

October 2020

Cold Weather Strategy 2020 / 21

In the event of cold weather or any emergency event, the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) coordinates the response to homelessness on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities. In order to meet the increase in demand for homeless services and have the appropriate contingency plans in place for cold weather conditions, we are activating the Cold Weather Strategy 2020 / 21 in the Dublin Region.

The Cold Weather Strategy is a dual approach, focusing on expanding current capacity to meet increasing demand for emergency accommodation and providing a targeted response for people who are long-term rough sleeping and people reluctant to engage with homeless services.

This Strategy will run in conjunction with the plans we already have in place as part of our COVID19 response.

Increase in emergency accommodation for singles / couples

In partnership with a range of service providers, we will have increased capacity for singles and couples by approx. 300 permanent beds and 40 temporary beds by the end of December 2020. These beds are becoming operational on a phased basis and will be finalised by the end of December 2020. As these beds become operational, they can be triggered as needed, depending on the demand for homeless services on any given night. Equally, they will provide vital capacity if an extreme weather event occurs. All beds are on a 24-hour rolling basis with meals being provided.

No. of beds	P / T	Status
90	Permanent	Operational
120	Permanent	Will become operational October/ November 2020
85	Permanent	November / December
40+	Temporary	As required in extreme weather

Along with the additional beds that are being put in place for the winter, and as part of the Cold Weather Strategy, it should also be remembered that extra beds were brought into the system for COVID-19:

- This additional accommodation ensured that there was and is sufficient capacity to allow for isolation of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- In consultation with the HSE, we were able to identify high risk individuals who were residing in emergency accommodation and move them to separate Shielding facilities.
- We converted all one night only accommodation (where clients would have been expected to vacate during the day) to 24 hour, with meals provided on site. This minimised the need for any residents to exit during the day and eliminated the need for them to be outdoors risking contact with others.

Enhanced services operational during cold weather conditions

Our services operate throughout the year to support people sleeping rough. During the cold weather period, services are increased and enhanced to mitigate against the health risks that cold weather poses. The cold weather provides opportunities for more assertive engagement with long-term, entrenched rough sleepers and hard-to-reach groups, aimed at placing them in appropriate and long-term accommodation. Enhanced services operating for this cold weather period include:

- Dublin Street Outreach* service provided by the Dublin Simon Community have increased their staffing for the cold weather period, to enable broader engagement with people sleeping rough across the Dublin Region;
- Contingency placements are already in place for any family that presents in need of a crisis placement. These emergency placements are managed through our dedicated Family Support Team.
- The Outreach Mobile Health Clinic, operated by Safetynet Primary Care, delivers weekly services with the Dublin Outreach teams & the Housing First Intake team, to support rough sleepers with complex medical needs. Safetynet Primary Care is a registered charity funded by the HSE, it offers a comprehensive primary health care service targeted at people who are experiencing homelessness in Dublin. The programme makes services more accessible by locating medical and social support services in the agencies and services where homeless people attend for support.

- Arrangements are in place between the DRHE, the Gardaí, Dublin Outreach, Housing First, Central Placement Service and the HSE with a view to improving outcomes for people who may be sleeping rough;
- The DRHE has a range of rapid emergency beds and support measures that can be activated during extreme weather conditions or adverse events. The DRHE Extreme Weather Protocol can be viewed on our website www.homelessdublin.ie

Singles Support Team:

This team will cover all of the Private Emergency Accommodation sites in Dublin City Centre by providing a clinic onsite once weekly and be a direct contact for Managers of these facilities in the event of an emergency in a Private Emergency Accommodation. They will also be trained in Critical Incident Support in the event of death in service. All will be managed by HSE Homeless Clinical Lead. 3 nurses and 3 Mental Health Support staff will be assigned to Private Emergency accommodation facilities. This work in PEAs will be supported by 14 staff from Ana Liffey Drug Project who are already operating in PEAs since July.

This is a total of 6 Nurses, 6 Mental Health Social Care workers and 14 drug intervention workers operating specifically in PEAS, i.e. 26 staff provided to support colleagues in DRHE.

COVID19 Response

In partnership with the HSE, Safetynet and the Ana Liffey Drug Project are operating a rapid response system with accommodation providers to test for COVID-19 amongst the homeless population. This includes assessment for COVID-19, transport to and placement in self-isolation beds including integrated health and accommodation supports for persons tested positive that do not require hospitalisation.

- In addition, the HSE has put plans in place to ensure additional services required by our clients, outside of COVID-19 continue. Safetynet and Ana Liffey Drug Project contact details are on the DRHE website and twitter accounts.
- As COVID-19 continues through the Winter period, the DRHE has also brought a number of extra beds for both singles and families into the system to ensure the continuation of shielding and quarantining for those affected by COVID-19.

