7,000 adaptation grants were made by DECLG and the local authorities through funding of €38.3 million to support people with disabilities and older people in carrying out physical adaptations to their homes to allow them to live independently for longer within their community.
- Further funding of €1 million was transferred from the Department of Health to DECLG in 2014 to provide appropriate housing solutions, through leasing arrangements, for up to 150 people leaving institutional care.

➤ **Information**

Appropriate information, delivered in user friendly formats, is essential in supporting people with disabilities in accessing housing supports and options. Progress made in the reporting period is as follows:

- An Easy to Read version of the Strategy was developed by DECLG, Inclusion Ireland and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and published in October 2013. The document supports people with intellectual disabilities in accessing information in relation to their housing options.

- A scoping paper has been prepared by the Housing Subgroup in relation to the establishment of a number of pilot Housing Advice Centres which will provide an integrated approach to the provision of information for people with disabilities on their housing and related support needs, including referral procedures, as appropriate.

➤ **Reporting Framework**

The Strategy provides for an effective monitoring and reporting framework to drive successful implementation. Progress in the reporting period is as follows:

- The IMG meets on a quarterly basis and is provided with regular progress reports on implementation. The IMG was consulted on the development of this report, including through highlighting key challenges and solutions.
- The implementation of the Strategy is a priority action under the Government's National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan and regular progress updates are provided to the NDS Implementation Group. Further, a housing thematic meeting was held by the NDS Implementation Group in December 2013 which provided a wider range of stakeholders with an opportunity to input into future policy.

Chapter 4 – Conclusions and Recommendations

2013 was the first full year of implementation of the Strategy and much of the work undertaken focussed on developing a strategic interagency framework, both nationally and locally, which will serve as a sound basis for successful implementation into the future.

The experiences and learning gained from the pilot local authority areas, combined with the bedding down of systems and protocols, will support the roll out of the Strategy to all local authority areas in 2014. In particular, the establishment of Housing and Disability Steering Groups in all local authority areas in 2014 will guide implementation at local level and provide information and data in respect of housing needs being met within the framework of the Strategy. They will strengthen local capacity to develop appropriate housing solutions for people with unmet need, both those living in institutions and within communities.

Deinstitutionalisation

A very significant body of work was undertaken during 2013 in managing the deinstitutionalisation aspects of the Strategy. This was achieved through effective project management by the Housing Agency which has facilitated the development of strong relationships with local service providers and AHBs who will be involved in transitioning people with disabilities from institutions over the next number of years.

The intensive work carried out during 2013 on this element of the Strategy will allow the freeing up of resources in 2014 to implement other broader aspects of the Strategy, including addressing the housing needs of people with disabilities living within communities and the implementation, in 2014, of specific Strategy actions assigned to achieving this priority. This approach will be examined in the context of the Housing Subgroup work plan for 2014. Results from the 2013 Housing Needs Assessment will also provide current data in relation to people with disabilities on housing waiting lists and inform housing authority plans to meet housing need locally.

While the number of people who transitioned from institutions under the Strategy in 2013 is less than anticipated, it should be viewed in the context of the considerable challenges and complexities involved in commencing the

programme. Two key factors have been identified as impacting on the transitioning programme in 2013.

- **Data**

The absence of accurate and timely data in relation to the profile of people expected to transition in 2013, and their housing and support requirements, has been a significant issue. This dearth in information was identified by the HSE national project group charged with the implementation of the recommendations of the congregated settings report. To address this issue a data set template was designed by the group to capture all the necessary information required to support the transition process. This information will be crucial in facilitating a planned transition from institutions over the coming years. Those individuals identified to transition in 2013 under the Strategy were primarily identified due to direct liaison at local level by the Housing Agency with service providers and AHBs. For future transitions it is imperative that the necessary information as required by the Housing Agency is provided by the HSE national project group in a prompt and timely manner. It is envisaged that the completed data set templates will facilitate this requirement.

