

Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026



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Edward, Stephen and John Michael (Stewarts Care) receiving keys to their new home in Milford Manor from Cluid Housing (2019)

Purpose

This is the second Strategic Plan by South Dublin County Council (SDCC) to focus on disabled people who are unable to access suitable housing. The Plan focuses on the move away from traditional institutional living, to community-based homes. In addition, this Plan aims to improve social housing so that people can have suitable homes with the supports they need to start living, or to continue to live, in the community. The Council is committed to putting disabled people at the centre of housing policies and to lead in delivering quality and appropriate housing.

The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2021- 2026 and the associated National Implementation Framework are joint publications by the Department Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Health. They were developed as a coherent framework, in conjunction with the Government's mental health policy, 'A Vision for Change', and the Report of the Working Group on Congregated Settings, 'Time to Move on from Congregated Settings – A Strategy for Community Inclusion', to support disabled people in community based living with maximum independence and choice.

The Plan will facilitate access for disabled people to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner. It will also promote equal opportunities, individual choice and independent living.

The actions outlined in this Plan form part of the Council's Human Rights and Equality Framework and assists in the effective implementation of Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 regarding the Public Sector Duty.

Categories of disability

The four categories of disability referred to in this Plan are:

- **sensory disability,**
- **mental health disability,**
- **physical disability, and**
- **intellectual disability.**

Vision

Through forward planning and sustainable design, in consultation with stakeholders, the Council and our partners will increase and improve the range of housing solutions for disabled people to ensure they will have homes suitable to their needs, with all required supports to facilitate their independent living in the that are required in the community.

Our vision is to support people to be ‘connected with’ and included in the lives of those who are most important to them so that they can live full and meaningful lives. Person-centredness challenges us to move away from providing services in segregated and centralised locations because, inevitably, they can limit peoples’ opportunities and ‘disconnect’ them from their homes and communities.

By continuing to creatively maximise our current and future housing resources, people can be further supported to live the life of their choosing.

We will continue to promote equitable access to housing by placing disabled people at the centre of our housing policies. We will encourage continued and improved communication and co-operation between all relevant statutory and voluntary stakeholders.

Foreword

“On behalf of the Council’s Housing Department and the Disability Steering Group, I am pleased to present this Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021 - 2026 which will be an integral part of our housing services over its term. It acknowledges the need to provide quality, adapted housing for those who are disabled while also meeting social support requirements of our current and future tenants.

We will look at the future housing needs of disabled persons and plan our housing supply and construction programme to meet this need, informed by data available from service providers, local communities, individuals and support organisations.

Targets and outputs under this Plan will be reviewed annually in conjunction with the Housing and Disability Steering Group to assess and analyse performance and to provide for additional needs arising. Experiences and real-life stories from our disabled tenants will also be an important input towards continual enhancement to our housing services for disabled people.

I would like to thank the Health Service Executive, the Housing Agency, the representatives from disability service providers and Approved Housing Bodies on the Housing and Disability Steering Group and particularly people with lived experience of disability for all their commitment and input into this strategy. Their expertise, experience and guidance has significantly enhanced this Plan and underpin the Council’s continued commitment to providing quality housing to disabled persons with a disability.”

Colm Ward, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development.



New OAP Friendly Housing in Willowview, Rathfarnham 2021 delivered by SDCC in partnership with Clann Housing

Awareness, promotion and ambition

Awareness

As a service provider, South Dublin County Council is committed to delivering information to our customers, tenants and future tenants. We will ensure our community is aware of this Plan and the work being undertaken.

We want to promote different pathways to housing in South Dublin County Council. The information in this Strategy will be circulated to service providers, local community groups, advertised on the SDCC website and social media channels and by way of training and seminars. It is intended to reach a wide audience of families, individuals and support services in order to allow easy access to our information and services.

