

Response to: FOI\_22-23\_108 September 2022

## **Homelessness Policy**

1. Do you have a homelessness policy?

Yes

2. Has a homeless health needs audit been completed?

The Housing Executive has not completed a homeless health needs audit

3. Has a local homelessness review been completed to consider health and wellbeing and the role of health services?

No review has been carried out

4. Do you provide training for those working with people experiencing homelessness in health care services e.g., standards for GP receptionists in primary care and practice managers?

No. The Housing Executive does not provide such training but would note an action in the Year 2 Inter-Departmental Homelessness Action Plan which noted an intention to 'Co-produce an awareness and education plan to meet the needs of staff in the voluntary sector and to raise awareness among HSC staff regarding particular service needs of homeless people' and to 'Work with partners ie. Voluntary and community sector and HSC to provide awareness and training on issues effecting homeless health.'

The Inter-Departmental Homelessness Action Plan which was first published in November 2017 has been developed by the DfC to complement the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's new Homelessness Strategy. It focuses on addressing gaps in those non-accommodation services that have the most impact, or have the potential to more positively impact, on the lives and life chances of people who are homeless and those who are most at risk of homelessness.

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5. Do you have Pathways/protocols/ services in place to prevent homelessness at discharge from hospital (including mental health and on release from prison)?

No hospital protocols are in place.

6. Do you have a multidisciplinary team that works with people who are homeless?

Multi-disciplinary teams operate across the Belfast Area Health Trust and South Eastern Area Health Trust. Teams do not operate in other trust areas.

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