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



**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Monday, June 11, 2018**

**QUESTION NO.15**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to present a report detailing actions proposed to meet Government targets in respect of Housing and Homelessness and in responding will he predict what progress he expects to make in respect of the issues during the remainder of this calendar year.

**REPLY:**

Homelessness continues to be a major challenge facing not only this county but counties nationwide particularly urban areas.

Homeless Services for Dublin are delivered on a regional basis and are funded through DECLG, HSE and the four Local Authorities. For the Dublin region Dublin City Council is the lead agency and actions progressed through the Dublin Region Homeless Executive.

South Dublin County Council’s tackles homelessness through the following means:

* Provision of Assessment & Placement Service
* Outreach Worker
* Supporting the provision of emergency accommodation – Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA), Temporary Emergency Accommodation (TEA), Long-term Supported Housing (LTSH); Private Emergency Accommodation (B&B / Hotel Accommodation) and Saoirse Women’s Refuge.
* Supporting services such as Focus Ireland Tallaght, Homeless Advice Unit, Focus Ireland Tenancy Sustainment Service; SLI Visiting Support Service through Dublin Simon, Focus Ireland New Presenters Support Service; Focus Ireland Homeless Action Team, Housing First Intake Team and Housing First Visiting Support Team, Peter McVerry Trust etc.
* Family Hubs are in operation at Tallaght Cross, Abberley Court and Cuan Alainn.
* In conjunction with the DRHE we are continuing to source additional HUBS where enhanced family friendly facilities can be provided and remove the need to self-accommodate

South Dublin County Council operate a  daily drop-in clinics for those homeless or at risk of homelessness from 10am to 12noon,  Monday to Friday and offers the following services:

1. Advice/Assessment/Prevention options
2. Bed Placement
3. Completion of Housing Needs Assessment
4. Sign up for Social Housing
5. Sli Service - which aids the establishment and maintenance of a tenancy once signed for over a period of time in accordance of need
6. Provides an outreach service including prison visits
7. Weekly clinic in CARP and Tus Nua

While the Council will also allocate housing stock to homeless families meeting the criteria during the remainder of 2018, families and individuals who are presenting as homeless and in emergency accommodation are being strongly advised that sourcing properties using the HAP scheme is the fastest route out of their current homeless situation.

A dedicated Homeless HAP Unit continues to operate in the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) offices to assist with the implementation of HAP at an enhanced rate for appropriate properties.  Under HAP, households are required to find their own accommodation in the private rented sector. However for homeless households who have higher support needs, STA and TEA Key Workers / Homeless Action Teams assist their client household in sourcing appropriate private rented accommodation.

The Council recognises that it may be difficult to source private rented accommodation, supports such as above are in place to assist them and the Council is working to increase the supports available.

The Council will continue to work with families who are in danger of losing RAS units through landlords having to or deciding to sell their properties.

In addition it is anticipated another Cold Weather Initiative will be in place at the end of this year as the weather changes.   It provides an emergency humanitarian response to the needs of persons who may be sleeping rough during cold weather. It provides dedicated additional beds to the existing number of beds available on a nightly basis in the Dublin region.  The Initiative aims to support individuals, who may not access the current range of services including persons who tend not to engage with homeless accommodation providers or day services or persons who may be ineligible in terms of social welfare benefits and find themselves in very vulnerable situations without accommodation.

 The Council has a major housing construction programme underway with 9 projects started and a further one to start in June 2018 and a further schedule of units at various stages of the planning process. Maine delivery will be to 2021 and the Council anticipates it will meet its Social Housing Delivery Target of 2993 2017 to 2021 set by the Department though various methods of supply.

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