In 2014, therefore, it is essential that a strategic framework for the identification and prioritisation of transitions from congregated settings is developed and led by the HSE, within the remit of the Congregated Settings National Implementation Team. Similarly, people residing in mental health institutions who are capable of more independent living arrangements must also be identified by HSE Mental Health Services in the context of a planned programme of transitions – this could be assisted through the appointment of a liaison person from the HSE’s Mental Health Directorate. This will, in turn, allow the Housing Agency to work with the relevant local authorities, AHBs and service providers, within the HSE framework of priorities, to deliver suitable housing solutions. The framework should include yearly targets for the programme as a whole and by individual service providers so that a clear pathway for completing the programme can be seen.

The HSE national project group is currently finalising the data sets which will provide a full analysis of people expected to transition in 2014, including their housing and related support needs. This data will be considered in the context of the criteria already developed by the HSE to assist teams at national, regional and local level, in prioritising projects in any given year and will feed into the determination of the delivery of housing supports in 2014. Further work will be

developed to facilitate the validation of properties in line with agreed criteria and assist in managing property availability and demand.

Improving the data about unmet housing need amongst people with disabilities who live outside congregated settings and ensuring that their needs are factored into housing supply decisions are priority tasks of the Housing and Disability Steering Groups.

- Leasing Model

The leasing model developed by DECLG was originally designed to support single or family units and was not suitable for people who opted to share accommodation with a non-family member. This has had an impact on transitions in 2013 under leasing as the model has to be adapted to support people with disabilities who have outlined in their person centred plan that they wish to live with a non-family member. Work on adapting the model is underway in DECLG, in conjunction with the Housing Agency, and a number of leasing applications are currently being piloted. This is expected to be completed very shortly in order that the new model be operational to facilitate a high rate of transitions in 2014. It is important that the new model be as accessible as possible for AHBs.

Commencement of a new scheme of registration and inspection of residential services for people with disabilities

It should be noted that from 1 November, a new scheme of registration and inspection of residential services for people with disabilities will operate and be delivered by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA). HIQA are now able to set and monitor standards for designated centres which include residential services provided to persons with disabilities. HIQA are also now empowered to undertake investigations as to the safety, quality and standards of these residential services. For the purposes of the relevant legislation and regulations, a designated centre is broadly described as a 'centre which provides residential services to children and/or adults with disabilities in relation to their disabilities'. It now falls to HIQA to provide a considered view of what constitutes "residential services" by way of guidance to service providing organisations. It is important to point out that registration will not apply to private living arrangements where people are living in their own home, either alone or sharing with others, for example, a family home, a place which is owned outright by the person or

occupied by the person on the basis of a clearly defined, lawful and written tenancy agreement.

The application of the HIQA regulations will be kept under review by DECLG and D/Health with a view to minimising the regulatory burden for AHBs, where possible, and in the context of potential cost implications for the Housing Budget for the carrying out of works to meet HIQA standards.

Funding

Despite the very difficult economic circumstances, significant funding was made available in 2013 to deliver appropriate housing solutions for people with disabilities. The funding of €1 million made available from the Department of Health enabled the purchase of a number of properties which are ring-fenced to meet the future housing needs of people leaving institutional care. The DECLG has ringfenced €140,000 from the 2014 CAS budget to fund required adaptation works to these properties. Significant funding was also provided under CAS to support the carrying out of adaptation works to the homes of people with disabilities and older people.

As the deinstitutionalisation programme gains traction, it is critical that adequate funding is provided to meet the additional social housing need arising over the period to 2019 and to meet on-going commitments thereafter. This is particularly important in light of existing pressures on local authority housing waiting lists. Funding issues relating both to decongregation and to housing need in the community will be kept under review in 2014 and options for 2015 and beyond will be explored between DECLG, D/Health and DPER in the context of the annual Estimates process and within the framework of the Value for Money (VFM) and Policy Review of Disability Services which was published in 2012 by the Department of Health¹.

Funding requirements for the deinstitutionalisation programme, including the housing costs, will also be informed by the work of the Congregated Settings Funding Subgroup which is examining the overall costs of transitioning individuals to the community.

In addition to funding the housing need arising, consideration must be given to ensuring that sufficient funding is available to support people with various

¹ Further information on the VFM is set out in Appendix 4.

disabilities to maintain their tenancies and to live independently or as independently as possible with assistance. This is relevant not only for people leaving institutional care but also for people living in the community or on local authority housing waiting lists who may need specific supports to achieve more independent living arrangements.

