

Ending Homelessness Together

Homelessness Strategy **2022-27**
Year 1 Action Plan



Housing
Executive

Ending Homelessness Together

Year 1 Action Plan

The Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 is guided by the development of annual action plans that will support the Housing Executive and our partners in achieving our vision, aims and objectives.



Vision and Aim

The vision of *'Ending Homelessness Together'* and aim of

'Wherever possible homelessness should be prevented; but if homelessness cannot be prevented it should be rare, brief and non-recurring'

is supported by three key objectives, each with priority actions that will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Principles, Objectives and Enablers

At the core of this strategy there are a number of guiding principles that will underpin our approach to both the development and delivery of homelessness services throughout its lifespan. These principles, which are outlined below, have been co-produced with the wider homelessness sector and will be incorporated across each theme to achieve our vision of *'Ending Homelessness Together'*.

This strategy has been developed around three key objectives:

- Prioritise homelessness prevention;
- Address homelessness by providing settled, appropriate accommodation and support;
- Support customers to transition from homelessness into settled accommodation.

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This strategy will evolve based on experiential evidence, emerging pressures and priorities and it is our intention to work towards the defined success criteria outlined in this document by developing the ‘enablers’ and pulling all levers available to us. These enablers are as critical to the success of the strategy as the delivery of the objectives themselves.

- Actions required;
- Timescale;
- By whom;
- Role of Housing Executive (Enable/Support/Deliver);
- Resources;
- Risks to Delivery;
- Risk Score.

Action Plan

The table overleaf outlines actions that the Housing Executive and our partners will seek to deliver over the course of 2022/23. As enablers have been identified as being critical to the success of the strategy a significant focus in the coming year is on delivering actions that will enable us to achieve our objectives.

As part of the consultation on the draft Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 a number of stakeholders noted the need for an easy read version of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 and this action plan seeks to provide a concise summary of what we and our partners will do to address homelessness in Northern Ireland. This high level action plan is supported by a more detailed template which outlines the following:

The supporting information recognises the challenging funding environment that will accompany the delivery of the first year of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 and therefore, it is important that the Housing Executive and our partners recognise the risks to delivering some of these actions. The Housing Executive will engage with groups such as the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group and the Central Homelessness Forum in sharing the template accompanying each action while the delivery of annual progress reports will outline progress on each action and whether risks have materialised and impacted on the delivery of any actions.



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Theme	Enablers
Experiential Evidence	
Action 1	We will commission independent research on a feasibility study for Housing First for Northern Ireland.
Action 2	We will commission independent research that seeks to provide a comparison of homelessness funding between Northern Ireland and neighbouring jurisdictions.
Action 3	We will commission independent research on local efforts to address chronic homelessness.
Action 4	We will review and consider the findings for the following projects which were completed and/or commenced in 2021/22; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review prevention funded projects; • Accommodation needs of prisoners; • Challenges facing sector in terms of retention & recruitment of staff; • BCS Housing Solutions Scoping Review; • Understanding Tenancy Terminations and; • Experiences of Youth Homelessness.
Action 5	We will work with the Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC NI) and Business Services Organisation to investigate 'Using administrative data to better understand the antecedents, needs and outcomes of people who are homeless in Northern Ireland'.
Action 6	We will develop and analyse key outcomes data in order to guide and measure progress.
Action 7	We will develop a framework for the delivery of the Homelessness Prevention Fund which will incorporate an agreed definition for homelessness prevention.
Action 8	We will implement a Homelessness Data Action Plan.
Action 9	We will develop an addendum to our COVID – 19 Reset Plan.
Collaboration	
Action 10	We will seek to appoint a Strategic Partner to develop and implement a Lived Experience Programme.
Action 11	We will host four Service User meetings over the course of 2022/2023.
Action 12	We will review the Terms of Reference and membership of all of the existing implementation structures (Central Homelessness Forum & Local Area Groups).
Action 13	We will commence work to develop protocols and data sharing agreements for partner public services to ensure effective homelessness prevention pathways are in place.
Action 14	We will routinely communicate performance, budgetary, and trend information to stakeholders in user friendly formats.
Legislation	
Action 15	We will liaise with the Department for Communities in identifying potential legislative amendments.
Action 16	We will support the implementation of the Fundamental Review of Allocations, particularly any actions relevant to homelessness.
Interdepartmental Approach	
Action 17	We will support the Department for Communities in the development and delivery of the Interdepartmental Homelessness Action Plan.
Funding	
Action 18	We will support the delivery of new/reconfigured homelessness services through the identification of business need and the development of options to address these needs.
Action 19	We will support others in accessing funding opportunities.
Action 20	We will work to ensure effective commissioning structures are in place to prioritise funding.
Staff	
Action 21	We will provide opportunities for staff to input to homelessness research.
Action 22	We will seek to commence a rolling training programme for staff across the sector to equip staff to deliver psychologically informed responses (based on training needs assessment conducted 2021/22).

