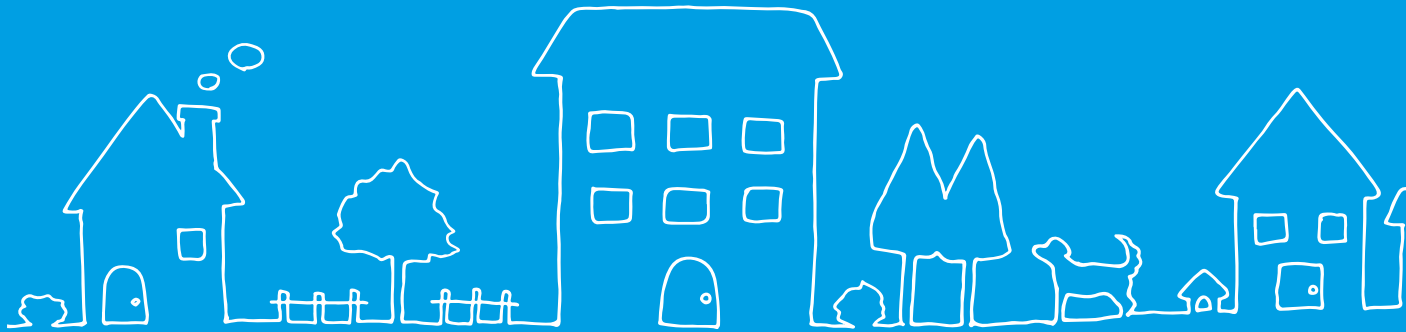


Ending Homelessness Together

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Homelessness Strategy **2022-27**



HOMELESS TO HOME

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION 2022-27 YEAR 3 ACTIONS

April 2024 - March 2025

Housing
Executive

Year 3

This document sets out the Year 3 actions of the Housing Executive's Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation 2022-27. These actions should be read in conjunction with the original Action Plan, which is available to view on the Housing Executive website.

Many of the actions included in Year 3 are multi-year and have been carried forward from previous years. Others have been carried forward due to ongoing challenges associated with funding and the demand for temporary accommodation, which increased again significantly during Year 2. A new action has been added concerning measurement and benchmarking in respect of homelessness prevention.

Some of our key achievements in Year 2 include:

- Securing additional single lets and void housing association stock to increase the supply of temporary accommodation
- Making significant progress in developing a HMO temporary accommodation model
- Putting in place a long-term leasing arrangement with a bespoke facility of temporary accommodation to enhance security of supply
- Developing a business case to purchase properties for temporary accommodation
- Establishing a steering group to take forward the remodeling of one of Northern Ireland's largest congregate hostels
- Continuing to deliver the Complex Lives project to support some of our most vulnerable customers and prevent repeat homelessness through a multi-agency approach
- Regular tracking of occupancy and voids to maximise usage of the temporary accommodation portfolio
- Continuing to deliver dispersed outreach to customers

An iterative approach has been taken in developing the actions for Year 3, based on progress to date, experiential evidence and emerging pressures and priorities. We will continue to work with our partners in the sector as we seek to meet the needs of our customers and respond to the significant challenges facing the homelessness system.

Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation Year 3 Actions

Minimised Need for Temporary Accommodation	
1	Target homelessness prevention initiatives to those at most risk and prioritise funding to projects most strategically aligned
2	We will seek to work with health partners to develop mental health and addiction support initiatives aimed at homelessness prevention. This will build on aspects delivered in Year 2 such as continuing to support the Complex Lives initiative and engaging with the Strategic Leadership Group (SLG).
3	Increase engagement with housing associations and other key stakeholders to raise awareness, improve understanding and maximise their potential to better meet the needs of households experiencing homelessness
4	Explore options for measurement and benchmarking in respect of homelessness prevention

Customer receives appropriate accommodation and support at the point of need	
5	Continue to embed Common Assessment Framework as the main tool to assess and record needs on an ongoing basis and work with the homelessness sector to further refine understanding and terminology in relation to customer support needs
6	Maximise the capacity of temporary accommodation portfolio by ensuring effective case management and void management practices; review and develop routine reporting of occupancy across temporary accommodation types
7	Continue the redesign of Housing Executive-owned temporary accommodation. Keep number of units under review based on the level of supply and demand.
8	Increase provision of appropriate temporary accommodation, including via dispersed self-contained accommodation units with wraparound support as required
9	Conduct 'emergency accommodation for families' pilot and use findings to take forward longer term response to ensure children are not housed in hotel/B&Bs, as applicable
10	Continue roll out of Shared Tenancies for young people
11	Test new models of emergency accommodation for young people, to cater for the full continuum of support needs, subject to funding availability

A sustainable supply of good quality, affordable temporary accommodation which is safe, warm and well-managed	
12	Enhance existing and develop additional strategic partnerships with a range of accommodation providers to deliver a sustainable supply of temporary accommodation to match identified need
13	Introduce new contractual arrangements for private sector temporary accommodation, such as short and long term leasing models. Ideally a range of options will allow us to balance risk and flexibility.
14	Purchase properties for temporary accommodation, subject to budget and necessary approvals
15	Commission work with customers and providers to agree a temporary accommodation standards framework for Northern Ireland. This should include physical standards, suitability standards and service standards for all types of temporary accommodation.
16	Progress the reconfiguration of accommodation-based services with shared rooms
17	Work with providers and Supporting People on a remodelling programme for large scale congregate hostels

Customers moving on from temporary accommodation sustain their tenancies	
18	Continue to deliver flexible support models both within temporary accommodation and once the customer has moved to their permanent housing option
19	Continue to build Housing First services across Northern Ireland, including via the offer of Housing Executive Housing First tenancies
20	Support projects which build community capacity to prevent homelessness and sustain tenancies, and help to promote community volunteering programmes aimed at supporting independent living and tenancy sustainment

Enablers	
21	Ensure customer voices are at the heart of service design and delivery through a Lived Experience programme
22	Support effective commissioning of services to prioritise funding via structures such as the Homelessness Scheme Assessment Committee. A particular priority in the coming year will be the procurement of increased provision.
23	Continue to work with relevant internal departments to support the development and delivery of a rolling training programme for internal staff to equip staff to deliver psychologically informed responses.
24	Continue to develop specification for digital solutions to support implementation of the Common Assessment Framework, provision of bed availability information, producing meaningful measures and data analysis.
25	Commission research to understand the impact of homelessness and temporary accommodation stays on children
26	Build upon the collaborative co-location of services and case management approach developed through projects such as the Belfast Complex Lives Project.

To discuss or comment on this document,
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