

Summary Minutes of the Homelessness Regional Thematic Group held on 08 November 2023			
<b>Present:</b>			
Alistair Mawhinney (Chair)	NIHE Supporting People	Imogen Orr(minutes)	NIHE Supporting People
Brian O’Kane	NIHE Housing Services	Caroline Holloway	Health and Social Care Trust
Sinead Twomey	NIHE Supporting People	Mark Baillie	Homeless Connect
Deborah Reid	NIHE Housing Services	Kevin Wright	First Housing
Richard Tanswell	NIHE Housing Services		
<b>Apologies:</b>			
Peter Quinn	NIHE Supporting People	Colin McCloy	NIHE Housing Services
Gareth Ferguson	NIHE Supporting People	Simone Simpson	Probation Board NI
Gillian McAllister	Probation Board NI		

<b>Summary Minute</b>
<p><b>Supporting People Update</b></p> <p>The budget has been confirmed.</p> <p>Supporting People are unable to provide any additional funding outside of the items that were committed to early in the financial year.</p> <p>A DfC &amp; NIHE meeting with Supporting People and Homeless Sectors was held on 12<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p>In respect to SP Restricted reserves, the majority of providers have responded and requested a meeting. These meetings are expected to commence in November.</p> <p>As the Supporting People Strategy was written in a different financial environment, there may be actions that require being revisited.</p>
<p><b>Homelessness Update</b></p> <p>Housing Services are in a similar budget position to Supporting People.</p> <p>The Housing Executive have to be realistic about the current pressure and demands, and that the budget position leaves no funding for some programme areas.</p> <p>Housing Services will continue to deliver the 5 year strategy and the action plan will be shaped by the available funding.</p> <p>The Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation Year 2 Action Plan is agreed and will soon be available on the NIHE website.</p>
<p><b>Annsgate – Extended Opening Hours</b></p> <p>Annsgate Extending Opening Hours awaiting approval. This was committed to, but Supporting People were not permitted to release funds until the budget was agreed.</p>

**Floating Support for Refugees**

Extern Refugee Floating Support awaiting approval. This was committed to, but Supporting People were not permitted to release funds until the budget was agreed.

**Saul St Update**

The options within the Saul Street business case were outlined.

The SP Finance Team have carried out some work but have requested further information and are continuing to carry out analysis.

The business case will be updated and returned to Supporting People.

**Flush Park**

There have been meetings regarding possible funding arrangements for Flush Park and the possibility of a funding model.

Proposed 20-23 unit accommodation at Flush Park would be used as move-on, step-down, temporary accommodation.

The paper for Flush Park will be completed for the next RTG meeting in February 2024.

**SP Contract Management and QMT activity for 23/24**

An overview of recent Supporting People contract management activity since the last RTG in August 2023 was provided.