It is recognised that there is no dedicated funding stream to support the personal support needs of people living in communities who wish to pursue a social housing option. This issue will be examined in the context of work to be undertaken by the Housing Subgroup in 2014 in respect of tenancy sustainment services and costs to facilitate independent living in line with the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mental Health

It is recommended that an increased focus be given to the housing needs of people with a mental health disability in 2014 and the implementation of the Strategy actions specific to mental health. This will include the strengthening of linkages with HSE mental health services, including in terms of the work to be undertaken in relation to identifying people with mental health disabilities who have been deemed to be inappropriately placed in psychiatric hospitals and who may be capable of more independent living arrangements. In order to progress these issues, it is also recommended that the HSE nominate a mental health representative to the IMG as soon as possible.

Supply

DECLG will continue to explore mechanisms to increase the supply of social housing for people with disabilities, including through engagement with NAMA on the delivery of units which may be suitable and opportunities arising in the context of additional investment in local authority housing in 2014 through construction and investment to bring long term vacant units back into social use.

It is also important that sufficient funding is identified and ringfenced for the carrying out of adaptation works to identified properties to make them suitable for people with disabilities, particularly where units are being sourced through mainstream housing supply.

Chapter 5 - Priorities for 2014

Implementation of the Strategy will continue in 2014 through the Housing Subgroup and supported by DECLG and D/Health. The final 2014 work plan for the Housing Subgroup will be agreed in consultation with the IMG and will include the following:

- Housing and Disability Steering Groups will be established in all remaining local authority areas in 2014. A DECLG circular on this matter will issue in Qtr 1, 2014 and will include instructions for the development of strategies to meet the specific housing needs of people with physical, intellectual, sensory and mental health disabilities at local level and to ensure a balanced approach between meeting the needs of people transitioning from institutional care and people residing in the community with a social housing need.
- Final detailed guidance on the provision of housing supports for people with disabilities will issue to local authorities in Qtr 1, 2014. A process should also be undertaken to ensure consistency of application of the interim protocol by local authorities on the assessment and allocation processes.
- Consideration will be given to the development of an interagency protocol between the HSE and housing authorities in respect of tenancy sustainment services and costs.
- A housing advice centre will be piloted in the first half of 2014.
- Guidance will be developed to support RAS and leasing in effectively meeting housing need, particularly where there is a requirement of adaptations and specific design and location specifications.
- Work will continue on the transitioning of people with disabilities from institutional care. Targets for 2014 will be to provide for the housing needs of up to 150 people transitioning from congregated settings and mental health facilities. Work will be undertaken with the HSE in respect of the transitioning of people who are deemed to be inappropriately placed in psychiatric hospitals.
- The conditions survey on low and medium support community mental health residences will be progressed and work undertaken to commence the transfer

of ownership of properties from the HSE to the local authorities and to provide social housing tenancies for residents.

- Implementation of key mental health specific actions will be progressed.
- Existing interagency protocols in relation to the delivery of housing services for people with disabilities between the housing authorities and the HSE will be monitored to ensure effective implementation locally.
- Future funding arrangements for the deinstitutionalisation programme will be determined by DECLG and D/Health in the context of the annual Estimates process and informed by outcomes in 2013/2014.
- The issue of supply of appropriate housing will be kept under review in the context of ensuring that all mainstream housing options are available to, and suitable for, people with disabilities.
- A communications event will be held for local authorities, AHBs, service providers and the HSE to raise awareness and to share and develop learning in relation to the housing needs of people with disabilities. This will be supplemented with training sessions with local authorities to support progress in housing people with disabilities and training supports for frontline staff.
- Consideration will be given to the NDA's ongoing advice on issues arising in the context of implementing the Strategy and rolling out the 2014 workplan and priorities.
- The second progress report on implementation will be submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy by end January 2015.

