Clare Homelessness Action Plan

2013 - 2018

Comhairle Contae an Chláir | Clare County Council

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The definition of homelessness is set out in the Housing Act of 1988 as:

A person shall be regarded by a housing authority as being homeless for the purpose of this Act if....

1. There is no accommodation available which in the opinion of the authority he, together with any other person who normally resides with him or who might reasonably be expected to reside with him can reasonably occupy or remain in occupation of;
   or

2. He is living in a hospital, county home, night shelter, or other institution and is so living because he has no accommodation of the kind referred to in paragraph (1).

3. He is, in the opinion of the authority, unable to provide accommodation from his own resources.

In accordance with the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, Limerick City Council as designated Lead Authority for the Mid-West Region led the Regional Homelessness Management Group in the preparation of a new Mid West Regional Homelessness Action Plan for the period 2013 to 2018.

The Regional Plan has been developed following the principles of the current national homelessness strategy "The Way Home: A Strategy to Address Adult Homelessness in Ireland 2008 – 2013". It has also taken cognisance of the Government's Housing Policy Statement released in June 2011, which highlighted the need to explore a Housing First (Led) approach and to achieve a maximum return for the resources invested in homeless services.

The Mid-West Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2013 -2018 will provide a platform for the continued provision of high quality person focused services with access to the appropriate supports to live independently, with an emphasis on strengthening preventative policies, procedures, working relationships and services to reduce levels of repeat homelessness, thus reducing the overall level of homelessness within the region.

The Clare Homelessness Action Plan 2013-2018 has been developed by The Clare Homelessness Alliance (CHA), which is representative of service providers in the county. The CHA provides a forum for the sharing of information and development of awareness of issues and services impacting on the homeless. It also promotes best practice in service delivery and provides essential links between service providers.

The Clare Homelessness Action Plan 2013-2018 will assist in the delivery of the actions in the Mid-West Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2013–2018. It also acknowledges and has regard to the more recent National Homelessness Policy Statement issued in February, 2013. The strategic actions outlined in the Plan are targeted to assist those experiencing homelessness as far as possible, and secondly to minimise the duration and occurrence of homelessness in accordance with national policy. The delivery of the actions contained in the plan will provide a key level of involvement to Voluntary and Statutory groups at local level.

The CHA will monitor and review implementation of the Actions in the Clare Homelessness Action Plan 2013-2018 on an ongoing basis and will report annually through the Council's Strategic Policy Committee.

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Patricia McCarthy, MCC
Chairperson,
Clare Homelessness Alliance

Strategic Actions

1 Reduce Homelessness through Developing Preventative Measures

1.1	**Central Placement of Homeless Persons**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
1.1.1	A protocol will be developed to ensure that appropriate screening and assessment of all persons presenting as homeless is carried out to determine if emergency accommodation is required and who is responsible to provide same.	HU	DSP HSE SP	Q3 2013
	Outcome: Protocol developed			
1.1.2	Regional protocol, when developed, will be implemented to ensure that access and admission to emergency hostel beds in the event of acute demand is managed on an equitable and transparent manner and on the basis of need across the region.	HU	HSE SP	Q3 2013 Regional
	Outcome: Protocol implemented			

1.2	**Education**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
1.2.1	Implement Regional protocol, once developed, to support all suitable persons in emergency and long term accommodation to engage in education/training programmes, with a priority focus on life skills.	SP	HSE CCC VEC	Q4 2014 Regional
	Outcome: Protocol implemented			

1.2.2	Engage with and strengthen links with local educational/ training agencies.	HU	VEC SP	Q4 2014
	Outcome: Interagency approach to meeting the specific educational needs of homeless persons within the county is established			