Promotion

- Publication and promotion in formats and media accessible to disabled people.
- Engagement with individual service users, their families, guardians and advocates.
- Undertake public consultation initiatives with local disabled people.
- Support staff to develop an understanding of the social model of disability.
- Encourage member organisations to promote the Strategy to Senior Management Teams by sharing strategy goals and identifying lead persons.
- Let other organisations whom we collaborate with know that we will support them in sourcing suitable properties and sharing best practice.

Ambitions

- Ensure disabled persons can access suitable homes of their choosing, in their local community, close to support networks.
- Address homelessness among disabled people and ensure homeless services are appropriate and accessible.
- Build and support a model of participation for disabled people on the steering group and in the implementation of Plan.
- Publicly funded social housing developments to achieve 7% wheelchair accessible homes in mixed tenure sustainable communities.
- Ensure disabled people are supported to live an independent life in a home of their choosing in their community.
- Oversee local implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability, including de-congregation and in developing plans to meet the housing needs of the people we support.

Supporting Independent Living



“

I love to be living in Adamstown and to get the chance to do things for myself at my age!!! When I saw these apartments over a year ago I fell in love with them and I said to myself that's what I want and I'm going to get it. I made my mind up to go and I have never looked back since.

I'm well able to do things for myself. If my mam and dad were alive today they would be so proud of me that I'm doing things for myself. I'm really proud of myself. No going back!!

”

HSDG membership

The South Dublin Housing and Disability Steering Group (HSDG) currently consists of the following:

- South Dublin County Council's Director of Housing, Social and Community Development (Chair).
- Senior staff from the Council's Housing Allocations team.
- HSE representatives.
- Representatives from each of the four disability sectors operational in the local area.
- Representatives from up to three Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs).

SDCC will seek nominations from appropriate service providers to include persons with independent living experience on the Group.

Role of SDCC

As a housing authority, the Council has a key role in providing social housing to eligible disabled persons.

The housing options available to social housing applicants are:

- Local Authority Housing: individual and shared tenancies
- Long Term Leased accommodation
- Approved Housing Body accommodation
- Age friendly housing
- HSE supported housing and other supported and / or Transitional Housing
- Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Housing Assistance Payment

The Council also provides Disabled Persons Grants and Housing Assistance Grants to support alterations and modifications to existing homes.

Role of Approved Housing Bodies

Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) provide social housing for eligible applicants on the Council's social housing list, including disabled applicants, homeless persons, older persons and applicants with standard accommodation needs.

The role of AHBs in the Housing and Disability Steering Group is to:

- deliver construction programmes that include adapted housing.
- work with South Dublin County Council in identifying and providing specific housing for those who are disabled.
- assist with the tenancy sustainment of their tenants.
- adapt current accommodation to meet the access needs of existing tenants.
- work together with service providers to purchase and lease accommodation to meet needs of disabled persons.



Tuath Housing are delighted to have worked in partnership with SDCC on the delivery of new four homes at Collinstown Grove, particularly two homes designed to enable independent living for disabled persons.

The positive impact on a person's circumstances by providing them with a home that is tailored specifically to their needs. Is recognised. Both SDCC and Tuath Housing aim to provide safe environments for their tenants where they can have dignity and independence, therefore improving their sense of well-being.

Role of service providers

The role of service providers on the Group is to provide supports, information, tenancy sustainment for tenants and future tenants. Where people are transitioning from congregated settings, it will be the role of the service provider to provide:

- information on the individual requirement for each of their service users.
- to provide information and targets to the local authority on their users and their specific needs.
- to work with the AHBs to form partnerships to provide housing and sustain tenancies.
- to avail of other social housing supports including Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS), Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and private rented accommodation.
- To support families in their administrative areas with information on services the local Council can provide.
- To support South Dublin County Council on providing housing with often restricted resources and funding.