Appendix 1

Membership of the Implementation Monitoring Group

Michael Layde (Chair)	DECLG
Shirley Groarke	DECLG
Theresa Donohue	DECLG
Cathal Comey	DECLG
Claire Feeney	Housing Agency
David Silke	Housing Agency
Brian Dowling	Department of Health
Michael Murchan	Department of Health
Oliver O'Loughlin	Limerick County Council
Deirdre Scully	HSE
Lillian Buchanan	Disability Federation of Ireland
John Hannigan	National Federation of Voluntary Bodies
Shane Hogan	National Disability Authority
Shari McDaid	Mental Health Reform
Kathleen McKillion	Irish Council for Social Housing
Dolores Murphy	Irish Wheelchair Association
John O'Haire	Focus Ireland
John Redican	National Service Users Executive

Implementation Monitoring Group Terms of Reference

To oversee an implementation and monitoring framework to support the effective implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability, 2011 – 2016. This framework will include:

- The production of an annual implementation progress report which will outline progress made in relation to the achievement of the key priority actions set out in the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability Implementation Framework;
- To provide support in the context of the review/update of specific key priorities and actions contained in the Implementation Framework, as appropriate;
- To submit the annual implementation progress report to the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy in a timely manner;

The IMG will work collaboratively with the Housing Agency Housing Subgroup as appropriate.

Membership of the Housing Subgroup

John O'Connor (Chair)	Housing Agency
Claire Feeney	Housing Agency
David Silke	Housing Agency
Theresa Donohue	DECLG
Brian Dowling	Department of Health
Dermot Monaghan	HSE
Breda Mulvihill	HSE
Alison Harnett	National Federation of Voluntary Bodies
Andrew Heffernan	National Federation of Voluntary Bodies
Dolores Murphy	Irish Wheelchair Association/DFI
Joe McGuinness	Louth County Council
Oliver O'Loughlin	Limerick County Council
Kathleen McKillion	Irish Council for Social Housing
Orla Barry	Mental Health Reform
Shane Hogan	National Disability Authority

Housing Subgroup Terms of Reference

Support the effective implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011 – 2016.

Facilitate a uniformity of approach in the implementation of housing policy for people with a disability at local level.

Agree and implement a prioritised work programme to progress housing-related priority actions listed in the National Implementation Framework.

Develop and provide guidance to housing authorities on issues relating to housing for people with a disability, document and share good practice and clarify the role of the various stakeholders.

Progress the housing provisions set out in the Government's Mental Health Policy 'A Vision for Change' and the report of the Working Group on Congregated Settings, 'A Strategy for Community Inclusion – Time to Move on from Congregated Settings'. The Subgroup will report and liaise, as appropriate, with the Congregated Settings National Implementation Project Team in relation to the housing elements of 'A Strategy for Community Inclusion – Time to Move on from Congregated Settings'.

Liaise and work with the Implementation Monitoring Group (IMG) in relation to the development of appropriate guidance for housing authorities and report progress on a regular basis.

Terms of Reference of Housing & Disability Steering Groups²

A Housing and Disability Steering Group will be established in _____ City/County Council Administrative Area. The purpose of the group is to assist in the delivery of the Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities.

1. Membership

The membership of the Steering Group will be: -

- Local Authority Asst. City Manager / Director of Housing Services (Chair)
- HSE Representative - Operations Manager
- Representative from each of the four disability sectors operational in the local area
- Representatives from a local approved housing body at Manager Level

Representatives should be at a senior level and should be competent in representing the needs of the various disability groups.

The Housing Agency will assist in the establishment of the Steering Group in line with **Priority Action 2.1** of the Implementation Framework.

The **term of the membership** of the Steering Group will be 12 months and the membership will be reviewed at the end of this period.

The **criteria for the selection of the membership** shall be as follows:

HSE Representative – this individual shall be nominated at national level. The request for the nomination will be sent by the Housing Agency to the HSE representatives on the National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities Housing Subgroup. In some areas it has been suggested that there should be two representatives from the HSE, this is an issue for the Steering Groups to address but nominations shall be sought at national level.

Disability Sector Representatives – these individuals should be identified through their specific work in the area. Where there is a Congregated Setting for any of the four sectors in the area then there should be a representative on the group from this facility. Where there is more than one facility in an area it would be most appropriate to have the representative from the largest facility on the Steering Group to ensure that all aspects of the challenges ahead are highlighted and catered for.

