

Monthly Report to Dublin City Councillors – Covid-19 and Homelessness

This is the nineteenth report/update on homelessness in the Dublin region that we have issued since the onset of Covid-19 early last year. There have been months of progressive reductions in homelessness and we are carefully tracking the changes that have come about since the easing of restrictions. This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin Region at the end of **July 2021**. There was an increase of 124 individuals in emergency accommodation from the previous month.

*Number of individuals in Emergency Accommodation in the **Dublin Region** – from July 2020 to July 2021, as published nationally:*

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals
July 2021	700	1,187	1,657	3,033	4,220	5,877
June 2021	702	1,025	1,684	3,024	4,069	5,753
May 2021	688	1,025	1,659	3,029	4,054	5,713
April 2021	699	1,047	1,719	3,040	4,087	5,806
Mar 2021	681	1,020	1,669	3,073	4,093	5,762
Feb 2021	716	1,083	1,760	3,046	4,129	5,889
Jan 2021	742	1,121	1,823	3,054	4,175	5,998
Dec 2020	755	1,131	1,864	3,027	4,158	6,022
Sep 2020	865	1,257	2,008	2,994	4,251	6,259
July 2020	862	1,269	2,017	2,919	4,188	6,205

1. Family Homelessness

There has been a reduction of 49% from the peak of **1,367** families in July 2018 to July 2021, when there were **700** families in emergency accommodation. The figure for July represents a decrease of **2** on the June 2021 number and a total decrease of **162** families when compared to July 2020, when there were **862** families in emergency accommodation.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of July was **1,657**. This represents a decrease of **27** on the June 2021 figure, with this number reducing steadily since September 2019, when the figure reached **2,872**. It also represents a decrease of **360** when compared to July 2020, when there were **2,017** children in emergency accommodation.

1.1. Reducing the Use of Commercial Hotels:

We continue our efforts to reduce/minimise the numbers of families in commercial hotels. By the end of July, there were **70** families residing in commercial hotels. This is the lowest number of families in hotels since September 2014. In July 2020, the number was **334**. This is a reduction of **264** families. The highest number was in March 2017 when it reached **871**. In relation to the **70** families, this is broken down between contracted hotels (25) and non-contract emergency accommodation (45).

There has been a steady reduction in the use of self-accommodation/non-contract accommodation from **584** at its highest point in 2018 to **44** at the end of July 2021. The main reasons we have non-contract emergency accommodation are to address a lack of alternative provision in a specific area and/or to access room configurations for larger family sizes. **5** of the **44** families are placed by DCC with the remaining **39** placed by FCC or SDCC.

1.2. New Family presentations - July 2021:

64 families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in July 2021. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months. This represented a decrease of 14 families compared to the previous month.

Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021
56	78	71	64	56	60	54	47	53	79	62	78	64

1.3. New Family Presentations – Nationality and reasons for homelessness

Citizenship	Irish	UK	EU/ EEA	Non EU	Total
July 2021	34 (54%)	1 (1%)	20 (31%)	9 (14%)	64

22 of the family presentations were related to relationship breakdown, 18 families presented from outside of the state, 9 were related to private rented issues, 5 were related to overcrowding, and the remaining presentations related to other issues.

1.4. Prevention - Family Homelessness

In July 2021, **55 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (53) and Social Housing tenancies (2).

The prevention figure does not include tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service or other prevention services.

1.5. Families – Exit to Tenancies

In July 2021, **37 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 30 moved to HAP, and 7 to Social Housing.

1.6. Support to Families

Residents in family hubs receive onsite support and families in private operated emergency facilities (PEAs) receive housing advice and social support from NGO/DRHE Housing teams as well as in-reach support from HSE and TUSLA. Support to families PEAs comes from a combination of Focus Ireland's Family Hat Team and DRHE Housing Support Officers. There is also in-reach by HSE and TUSLA fund Family Support Workers on the Focus Ireland team.

In recognition of increasing diversity, the DRHE has provided translated versions of the Emergency Accommodation Guidelines for Service Users in Romanian, Polish, Arabic, Lithuanian and Russian to Private Emergency Accommodation facilities. On a limited basis, the Housing Support Officers can access translation supports to communicate with families whose first language is not English.

2. Single Adult Homelessness

As we indicated in our previous reports, the situation in relation to **single persons** is currently much more challenging. There were **3,033** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of July. This is a slight increase of 9 single adults on last month.

2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – July 2021

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time has remained high, the number in July was **156**. That represents a decrease of **15** on the previous month and a decrease of **20** on July 2020.