1.3	**Addictions**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
1.3.1	Establish an addictions service providers/homeless services providers forum to meet bi-annually to share information in relation to: 1. Care pathways 2. Services available 3. Emerging issues and trends in addiction and homelessness 4. Blockages to accessing services	HSE	HU All	Q4 2014
	Outcome: Establishment of service providers network group focusing on information sharing and improved interagency work established			
1.3.2	Ensure that the HSE Mid-West Drug & Alcohol Service Training Calendar is circulated to all Clare Agencies working in the homeless field; and that relevant agencies are consulted as to their training needs	HSE	HU All	Q4 2014
	Outcome: Agencies are offered training in the addictions field			

1.4	**Mental Health**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
1.4.1	Mental Health services to maintain links with other housing support agencies to assist with service users timely discharge from hospital/acute services and	CMHS	HU SP	Ongoing

	to support them with independent living			
	Outcome: Links maintained			

1.4.2	Use existing Clare Homelessness Alliance as a Forum to share information in relation to
	    1 Care pathways
	    2 Services available
	    3 Emerging issues and trends in mental health and homelessness
	    4 Identify blockages to accessing services
		CMHS	All	Ongoing

	Outcome: Information shared			

1.5	Domestic Abuse	Lead Role	Partner Agencies	Timeline
1.5.1	Implement and support the Regional interagency approach, once developed, (inclusive of frontline domestic abuse services, Gardai, HSE, Court Services, LA and SPs) to address the safety and support needs of women survivors of domestic abuse and their children; and facilitate them to access appropriate services and protection.	CH	CCC HSE DSP Gardai	Q3 2013 Regional
	Outcome: Interagency approach implemented			
1.5.2	• Identify safety and support needs of women and their children made homeless as a result of domestic abuse. • Identify barriers that are causing difficulties in securing appropriate accommodation for these women and children made homeless as a result of	CH	All	Q4 2014

	domestic abuse. • Explore possible solutions to these issues both locally and regionally.			
	Outcome: Safety and support needs identified Barriers to securing accommodation identified Solutions explored			

1.6	**Other Specific Target Groups**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
1.6.1	Implement Regional protocol/ policy, once developed, for persons referred/ presenting to homelessness services who have been convicted of sex offences.	HU	HSE PS SP	Q1 2014 Regional
	Outcome: Protocol/Policy implemented			
1.6.2	Develop and implement a policy with key stakeholders to ensure that persons accommodated in emergency and supported settings are provided with the necessary skills to enable them secure and maintain accommodation.	SVdeP	SP HSE HU	Q4 2013
	Outcome: Policy developed and implemented			
1.6.3	Explore and examine the main causes of family related disputes which is one of the primary reasons for homelessness. Assist, support and implement a range of measures with family support service providers and key stakeholders to support individuals/families at risk of homelessness.	HSE	CCC SP VEC	Q2 2014 Regional
	Outcome: Range of measures developed and implemented			

1.6.4	Identify individuals/families who present as homeless on a frequent basis and develop measures to specifically support these persons by addressing their needs in a holistic manner.	HU	HSE SP CMHS	Q1 2014
	Outcome: Range of measures developed			
1.6.5	Assist and support an integrated interagency approach (inclusive of the Children & Family Service Agency, Homeless Services) to address the needs of children living in homelessness services and facilitate access to appropriate services and protection.	HSE	CCC Gardai CH	Q1 2014 Regional
	Outcome: Interagency approach developed			

1.7	**Delivering Effective Prevention**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
1.7.1	Assist in the development of a Regional best practice guideline in relation to the prevention of homelessness including the mapping of all statutory and voluntary services with the supports provided.	HU	SP HSE	Q1 2014 Regional
	Outcome: Guideline developed and services mapped			