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Theme	Enablers
Action 23	We will consider opportunities for staff interchange programmes and co-location of services.
Process	
Action 24	We will continue to embed the Common Assessment Framework as the main tool to assess and record needs on an ongoing basis.
Action 25	We will 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.
Objective 1 – Prioritise homelessness prevention	
Action 26	We will seek to continue the Homelessness Prevention Fund.
Primary Prevention:	
Action 27	We will target Homelessness Prevention Training to the Community Sector.
Action 28	We will ensure that one meeting of the Service User Forum is dedicated to homelessness prevention to seek ideas for effective actions as part of the delivery of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27.
Action 29	We will seek to deliver a public awareness campaign to shift mind-sets towards, and raise awareness of homelessness prevention. This will include support and promotion of Northern Ireland's Homelessness Awareness Week.
Secondary Prevention:	
Action 30	We will, as part of the Homelessness Data Action Plan, identify COVID-19 impacts and explore appropriate actions arising from any trends.
Action 31	We will target homelessness prevention initiatives to those at most risk, such as young people, including former care leavers, victims of domestic abuse, those with offending histories, and families with intergenerational repeat homelessness. Prioritise funding to those projects with best proven outcomes.
Action 32	We will seek to work with health partners to develop and deliver mental health support initiatives aimed at homelessness prevention.
Tertiary Prevention:	
Action 33	We will explore the alignment of sustainment projects to sustain tenancies in the private rented sector.
Action 34	We will evaluate interventions to support access to and sustainment of tenancies in the private rented sector, including the impact of work carried out by Financial Inclusion Officers.
Objective 2: Address homelessness by providing settled, appropriate accommodation and support.	
Understanding Customer's Needs:	
Action 35	We will link to the Experiential Evidence enabler and review all research that directly involves service users.
Improving Access and Inclusion:	
Action 36	We will explore opportunities and options by which we can assist those with No Recourse to Public Funds upon the conclusion of arrangements linked to the Memorandum of Understanding.
Flexible and Responsive:	
Action 37	We will continue to deliver the COVID – 19 Reset Plan.
Implementing Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation:	
Action 38	We will implement the Year 1 actions in the Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation.
Action 39	We will develop local homelessness action plans based on analysis of local supply and demand issues; to include plans for prevention, rapid re-housing, and temporary accommodation and support provision.

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Theme	Enablers
Objective 3 – Support customers to transition from homelessness into settled accommodation.	
Housing Supply:	
Action 40	We will seek to expand Housing First provision.
Support:	
Action 41	We will evaluate and extend (subject to a successful evaluation of a pilot) the Complex Lives project.
Action 42	We will seek to support schemes focused on tenancy sustainment, such as Home Starter Packs.
Community Integration:	
Action 43	We will work with the Housing Community Network and those Community Groups with whom they work in order to promote community integration.
Annual Progress Report	
Action 44	We will publish an Annual Progress Report which outlines actions in delivering Year 5 of the Homelessness Strategy 2017-22.



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HS-13-03-22-SC