Role of the HSE

Support from the HSE is imperative to the group. The HSE is one of the main drivers in the move from congregated setting to independent living. The role of the HSE is

- to provide support plans for those transitioning to independent living.
- to identify funding available for tenants and local authorities.
- to support disabled individuals to sustain their tenancy.
- to deliver healthcare and person social services to tenants of a local authority.
- Potential emerging need for Housing for disabled persons

South Dublin County Council can only deal with housing applications from households identified to them through the social housing support application process and the associated housing needs assessment.

However, it is accepted that there is a potentially unknown and emerging need for housing from disabled people requiring a range of responses. The needs of these individuals will vary and as a result the housing needs will vary. However, this plan is based on existing and emerging needs from the following:

- SDCC medical priority list (currently 466 households)

- People in services with a future need including those in congregated settings such as Cheeverstown (55 persons) and Stewart's Care (140 persons).
- People leaving residential care including individuals placed inappropriately in nursing homes and those leaving mental health acute wards or residential units
- People in unsuitable existing homes due to the nature of their disability
- People living in mental health hostels or similar accommodation

Congregated settings

Given the complexity of implementation of the transition process from congregated settings which includes the determination of the most appropriate choice of accommodation, location, funding and staffing needed from the health sector to continue to provide ongoing supports for those individuals transferring to new accommodation.

This will require agreement between individual service providers and the HSE on numbers planned for de-congregation in each service as it is difficult to make an accurate estimate of the number of people who are in a position to transfer.

A number of very successful tenancies have been created between services providers and South Dublin County Council. These include shared tenancies and individual tenancies with support from full time assistants.



Three service users from Cheeverstown were part of a de-congregation project to leave their current residence and take up a shared tenancy in a new constructed, wheelchair accessible property owned and managed by South Dublin County Council

Suncroft, Tallaght 2018

Risks and challenges

A number of risks and challenges to the achievement of the full vision of the Strategy for Housing People with a Disability have been identified by the Housing and Disability Steering Group:

- Full representation, commitment and participation of all stakeholders, especially the disability pillars given their unique perspective.
- Funding requirements, including those associated with CAS and CALF funding, and continued partnership with statutory bodies including Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Health Service Executive (HSE).
- Lack of adequate housing supply, particularly the lack of accommodation for single persons, availability of accessible homes, and unsuitability of many second-hand properties for CAS funding.
- Accurately reflecting the requirements of disabled people for both accommodating and support in housing needs assessments to ensure that social housing delivery matches the need profile, including for those in institutional care.
- Advance identification of the needs of individuals to provide for these needs in the design of proposed housing developments including utilising occupational therapy design recommendations / environmental specifications for accessible housing at an early stage to incorporate from the 'ground up', to better ensure inclusive design.
- Meeting the very bespoke and specific accommodation requirements of some housing applicants including adaptation of properties needed to meet HIQA requirements.
- Addressing barriers to accommodation where suitable facilities are not included in the home being offered and the associated time frames for adaptation works.
- Ensuring prompt minor adaptations and equipment supply to mitigate delays in providing major adaptations and maximising the use of Housing Adaptation Grants and Disabled persons' Grants as appropriate.
- Location of properties to ensure disabled people can be close to their families and support networks including being located within reasonable distance to day service facilities / hubs and other essential services including tenancy support.
- Challenges associated with de-congregation in line with individual choice, including ensuring close collaboration between the HSE and the Council in particular on a case by case basis locally; having appropriate funding for multi-agency care supports; developing person centred care plans and allowing sufficient time and advance planning to support this often complicated process.
- Resistance to change where disabled persons, their families or care staff do not want the person to move and ensuring effective change management including good staff supervision structures, staff training, support, having family and staff involvement from the beginning and good communication processes.

- Continued partnership approaches across all sectors to meet our collaborative responsibilities to respond to and support the housing needs of disabled people, including through the work of the HDSG.
- Ensuring appropriate education, training, communication, promotion and awareness between and on behalf of the HSDG in relation to its work.