1.8	**Discharge Planning**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
1.8.1	Assist in the Regional review of existing discharge policies/ protocols for homeless persons leaving acute and mental health settings in the Mid-West Health Area to ensure their effectiveness	CMHS	CCC SP HSE	Q4 2013 Regional

	in line with the newly revised National Integrated Care Guidance document *"A Practical Guide to Discharge and Transfer from Hospital"*. (www.mhcirl.ie)			
	Outcome: Policies/Protocols reviewed			
1.8.2	Assist in the review of existing protocols/policies with the newly established Children & Family Support Agency to ensure that appropriate linkages/systems/ protocols are in place to deal effectively with youth homeless and in particular children leaving care and aftercare.	HSE	CCC CFSA	Q4 2013 Regional
	Outcome: Policy reviewed			
1.8.3	Liaise with Prison/Probation Services and other key stakeholders to ensure that an effective discharge protocol/policy is in place for persons leaving prison.	HU	IPS SP	Ongoing
	Outcome: Policies/protocols developed for those leaving Prison			

2 Eliminate any Need for People to Sleep Rough

2.1	**Monitoring of Rough Sleeping**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
2.1.1	Establish rough sleeper counts at 2 clear points in the calendar year in urban centres in line with system developed regionally.	HU	All	Twice Yearly
	Outcome: Complete counts twice yearly			
2.1.2	Assist in determining the effectiveness of the current configuration of emergency homelessness hostels and their capacity to accommodate rough sleeping, particularly in relation to those persons who are excluded/ barred from hostels.	HU	HSE SP	Q1 2014 Regional
	Outcome: Review of emergency services			
2.1.3	Ensure that cold weather protocols/strategies are in place across the county to support emergency hostels in dealing with greater demand for services in periods of reduced temperatures during winter months.	HU	HSE SP	Q3 2013
	Outcome: Cold Weather Protocols to be in place			
2.1.4	Assist in developing a response action protocol for reports of rough sleeping within the county.	HU	HSE SP	Q4 2013
	Outcome: Rough Sleeping Protocol developed			

2.2	**Accommodation Management System**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
2.2.1	Ensure that the PASS System (Pathway Accommodation & Support System) is implemented and working effectively across the county.	HU	HSE CCC DSP SP	Q3 2013
	Outcome: Implementation of the PASS System			

3   Eliminate Long Term Homelessness & Reduce the Reliance on Emergency Accommodation

3.1	**Care & Case Management**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
3.1.1	Support the implementation of a Care & Case Management System to support Homeless Persons Units/Service Providers deal with persons who have become entrenched in long term homelessness.	HU	SP HSE	Q1 2014
	Outcome: Implementation of Care & Case Management System			

3.2	**Identification of Current Long Term Homelessness**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
3.2.1	Carry out a review/assessment for all persons who have resided in emergency accommodation for a period of greater than 6 months in order to address their long term housing options and support needs where required.	HU	HSE SP	Q1 2014
	Outcome: Emergency accommodation assessment completed			

4 Provide Adequate & Appropriate Housing & Support for Homeless People

4.1	Meeting Accommodation & Support Needs	Lead Role	Partner Agencies	Timeline
4.1.1	Ensure within available resources an adequate supply of accommodation is available within the county to meeting the needs of persons who have been identified as being long term homeless or identified as being at risk of homelessness.	CCC	HSE SP	Ongoing
	Outcome: Investigate adequate supply of long term accommodation			
4.1.2	Ensure within available resources appropriate supports are available within the county to meeting the needs of persons who have been identified as being long term homeless or identified as being at risk of homelessness.	HSE	SP HU	Ongoing
	Outcome: Investigate availability of appropriate supports			
4.1.3	Assist with the development of a Regional plan to identify the specialist accommodation needs across the county for persons who are deemed to require variant levels of support with specialist accommodation.	HU	PS SP CCC HSE	Q4 2013 Region
	Outcome: Plan to identify specialist accommodation needs in place			
4.1.4	Participate in implementing a Care & Case Management approach across the county in relation to emergency and long term accommodation.	HU	All	Q4 2013
	Outcome: Care & Case Management engagement following referral			

4.1.5	Assess the need for a "wet" hostel.	HSE	SP HU	Q2 2014
	Outcome: Assessment completed			
4.1.6	Review arrangements for out-of hours service.	HU	All	Q4 2013
	Outcome: Review completed			