We would also continue to ask the public for their assistance during this time to let us know if they come across someone sleeping rough at

<https://www.homelessdublin.ie/homeless/i-am-rough-sleeping/report-rough-sleeper>

General Information – Access to Services

If an individual / family is presenting as homeless for the first time in Dublin, their respective Local Authority will carry out a comprehensive assessment.

Dublin City Council Central Placement Service for singles and couples;

Tel: 01 - 222 6944 Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm. Email: homelesscps@dublincity.ie

Dublin City Council Central Placement Service for families;

Tel: 01 222 6977 Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm Email: family.support@dublincity.ie

Homeless FREEPHONE 1800 707 707; for access to emergency accommodation out of hours for the Dublin Region - 10am to 10pm 7 days a week;

Housing Support Officers providing housing advice and move on options to families in emergency accommodation.

Tel: 01 222 7414 Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm Email: housingsupport@dublincity.ie

Homeless HAP

Tel: 01 222 6955 Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm Email: homelesshap@dublincity.ie

Fingal County Council Homeless Section

Tel 01 890 5090 Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm Email: homeless@fingal.ie

South Dublin County Council Homeless Section

Tel: 01 414 9364 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm Email: sdchomeless@sdblincoco.ie

Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council Homeless Section

Tel: 01 205 4804 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm Email: homeless@dlrcoco.ie

Dublin Outreach Tel: 01 872 0185 from 7am to 1am, operating 365 days of the year

Tenancy Protection Service – 1800 454 454

***Dublin Street Outreach Service Tel: 01 872 0185 from 7am to 1am** The DRHE in partnership with Dublin Simon Outreach and PMVT Intake team are assertively working on the streets offering accommodation to all rough sleepers. The teams are very familiar with the locations of people sleeping rough across the Dublin Region and persistently work with individuals to support them into emergency accommodation. This process can take time and multiple contacts, as some people do not want to engage (for whatever reasons) but the teams persevere with every person working to achieve a successful outcome.

The service operates **365 days a year, until 1am**. The Outreach Teams also ensure that people sleeping rough are linked with other appropriate health services such as addiction and mental health services to prevent further rough sleeping. They also have with them sandwiches and snacks along with clean clothes, hand sanitizers, and face masks for anyone still sleeping rough.

We continue to actively encourage people off the streets and into accommodation. All our accommodation is now 24 hours with food and shower facilities provided.

Services funded through DRHE

The NGO/Charity sector are funded under Section 10 to provide and manage homeless facilities in the Dublin Region. In total 21 service providers, provide 114 services across the Dublin Region.

Table A below sets out the type of services which each NGO/Charity body provides for and on behalf of the DRHE.

Table A: List of Funded NGO/Charity Organisations and there services

	Organisation	No. of Services	Type of Services
1	Peter McVerry Trust	31	21 facilities for accommodating families and single households. Management of the MAG project. Housing First contract. Note: The cost of rent for Avalon House, 21 Aungier Street, 15 Aungier Street, St. Stephen's Green and Kerdiffstown is included in the overall figure paid to the PMVT.
2	Dublin Simon	14	11 facilities for accommodating single households. SLI service (Shared with Focus Ireland) Visiting Tenancy Support Service Dublin Outreach Service
3	Depaul Trust	13	11 facilities for accommodating single households and couples. Delivery of Ballymun Case Management which is visiting supports to the Ballymun Travel Lodge and the Ballymun Plaza. Migrant team which provides visiting supports to facilities for single people who might not have an up to date housing application.
4	Crosscare	9	7 facilities for single and family accommodation Housing Advice Service – public clinic. Refugee Information Service – public clinic.
5	The Salvation Army	7	7 facilities for family and single accommodation.
6	Focus Ireland	13	4 facilities for accommodating single households. SLI service (Shared with Focus Ireland) Families Homeless Action Team & Visiting Supports Focus Ireland Coffee Shop & Advice Centres
7	Respond	5	5 facilities for accommodating families.
8	Novas Initiative	4	4 facilities for accommodating families.
9	Sophia	6	5 facilities for accommodating families. Visiting supports.

	Organisation	No. of Services	Type of Services
10	Merchants Quay Ireland	1	Day services
11	Threshold	2	2 Tenancy Advice services
12	Sons of Divine Providence	1	1 facility for accommodating families
13	Capuchin Day Centre	1	Food Centre
14	Óglaigh na hÉireann	1	1 facility for accommodating singles
15	Hail Housing	1	Visiting Mental Health Supports
16	Anew	1	1 facility for accommodating pregnant women with supports
17	Barka	1	Migrant repatriation and advice.
18	Cuan Mhuire	1	1 facility for accommodating singles with supports
19	Paddy McGrath Housing	1	AIDS Fund Project
20	Ana Liffey Project	1	Drugs Project
21	Coolmine TC	1	1 facility for accommodating singles with supports
	Total	114	