Current housing need in South Dublin County

There are currently 6,719 applications from households on the SDCC social housing list with a further 4,557 households on the HAP Transfer list. (Housing Needs Assessment 2020)

The Council allows households on the social housing list to apply for housing under medical priority. This is conducted under the Social Housing Assessment Regulations, 2011 which require that applicants seeking housing on medical / disability grounds provide the following original documentation:

- Medical Consultant's Certificate specifying the nature of the medical condition or disability and noting whether the condition is degenerative.
- Occupational therapist's report in respect of any specific accommodation requirements (if any)

Medical letters must show how alternative accommodation will improve / alleviate the applicant's medical condition and are assessed by the Council's Medical Referee.

The following tables show the volume of

| Social housing applications sent to Medical Referee | | Medical list breakdown | |
|---|-------|---|------------|
| 2017 | 285 | First preference North of Naas Road | 162 |
| 2018 | 333 | First preference South of Naas Road | 192 |
| 2019 | 314 | First preference All / Any Areas | 112 |
| 2020 | 247 | Total on Medical List | 466 |
| 2021 | 57 | | |
| Totals | 1,236 | Of which Requiring Wheelchair Access | 75 |

Housing delivery pipeline including housing for disabled people

South Dublin County Council has a current housing stock of 9,873 social homes (April 2021). To qualify for social housing support, an individual must lodge an application and meet criteria including having income below the eligibility threshold, being unable to provide housing from their own means and being currently inadequately housed.

Subject to funding and approval from DHLGH, provision of housing for persons with a disability is delivered through:

- Build programme: including specially adapted homes designed and built to meet the needs of specific housing applicants
- Acquisitions: purchase of suitable second-hand homes for those with medical priority including disabled persons.
- AHBs: All ABHs will be requested to provide 20% of new builds to cater for disabled applicants.
- Vacant stock: Adapted dwellings returned to the Council are assigned for allocation to disabled persons while additional vacant properties are assessed for suitability where a Disabled Persons Grant could deliver appropriate adaptations promptly.
- Part Five: use of the 10% social housing requirement in private developments under Part Five to deliver homes to meet the needs of disabled persons.
- Housing Assistance Payments: use of discretionary HAP support to assist disabled persons to source tenancies.

The projected South Dublin 2021 housing delivery pipeline is:

| Projected 2021 housing delivery | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Delivery stream | Original 2021 | Revised |
| Council build | 63 | 2 |
| AHB build | 198 | 146 |
| Local Authority Part Five | 7 | 1 |
| AHB Part Five | 100 | 96 |
| Voids | 10 | 0 |
| Total build | 378 | 245 |
| Total acquisitions | 30 | 30 |
| Leasing | 150 | 150 |
| Projected total delivery 2021 | 558 | 425 |
| 2021 SDCC targets set by DHLGH: | | |
| Build | 408 | |
| Leasing | 190 | |
| Total 2021 delivery targets | 598 | |

Selected housing developments in our delivery pipeline from 2021 onwards with homes proposed for disabled persons include:

Mayfield , Clondalkin: Three fully wheelchair adapted homes

Homeville, Firhouse: Three fully wheelchair adapted homes

Willowview, Ballyboden: Twelve age friendly homes

Floraville: Six long-term leased adapted homes

Clonburris: design of phases 1 and 2 to include approximately 20 specially adapted homes

Members targets

HAIL

- ◆ Increase housing stock by up to 55% by 2024.
- ◆ Delivery of new homes through the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS), Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) and stock transfers.