4.2	Meeting the Accommodation Needs of Persons with Addiction	Lead Role	Partner Agencies	Timeline
4.2.1	Work towards ensuring that homeless people with addiction issues are accommodated in the most appropriate housing environment that maximises their potential for a positive health outcome.	HSE	SP HU	Ongoing
	Outcome: Accommodation options identified			

4.3	Meeting the Accommodation Needs of Persons with Mental Health Difficulties	Lead Role	Partner Agencies	Timeline
4.3.1	Work towards ensuring that homeless people with mental health needs are accommodated in the most appropriate supported housing environment that maximises their potential for a positive health outcome.	CMHS	SP HU	Ongoing
	Outcome: Accommodation options identified			

4.4	Meeting the Accommodation Needs of Persons experiencing Domestic Abuse	Lead Role	Partner Agencies	Timeline
4.4.1	Work towards ensuring that homeless people who are	CH	HSE Gardai	Ongoing

				HU	
	experiencing domestic abuse are accommodated in the most appropriate housing environment that maximises their safety, their access to appropriate services and their potential for a positive health outcome.				
	Outcome: Accommodation options identified				

4.5	**Meeting the Accommodation Needs of Persons with Challenging Behaviour**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
4.5.1	Implement the Regional protocol, once developed, of long term housing for persons with challenging behaviour or higher needs.	HSE	SP CCC	Q3 2013 Regional
	Outcome: Protocol implemented			

4.6	**Review the Tenancy Sustainment Services in the County**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
4.6.1	Review Tenancy Sustainment/ Resettlement services in the county to ensure that they are operating effectively.	HU	HSE SP	Q3 2014
	Outcome: Review completed			

5   Better Co-ordination & Integrated Delivery to Ensure Efficient Services

5.1	**Local Structures**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
5.1.1	Ensure that the Homeless Alliance is operating effectively.	CCC	All	Q1 2013
	Outcome: Alliance operating effectively			

5.1.3	Co-operate with the monitoring of the Clare Action Plan by the Regional Management Group and the Regional Consultative Forum.	HU	All	Q4 2013 Regional
	Outcome: Monitoring process developed			
5.1.4	Engage with and support Primary Care Services in the Mid West to ensure that the complex and diverse needs of homeless people are met.	HSE	HU SP	Ongoing
	Outcome: Provide supports to Primary Care Services			

5.2	**Regional Management**	**Lead Role**	**Partner Agencies**	**Timeline**
5.2.1	Assist with the review of the operation of the Homeless Persons Unit throughout the county with a particular focus on resources and effectiveness of operations.	HU	SP	Q4 2014
	Outcome: Operations reviewed			
5.2.2	Assist the Regional Management Group to develop a protocol in relation to the processing of future Capital Assistance Scheme projects and the processing of applications in Clare.	HU	SP	Q1 2014 Regional
	Outcome: Protocol developed			

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Clare Homelessness Alliance will monitor and review the implementation of this Action Plan on an ongoing basis at its scheduled quarterly meetings. The Clare Homelessness Alliance will produce an annual report on its achievements and progress in implementing the Plan.

Appendix 1

Regional Trends & Data

Homeless Household Presentations in Clare in the Regional context

Area	2010	2011	2012
Limerick City	552	662	608
Limerick County*	381	283	417
North Tipperary	125	120	217
Clare	357	247	304
Total	1,415	1,312	1,546

Number of Household Homeless Presentations in Clare in the Regional context - Emergency Accommodation 2012

Area	Service Provider	Scheme	Total
Limerick	ACT Charities	Thomond House	65
	Cuan Mhuire*	Bruree House	293
	ADAPT Domestic Abuse Services	ADAPT House	191
	Novas Initiatives	McGarry House	94
	Novas Initiatives	Brother Russell House	60
	Respond!	Suaimhneas	29
	St. Vincent de Paul	St. Patrick's Hostel Kilree Lodge	101
		TOTAL	833
North Tipperary	Novas Initiatives	Prospect House	4
	Novas Initiatives	Mitchell Street	12
	Thurles Lions Club	Gortataggart	8
		TOTAL	24
Clare	St. Vincent de Paul	Laurel Lodge	38
	Clare Haven Services	Clare Haven Refuge	69
		TOTAL	107

* Figures for Limerick County Council appear higher than normal as a direct result of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centre located in Bruree. This centre provides a valuable resource to not only the region but the entire country.

