



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

### Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Virtual Meeting, 2.30pm**

**Attendees** - Cllr Damien O’ Reilly (Chairperson), Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Cllr Alan  
**Councillors:** Lawes, Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons, Cllr Joe Fox

**Apologies:**

**Attendees** - Niamh Ui Loinsigh, Sinead Smith, Michelle McCullough, John Regan, Gerard Weldon  
**Sectoral**  
**Representatives:** **Apologies:**

**Officials:** Barry Lynch, Mark Harrington, Francis Regan, Wendy Byrne, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><b><u>Minutes of previous meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by N. Ui Loinsigh and seconded by Cllr M. Murphy</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ G. Weldon requested an update on the process for the placement of agenda items from the PPN structure. Noted that the matter is currently with the Community Section and it is hoped that the matter will be resolved in advance of the next meeting of the Committee</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b><u>To Review Draft Mid East Region Homeless Action Plan 2021-2023</u></b></p> <p>D. Jones noted that the draft document was reviewed in detail at the previous meeting. Accordingly, it was proposed to structure the discussion under the following headings, which was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>2020 Homeless Statistics</b> – M. Harrington provided a comprehensive presentation on the suite of homelessness statistics pertaining to 2020, including number of presentations, emergency accommodation placements, reason for presentations and repeat presentations, rough sleeping and exists from emergency accommodation and reasons for same</li> <li>▪ <b>Summary of Existing Homeless Service</b> – D. Jones outlined existing service provision in respect of Meath County Council’s homeless service, noting the extent of services that have been instigated during the period of the previous Action Plan 2018-2020</li> <li>▪ <b>Key Findings &amp; Future Strategic Focus</b> – D. Jones outlined the key findings based on statistical analysis and the direct experience of the Settlement Team that has informed the future strategic development of homeless services in the County and the proposed actions contained within the draft Action Plan. F. Regan and W. Byrne provided members with an overview of their work experience, including the complexity of issues that arise and interagency collaboration</li> <li>▪ <b>Proposed Actions</b> – The draft Table of Actions was outlined by D. Jones, categorised under the headings of ‘Continuing Actions’ and ‘Key Added Value Actions’</li> <li>▪ <b>Next steps</b> were outlined including recommendation by Committee to full Council, approval by the Statutory Regional Management Homeless Group, and consideration by full Council</li> </ul>



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	<p>Discussion took place regarding the inputs provided by Officials, with the following key points noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The work of the Homeless Team was acknowledged and commended by members present, and the challenges that are faced by the Team was recognised</li> <li>▪ Gaps in service in respect of suitable emergency accommodation for rough sleepers who have high support needs in advance of being placed in a Housing First tenancy was highlighted. Noted that existing shared house model is targeted at low to medium support, and issues have arisen for certain clients placed there. Wider estate management issues is an important consideration in respect of the location of certain homeless services</li> <li>▪ Repeat presentations seen as an area for further analysis and targeted action</li> <li>▪ Significant increase in service provision in recent years was welcomed and the importance of partnership working with the homeless NGO sector, which has yielded significant results</li> <li>▪ Possible role of Regional Drugs Task Force in the context of addiction noted, with reference also to Tabor House</li> <li>▪ Language barrier noted as an issue in a number of homeless cases pertaining to foreign nationals, with increased use of translation services to facilitate engagement</li> <li>▪ The matter of domestic violence and resultant homelessness was queried in the context of Covid-19. It was noted that Meath Women’s Refuge recorded a threefold increase in crisis calls during 2020, while Dublin Refuges are full to capacity at present. Community based houses in Navan has ensured that local capacity has been maintained</li> <li>▪ Noted that input was received from the Social Inclusion Pillar of the Public Participation Network as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Challenges in capacity of local addiction services to deal with demand</li> <li>▪ Public Sector Duty and reference to impact of homeless on the immigrant population</li> <li>▪ Domestic Violence – need for further breakdown of statistics for this cohort and the development of a formal structure regarding Homeless Services and Refuges in the region regarding shared clients</li> <li>▪ Desired outcomes from the proposed actions should be noted within the Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>It was agreed to incorporate feedback as received from the Social Inclusion Pillar within the draft Action Plan, as appropriate.</p> <p>The draft Mid East Regional Homeless Action Plan 2021-2023 was approved for recommendation to full Council. Proposed by Cllr A. Lawes and seconded by Cllr M. Murphy</p>
4.	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Next meeting scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 2.30pm</li> </ul>

### **Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)**

**Agenda Item no. 3 Refers:** To adopt draft Mid East Regional Homeless Action Plan 2021-2023