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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Monday, February 12, 2018**

**QUESTION NO.20**

**QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he would make a statement detailing his proposals to deal with the housing / homeless crisis through the coming calendar year and in reporting will he also confirm if he has had any discussions following the recent announcement by government of the affordable mortgage scheme and will he make a general statement in the matter.

**REPLY:**

**Homeless**

South Dublin County Council has a unit dedicated to providing assistance to those who find themselves homeless.  This unit will continue to operate a clinic in County Hall, Tallaght and an outreach service.  The unit offers advice and assistance and explains the options available to those who find themselves in this difficult situation.

Families who present as homeless are given advice on accommodation options by staff in the Homeless Unit.  The Self Accommodate practice will be phased out as alternative accommodation becomes available. Family Hubs are the preferred model of temporary accommodation for homeless families with assistance to move on to a home of their own.  They represent a better, more caring and more cost-effective alternative to commercial hotels and B&B's.  Hubs are available at Tallaght Cross, The Abberley and Respond Gleann na hEorna in Tallaght.  There is also a Homeless facility at Riversdale House catering for older long term Homeless singles. These facilities will when fully complete early in 2018 cater for in excess of 100 families.  The DRHE is currently examining the possibility of acquiring another Hub in the County.  We continue to work with the DRHE and look for suitable locations or property throughout the County which could be used to provide adequate emergency accommodation and will keep the Council briefed.

Killininny House offers accommodation for single men and additional placements are available as 'step down/transitional' accommodation.  We continue to explore options to support those coming out of supported temporary accommodation.  Other hostel type accommodation is operated through the Central Placement Services and is not in the control of this local authority and as a result the service can only offer the accommodation that is available on any given day.  We continue to work with various agencies and on initiatives such as Housing First to support this group.

The Council will continue to operate an outreach service and multi-agency approach to address rough sleepers across the County.  The Outreach worker works closely with the HSE in particular in identifying rough sleepers and sourcing appropriate accommodation and support services. The needs of rough sleepers are often very complex and challenging and require a comprehensive and coordinated approach.  A Homeless Action Team meets which focuses on single persons and known rough sleepers and will continue to meet in 2018.

Anyone assessed as homeless by the homeless unit is eligible to apply for the HAP scheme.  This is the quickest path out of homelessness and advice is available from the Homeless Unit on how to access this scheme.

**Council Stock**

South Dublin County Council continues to manage its existing and new housing stock in line with the demand and to ensure a speedy turnaround for any vacant properties and 9 LA Housing Projects are currently under construction and a further project to start in coming weeks. We are currently working though feasibility of a further number of project proposals and will be notified to the relevant Area Committees during February and March. It should be noted as previously advised that SDCC has been set a target of 2,993 units to be delivered 2017 to 2021. The Council will be making every effort to meet that challenging target.

**Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan**

A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a new Government backed mortgage for first time buyers. It is available nationwide from all local authorities from 1st February 2018.

As a first time buyer you can apply for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build your own home.

Full details are available on the Rebuilding Ireland Website:  [**http://rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie/**](http://rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie/)

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