Appendix 2

Clare Homelessness Alliance Membership 2013

Cllr. Patricia McCarthy	Member of Clare County Council
Bernadette Kinsella	Clare County Council
Denise Dunne	Clare Haven
Fiacre Hensey	Clarecare
Garda Albert Hardiman	Gardai
Ian Culhane	Mid West Simon
Madeleine McCarthy	Clare County Council
Martina Kilcommins	Clare Mental Health Services
Maurice Hoare	HSE
Mairin Hill	Ennis Town Council
Nicola Cullinan	Clare County Council
Patrick Cahill	Saint Vincent de Paul
Patsy Queally	Department of Social Protection
Margaret Coffey	Department of Social Protection
Paul Guckian	Clare Mental Health Services
Rory Keane	HSE
Susan Kelleher	Department of Social Protection
Therese Collins	HSE
Deirdre O'Neill	HSE
Paul Hargaden	Respond
Anne Hehir	Clare County Council

Appendix 3

CCC   Clare County Council
HU   Homeless Unit
DSP   Department of Social Protection
HSE   Health Service Executive
SP   Service Provider
CH   Clare Haven
RHF   Regional Homeless Forum
VEC   Vocational Education Committee
CMHS   Clare Mental Health Service
CFSA   Children and Family Support Agency
IPS   Irish Prison Service
PS   Probation Service
RMG   Regional Management Group
SVdeP   Saint Vincent de Paul

Appendix 4

Report on Homeless Household Presentations in Clare in 2012

Gender	Total
F	160
M	144
Total	**304**

Dependants	Total
Adult	14
Child	244
Total	**258**

Age Profile	Total
17-19	19
20-29	122
30-39	76
40-49	52
50-59	25
60+	10
Total	**304**

Primary Reason	Total
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	83
BREAKDOWN OF INDP. LIVING ARRANGEMENT	52
FAMILY DISPUTE	49
TRANSIENT	34
EVICTED FROM PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION	20
RELEASED FROM PRISION	18
HOUSE FIRE / HOUSE DAMAGE/FLOOD DAMAGE	15
DISCHARGED HOSPITAL/TREATMENT CENTRE/IN CARE	10
RETURNED FROM ABROAD	9
DISCHARGED FROM ACUTE HOSPITAL	4
DISCHARGE FROM TREATMENT CENTRE	3
COMPLETED TREATMENT PROGRAMME	2
INTIMIDATION	2
ALCOHOL/DRUG ADDICTION	1
BARRING ORDER	1
DISCHARGE FROM CARE	1
Total	**304**

County/Country Of Origin	Total
CO. CLARE	212
CO. LIMERICK	27
ACCESSION STATE	12
NON EU	12
CO. GALWAY	11
UK	5
CO. CORK	5
CO. DUBLIN	3
CO. SLIGO	3
CO. TIPPERARY	3
EU	3
CO. KILDARE	1
CO. KILKENNY	1
CO. LAOIS	2
CO. LOUTH	1
CO. MAYO	1
CO. WEXFORD	1
CO. WICKLOW	1
Total	**304**

Placed In	Total
HOSTEL / REFUGE	107
FAMILY / FRIENDS	80
PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION	39
RETURNED HOME	34
BED & BREAKFAST	22
NOT PLACED	15
OTHER	3
FOYER	1
LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSE	1
MOVED AWAY	1
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	1
Total	**304**