



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council

Homelessness Implementation Plan 2020 - 2022

This Plan was drafted in consultation with the members of Mayo Homeless Forum, chaired by Mayo County Council with representatives from - Department of Social Protection, Mayo Women's Support Services, HSE Mental Health Department, HSE Social Work Department, HSE Social Inclusion, An Garda Síochána, MABS, Irish Association for the Social Integration of Offenders (IASIO), St. Vincent de Paul, Mayo County Council Social Work Department and Mayo County Council Housing Representative.

Introduction

Mayo County Council's Homeless Implementation Plan specifies the measures proposed to be undertaken to address homelessness in the County. This document should be read in conjunction with the West Regional Homeless Action Plan (WRHAP) 2020 – 2022 which sets out the strategic framework to address the prevention and reduction of homelessness; provision of services and assistance to those that are homeless and the promotion of effective co-ordination by homeless services authorities and providers in the administrative areas of Galway City and Counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.

Policy and Legislation

This document is guided by the following Policy Documents and Legislative Provisions:

- Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009
- Residential Tenancies Board Legislation
- Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness (2016)
- Housing First National Implementation Plan 2018 – 2021.
- Policy and Procedural Guidance for Housing Authorities in relation to Assisting Victims of Domestic Violence with Emergency and Long-Term Accommodation Needs (January 2017)
- Action Plan to Address Homelessness (December 2014)
- Traveller Accommodation Programme

Themes and Actions for Mayo County Council

In line with the parent document for the Region – West Regional Homeless Action Plan 2020 – 2022, Mayo County Council's Homeless Implementation Plan is based on five main themes and actions.

1. Prevention: Provide, consolidate, and continue to develop early intervention practices for people at risk of homelessness.
2. Support the needs of rough sleepers.
3. Protection: Protect people experiencing homelessness through emergency accommodation provision and targeted support.
4. Progression: Identify and facilitate pathways to long-term housing solutions, providing the necessary support for homeless people.
5. Ensure appropriate governance and funding structures are in place.

1. Prevention: Provide, consolidate, and continue to develop early intervention practices for people at risk of homelessness.

| | Action Description | Responsible Body | Timeframe |
|-----|---|--|----------------------|
| 1.1 | Implement National Policies in respect of vulnerable groups who are assessed as homeless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prison discharges (including sex offenders) • Young people exiting care • Hospital discharges • People exiting Direct Provision Centres • Domestic Violence • Travellers | Mayo County Council, HSE, TUSLA, Probation/Prison Service, MWSS, DePaul, Mayo Traveller Support Group. | In place and ongoing |
| 1.2 | Ensure adequate notice, in line with agreed protocols, is provided to Mayo County Council in respect of individuals/households experiencing housing issues on discharge/release/exit. | Mayo County Council, HSE, TUSLA, Probation/Prison Service, MWSS, DePaul. | In place and ongoing |
| 1.3 | Continue to review and monitor existing protocols with relevant agencies. Develop protocols where a deficiency is identified. | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 1.4 | Appointment of a Homeless HAP Placefinder Officer | Mayo County Council | Q1 2021 |
| 1.5 | Provision of Tenancy Sustainment Service | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 1.6 | Continue to extend the provision of deposit and advance rent payments to homeless or potentially homeless households entering a HAP tenancy under Homeless HAP Placefinder. | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 1.7 | Early identification of and notification for tenants in arrears of rent | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 1.8 | Early intervention in cases of neighbourhood disputes and anti-social behaviour, where appropriate, in accordance with Mayo County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 1.9 | Ensuring information on housing options is clearly available online and at the public counter of the housing department. | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |

2. Support the needs of rough sleepers.

Rough sleeping is a very small-scale issue in County Mayo.

| | Action Description | Responsible Body | Timeframe |
|-----|---|---|----------------------|
| 2.1 | Provide appropriate emergency accommodation and supports to prevent the need for rough sleeping. | Mayo County Council, HSE | In place and ongoing |
| 2.2 | Adopt and implement Housing First and achieve accommodation targets as set by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. | Mayo County Council, HSE and Service Providers. | Q1 2021. |
| 2.3 | Awareness and action of Cold Weather Response as required. | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |

3. Protection: Protect people experiencing homelessness through emergency accommodation provision and targeted support.

| | Action Description | Responsible Body | Timeframe |
|-----|--|---------------------------|---|
| 3.1 | Continue to maintain and increase an adequate supply of housing options and supports across the County. | Mayo County Council, HSE. | In place and ongoing |
| 3.2 | Continue to adopt a person centred approach to meet the diverse needs of Mayo's homeless community with sensitivity to vulnerable groups. | Mayo County Council, HSE | In place and ongoing |
| 3.3 | Utilise PASS and any other relevant reporting mechanisms to ensure accurate and consistent collection and reporting of data. | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 3.4 | Continue to support and liaise with Mayo Women's Support Services in the provision of homeless services for women made homeless due to Domestic Violence | All stakeholders | Protocol in Place with engagement ongoing |
| 3.5 | Ensure prompt initial assessment at Mayo County Council Local Housing Offices upon presentation | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 3.6 | Liaising and sharing of information with relevant agencies with due regard to client confidentiality. | All stakeholders | In place and ongoing |

4. Progression: Identify and facilitate pathways to long-term housing solutions, providing the necessary support for homeless people.

| | Action Description | Responsible Body | Timeframe |
|-----|--|--|----------------------|
| 4.1 | Progression of the Capital Programme to expand housing stock options to cater for a variety of service users' needs to ensure individuals and families do not fall into homelessness in line with agreed Rebuilding Ireland targets. | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 4.2 | Continue to allocate homes to homeless households in line with the Housing Allocation Scheme. | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 4.3 | Consolidate and develop, as applicable, interagency supports for Traveller households experiencing and facing homelessness. | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 4.4 | Establish a Housing Action Team (HAT) to identify and secure pathways to long-term housing, in particular for vulnerable groups. | Mayo County Council, HSE and relevant bodies such as DSP, TUSLA, Prison/Probation Service, SOLO, MWSS, Mayo Traveller Support Group as required. | Q1 2021 |
| 4.5 | Continue to engage with private Landlords in the provision of accommodation for homeless people under RAS, SHLI and HAP schemes | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 4.6 | Continue engagement with the Voluntary Sector in the provision of accommodation. | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |

5. Ensure appropriate governance and funding structures are in place.

| | Action Description | Responsible Body | Timeframe |
|-----|--|--|----------------------|
| 5.1 | Provide adequate training opportunities to housing staff operating homeless services | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 5.2 | Continue to use PASS appropriately and ensure information is kept up to date and relevant | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 5.3 | Convene Mayo Homeless Forum as appropriate. | Chaired by Mayo County Council, multi-agency membership. | Quarterly |
| 5.4 | Continue to engage with policy development around the National Quality Standards Framework. | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 5.5 | Supply the Regional Lead Authority with an annual expenditure estimate and ensure value for money is achieved across homeless services | Mayo County Council | In place and ongoing |
| 5.6 | All requirements of GDPR to be implemented | All stakeholders | In place and ongoing |
| 5.7 | Adhere to relevant Health and Safety legislation | All stakeholders | In place and ongoing |

Evaluation

Mayo County Council will provide an annual progress report to the Regional Lead Authority in addition to any other reports requested throughout the year. Progress of Mayo County Council will be measured in relation to the KPIs outlined in the West Region Homeless Action Plan 2020 – 2022.

Period of the Plan

Mayo County Councils Local Homeless Implementation Plan will run from 2020 to 2022 in line with the West Region Homeless Action Plan 2020 – 2022.