July 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021
176	134	135	156	116	133	149	126	148	137	154	171	156

2.2. New Single Adult Presentations – Demographic Information

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non EU	Total singles
July 2021	117 (75%)	23 (15%)	16 (10%)	156

We continue to manage presentations from other counties and from other countries. In cases where the person has access to better outcomes in their local authority of origin we liaise with the Local Authority, the Outreach Team and the individual to achieve the best outcome. We have experienced constraints on emergency capacity during July but we have maintained a level of excess capacity. The constraints are due to the flow in and out of homelessness but also some reduced capacity due to improvement works on some facilities/properties.

2.3. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness

In July 2021, **75 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (60), Social Housing (12) and RAS (3). This is additional to tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service and other prevention services. In DCC these include Older Persons at risk of homelessness as prioritised for housing under the changes to the adopted 2018 Scheme of lettings priorities.

2.4. Single Adult Homeless – Exit to Tenancies

62 single adults exited to tenancies in July 2021: **40** (HAP), **19** (AHB/LA), **2** (PR) and **1** (LTA).

2.5. Housing Support Officers and Other Supports to Private operated facilities (PEA)

The efforts to improve the range of supports to single adults in PEAs, either through Local Authority Housing Support Officers or visiting support teams from HSE and NGO teams has continued. Housing Support Officers visit all facilities but there has been an increased focus on health and addiction services provided on an in-reach basis. It is welcome to have floating supports more widely available across PEAs, gradually expanding the opportunities for health or housing interventions and case management.

The Anna Liffey Drug Project currently provides in-reach supports to 16 PEA facilities, while Coolmine provides in-reach supports to 7 PEA facilities. The number of facilities covered by these supports will continue to grow. The DRHE welcomes the commitment of the HSE to expand health supports.

3. Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP):

The Homeless HAP Scheme has continued to operate successfully, with our Housing Support Officers and Place-Finders assisting households to move out of emergency accommodation. **183** new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in July 2021.

Breakdown of family type and previous accommodation of those accessing HHAP in July:

6	Families leaving hotels - Private Emergency Accommodation
24	Families leaving Supported emergency accommodation
53	Families who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)
20	Singles/Couples leaving Private Emergency Accommodation
20	Singles/Couples leaving supported emergency accommodation
60	Singles/Couples who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)

4. Duration accessing emergency accommodation:

4.1. Families – Detailed Analysis of Duration in Services

The Housing Support Officers, onsite support staff and In-reach teams continue to target families in all categories for HAP, social housing (including CAS and Long-term leasing) and long-term onsite supported housing.

Duration in EA – July 2021 (as at 31/07/2021)	Total Families	Total Adults	Number Dependents
24+ months	148	261	302
18-24months	67	109	163
12-18 months	56	103	159
6-12 months	130	225	319
6 months or less	277	463	682
Total	678*	1,161	1,625

* This figure is lower than the 700 figure for July because it is calculated using a point in time. The monthly family figure is calculated by counting all families using emergency accommodation over the final week of each month.

4.2. Single Adults – Duration in Services

Duration in EA	Total Single Adults	%
24+ months	599	21%
18-24months	208	7%
12-18 months	310	11%
6-12 months	481	17%
6 months or less	1,242	44%
Total Adults (Singles)	2,840	100%

Dublin City Council's Housing First lettings are targeted at single adults experiencing long-term homelessness needing a high level of support to move to tenancy and at single adults with a history of rough sleeping. There is also a dedicated Housing Support Officer to target single adults who may be suitable for Older Persons' accommodation.

5. Outreach, Tents and Street Services

The Rough Sleeper Team (Dublin Simon) and Housing First Intake (Peter McVerry Trust) Teams, under the co-ordination of the DRHE, continue to work towards ending the need to sleep rough. As successive rough sleeper counts have highlighted, many will have used emergency accommodation over the previous week/month. We continue to support Housing First as the most effective evidence

based intervention for chronic rough sleepers. The DRHE have commissioned a report into the running and effectiveness of street services and a final draft is due in September 2021.

6. Covid-19

Shielding continues to be provided for most at-risk persons experiencing homelessness. The Housing Support Team engages directly with all clients and key workers to identify longer-term accommodation solutions. This work requires a multi-agency approach and we are working closely with the HSE, the 4 Dublin Local Authorities and NGO providers to progress people to tenancies from shielding.

The number of COVID-related deaths has not changed at 3 residents from Long-Term Supported Housing. As of 30th July there were **309** confirmed (cumulative) cases within Dublin Homeless Services.

We are gratified to see the benefits of the vaccine rollout but remain cautious in relation to the school return. As ever, we express our thanks to all frontline staff for keeping homeless services running and for their support with the vaccine roll out.

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Homeless FREEPHONE 1800 707 707; for access to Emergency Accommodation out of hours service for the Dublin Region.

Download Rough Sleeping Application from APP Store.