CLANN Housing

- ◆ Manage CLANN specific schemes in South Dublin as part of management of 3,601 homes across the country
- ◆ Delivery of new age friendly housing developments in South Dublin including:
 - Sallypark: Eighty-five apartments
 - Fernwood / Maplewood: Forty bungalows
 - Whitestown Way: Eighty-one apartments

St. John of Gods

- ◆ Provision of 98 homes including:
 - Six x five bed community homes
 - Sixteen x four bed community homes
 - Two x one bed apartments
 - Two x one bed apartments
 - Twenty-six x caretakers homes

Circle Housing

- ◆ Delivery of 250 Part Five turn-key properties
- ◆ Purchase through CALF / SLA / Long Term Leasing
- ◆ Purchase through CAS where required by support agencies
- ◆ Provision of new, supported age friendly housing

Housing and mental health

In Ireland one in four people experience some degree of mental health problems in the course of their lives and it can affect any person at any age. People may need some degree of formal or informal supports for a period of time; however, a small minority of the population find their symptoms are more persistent and disabling and need longer term social and professional support.

The Mental Health Services (MHS) are very committed to engaging in, promoting and successfully achieving the actions and desired outcomes of this plan. The joint SDCC / MHS initiatives and targets of this plan align with the recovery focused aims and objectives of the MHS. CHO7 area MHS strives to be a recovery focused service, treating service users with dignity and respect and as citizens with rights to independent living with the supports of their choice rather than relying on institutional based housing options. The Mental Health Engagement lead will also promote the plan through her network of service users and carers.

Some of the joint initiatives include:

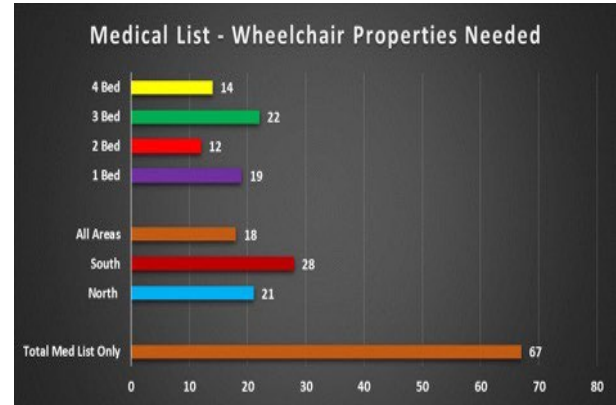
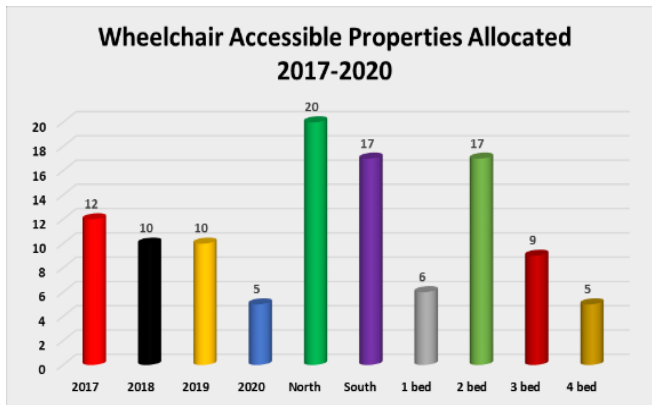
- a housing support project in partnership with SDCC and Focus Ireland since 2013. There are now five whole time equivalent (WTE) Housing Support Workers attached to the Creating Foundations project,
- a dedicated housing post since 2015,
- a Community Living Implementation Group (CLIG), with representation from SDCC,
- a housing needs record pilot project in partnership with SDCC,
- eight properties transferred to the local authority, to be managed by HAIL Housing, as part of the national transfer project,
- partnership with SDCC and Circle Housing in the 'shared living initiative'.

Garrath Tormey (service user of Tallaght Mental Health Service)
 who moved into Council housing):

"I have suffered from depression and associated mental health issues since a teenager. Through Tallaght Mental Health Services, I was able to apply for and then, in August 2020, receive South Dublin County Council housing. The initial transition was daunting, living by myself and needing to deal with bills etc., but I finally felt that I had a place of my own, where I could live independently and take my next step to improving my overall mental health. This certainly became the case. I went from being someone who barely cooks to someone who loves to make a meal. From someone who rarely exercised to someone who enjoys regular walks but by far it's the feeling of certainty knowing I have a place of my own to come home to. Something that will always be there, where my bed will always be and where my donated sofa sits in my living room. That's not to say there were no issues, I had a gas bill issue which lasted over 10 months but with the help of The Creating Foundations service I resolved this daunting and stressful task. I had to employ the same skills recently when my broadband operator made a billing error. I am a much-improved version of myself today. I measure the time between moving into my flat to now not in years and months but in how I have grown. I also continue my growth as now I feel I have a steady, sturdy platform underneath me to keep improving."