Local Approved Housing Bodies Representative – representation should be sought from the local AHBs by consensus, however where deemed appropriate by the local AHBs this nomination could be made by the Irish Council for Social Housing from the local bodies or selected by the local authority. It is recommended that between two or three housing associations representatives should be on the committee, with this representation being made up from a mix of large, small and specialised bodies.

Additional Representation

In addition to the above representation can be sought at the discretion of the Steering Group from relevant bodies for the steering group/Working groups to

² These are the generic Terms of Reference developed by the Housing Agency and local authorities for the subgroups. Individual local authorities can adapt the terms of reference as appropriate.

contribute to specific issues in an advisory capacity from time to time and for a defined period.

2. Role

The role of the Steering Group will include:

- Overseeing the local implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities, including the housing of people with disabilities transitioning from institutional care;
- Developing, monitoring and reviewing of local interagency protocols, as appropriate;
- Developing plans to meet the housing needs and related supports for people with disabilities;
- Working with all agencies in the provision of services to people with disabilities including employment, education and training;
- Acting as a forum for the exchange of information;
- Reporting to the Implementation Monitoring Committee and the County/City Development Board.

3. Actions

The Steering Group will be required to carry out a number of actions as a matter of importance once established. To ensure the implementation of the interim protocol and National guidelines for housing assessment and allocation for people with disabilities including those transitioning from institutional settings;

- To identify a number of pilot units for people transferring from institutional care to the community.
- To identify the cohort of people in congregated settings for the pilot project that will transition from institutional care to community settings.

The Information below will be required to assist in the development of a plan for housing provision in the area. Therefore the following are longer-term actions: -

- To compile a register of adapted properties suitable for people with a disability.
- To review and report on individuals that have been provided with social housing supports or income supports in order to meet their housing needs such as rent supplement etc.
- To collate and report on the number of people with disabilities on the Housing Waiting List. The information in the report should include the numbers, nature of disability, whether physical adaptation of properties or other specific design features will be required, identify suitable options for housing need.
- To review and report on individuals with disability already in social housing in the local authority area to include the categories of disability and the numbers and the nature of non-housing related supports being delivered which assist in supporting tenancies.
- To identify additional people that may present for or require social housing supports in the future including those already residing in the community and those likely to transition from institutional care

4. Working Groups

The Steering Group may be required to establish a number of working groups in order to progress the actions required as appropriate. How the actions are progressed is an issue for the Steering Group to determine.

5. Meetings

The Steering Group will meet a minimum of four times a year. The initial meeting needs to focus on setting up the pilot project with dedicated funding for 2013 for people in congregated settings in the context of June 2011 HSE Report on Congregated Settings.

A second meeting needs to focus on the assignment of responsibility to the relevant Agencies for the longer term actions outlined at 3 above and needs to take place no later than six weeks from the initial meeting.

The Housing Agency will provide support and guidance where possible to the Steering Group for their initial meetings.

Value for Money (VFM) and Policy Review of Disability Services

The Value for Money (VFM) and Policy Review of Disability Services was published in 2012 by the Department of Health and more recently the VFM Implementation Framework was published at the end of February 2013. The vision of the Disability Services Programme as set out in the VFM Review is "to contribute to the realisation of a society where people with disabilities are supported, as far as possible, to participate to their full potential in economic and social life, and have access to a range of quality personal social supports and services to enhance their quality of life and well-being".

The recommendations in the Review describe how this vision is to be given tangible effect while the National Implementation Framework determines how the recommendations from the VFM Review are translated into concrete actions.

A number of implementation measures are currently underway:

- A range of demonstration projects on the person-centred supports model have been initiated;
- The Department is liaising with the HSE on a feasibility study being undertaken by the NDA to identify and standard needs assessment tool and resource allocation methodology;
- The NDA are also working on a range of other measures, including the development of a commissioning framework and an outcomes measurement framework, community engagement guidelines and day service standards.

The implementation processes underway in respect of the Congregated Settings Report and the New Directions (Adult Day Services) Report also fit within the overarching VFM implementation framework.