

Summary Minutes of the Younger People Regional Thematic Group meeting - 08 November 2022

Present:		Apologies:	
Alistair Mawhinney	NIHE (Supporting People)	Richard Tanswell	NIHE (Housing Services)
Una Lernihan	SPPG	Brian O’Kane	NIHE (Housing Services)
Sinead Twomey	NIHE (Supporting People)	Sheila Smyth	SPPG
Gareth Ferguson	NIHE (Supporting People)	Sharon Haughey	NIHE(Supporting People)
Deirdre Coyle	SPPG		
Kate Martin	CRISPP		
Aideen McLaughlin	PBNI		
Stella Kelly	SHSCT		
Gillian McAllister	Youth Justice NI		
Patricia Muldoon	Justice NI		
Catherine Carey	NIHE (Housing Services)		
Michael Gordon (Minutes)	NIHE (Supporting People)		

Summary Minute

SAB Update

An update on the SAB meeting held on 21 September 2022 was provided.

A number of new Homeless Services were presented to SAB for agreement. Housing First for Youth was also discussed.

There was discussion around the cost of living pressures and the need to prioritise any new proposals or business cases across the entire Supporting People Programme.

Pressures around the recruitment and retention of staff within the sector was raised and how this can potentially be addressed.

An update was given on the Implementation plan for the Review of Jointly Commissioned Young Peoples Services which is due to be progressed and presented to the next SAB.

SP Three Year Draft Strategy Plan and COVID -19 Recovery Plan 2022 - 2025

The SP Strategy Plan and COVID Recovery Plan is with the Minister for final endorsement following public consultation and NIHE Board approval.

Supporting People are to continue to progress actions.

Strategic Review of Jointly Commissioned/Funded Accommodation

An Action Plan for the launch of the Review is currently being drafted with an initial launch of December 2022 in the Antrim Area.

Summary Minute

Recruitment and Retention of staff in Jointly Commissioned Supported Accommodation Projects

Challenges around the recruitment and retention of staff are ongoing. SP are in regular contact with the Department of Communities conveying the difficulties that providers across the sector are facing.

It was highlighted that services are under inescapable pressures.

Supporting People are pursuing more funding as a priority.

Housing First for Youth – Flexible Outreach

Housing First for Youth – Flexible Outreach will receive funding from the Homeless budget for the remainder of the year.

Social care funding for projects running in the Northern Trust, South Eastern Trust and Belfast Trust was discussed.

There are young people within the Southern and Western Trusts who would also benefit from a Housing First model.

Prioritisation of Business Cases/Proposals

Due to the pressures on the Supporting People budget, a summary of outstanding business cases with background information to be presented at the next meeting to enable prioritisation.

Unaccompanied Young People

This item no longer needs to remain on the agenda for the Young Peoples Regional Thematic Group meetings.

Supported Lodgings

This item no longer needs to remain on the agenda for the Young Peoples Regional Thematic Group meetings.

Rossorry Grove

An update was provided on this service.

SP Contract Management Update

Contract management meetings and QMTs have been progressing as scheduled. Where a provider has not met all the QMT criteria, a service improvement plan is in place.