

Summary Minutes of the Homelessness Regional Thematic Group - 16 November 2022

Present:

Alistair Mawhinney (Chair)	NIHE Supporting People	Caroline Holloway	HSCT
Brian O’Kane	NIHE Housing Services	Simone Simpson	PBNI
Sinead Twomey	NIHE Supporting People		
Peter Quinn	NIHE Supporting People		
Deborah Reid	NIHE Housing Services		
Imogen Orr (minutes)	NIHE Supporting People		
Mark Baillie	CRISPP		

Summary Minute

Supporting People Update

There are multiple factors impacting budgetary pressure this including the increased cost of living, energy and operating costs and the recruitment and retention of staff.

Supporting People are working to identify additional funding to allow an uplift and made a bid for additional money that DfC had identified.

Supporting People are still in the early stage of the SP budget bid preparation.

SP advised that permission from DfC required to release the SP strategy document. NIHE board has signed it off.

NIHE Board sub-committee seeks to see work against action plan.

Homelessness Update

Similar to SP update, Housing Services also highlight that other chief executives, directors and finance are advising of financial pressures.

Housing Services are looking at contingency plans due to a number of pressures.

Difficulties with recruitment and retention across the board were highlighted.

There is prevention work currently happening with the Homelessness Prevention Fund.

There are flexible funding packages that are available until the end of the financial year. There has been a positive response from the voluntary sector in response to the funding.

There is consensus that prevention work could be extended if the budget was available. It has been demonstrated that it works well.

Fermanagh Women’s Aid Refuge Business Case

The project is revenue neutral on a recurrent basis.

The business case is being updated to reflect associated start-up costs.

Updated business case to be sent to SP.

Expression of Interest – Women Services

Two providers have been selected. The project was discussed in detail in the last meeting.

The project is nearing final approval and will be funded with existing monies.

The funding for the accommodation has been approved.

North Down and Ards – Peripatetic Service

The business case will be tabled at SAB in December.

There is a requirement for prioritisation of submitted business cases across the SP programme due to budget pressures.

Single Female Refugees

A background and update on this service was provided.

Thorndale Family Centre

Additional units have been made available in Thorndale Family Centre.

AOB

Derry DIME (Dispersed Intensively Managed Emergency) Accommodation

An updated was provided on Derry DIME. Work is ongoing.