Wheelchair accessible housing

Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) recommendations:



1. That all government funded social housing includes 7% of wheelchair accessible units creating mixed tenure sustainable communities.
2. That each Local Authority (LA) creates a register of Council and AHB wheelchair accessible housing stock.
3. That the LA HDSG supports IWA's campaign for a review of Part M of the Building Regulations (2010) to provide for regulations for liveable wheelchair accessible housing. Local authorities and approved housing bodies comply with Part M building regulations but these are not suitable for wheelchair users. There is a difference between houses being "visitable" and "liveable". See Chapter 10, IWA Best Practice Access Guidelines Edition 4.
4. That each Local Authority adopts IWA Best Practice Access Guidelines (4th Edition) as a standard of choice in all new building designs.
5. That the Local Authority includes IWA's Think Ahead, Think Housing campaign in their local housing strategy and supports its implementation. Think Ahead, Think Housing encourages disabled people to apply to their local authority to secure their future housing needs. We recommend that the Local Authority supports the campaign and includes it in its strategy.
6. The local authority to promote innovative housing design models.
7. The Local Authority identifies the:
 - Number of people on the housing list requiring supports to live independently
 - People on the approved housing list are encouraged to apply to the HSE for the personal supports to meet their needs to live independently.



Newly constructed fully wheelchair accessible bungalow Suncroft, Tallaght 2018

Local Authority disabled tenants

An ongoing programme of adaptations for disabled tenants is provided by the Council under the Disabled Persons Grant scheme.

Waiting times will vary depending on the type of adaptation required and associated funding approvals, ranging from a matter of weeks for small works under the scheme (for example, grab rails, ESAT doors and so on) to potentially significant periods where extensions are required.

The Council works closely with tenants, their occupational therapists and other advocates to facilitate the applicant to remain in their home.



**Level Access shower installed
in a local authority home**

For private home owners, the Private Grant scheme is available. The Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme for disabled people is available to assist in the carrying out of works that are necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a disabled person who is a member of the household. An Occupational Therapist's report is required outlining the recommendation of proposed works. The availability of the grant is means tested and the level of grant is determined on the basis of gross income of each member of the household over 18 years of age (over 23 if a full time student) for the previous tax year. Grant allocation is calculated on approved net cost of proposed works. The maximum grant available is €30,000. Refund on the VAT amount can be recouped from the Revenue Commissioners when payment has been issued by the Council.

Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme

The Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme is available to fast track grant aid to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing. This Scheme is also for the disabled person who is a member of the household. An Occupational Therapist's report is required outlining recommendation of proposed works. The availability of the grant is means tested and the level of grant is determined on the basis of gross income of each member of the household over 18 years of age (over 23 if full time student) for the previous tax year. The maximum grant available is €6,000 or 100% of the approved net cost of proposed works. Gross income of household members must not exceed €30,000. Refund on the VAT amount can be recouped from the Revenue Commissioners when payment has been issued by the Council.

Housing aid for Older People Scheme

The scheme is available to assist older people (over 66 years of age) living in poor housing conditions to have essential repairs or improvements carried out such as re-wiring, re-roofing and the provision of central heating (where none exists). The availability of the grant is means tested and the level of grant is determined on the basis of gross income of each member of the household over 18 years of age (over 23 if full time student) for the previous tax year. The maximum grant available is €8,000 of the approved cost of proposed works.

Conclusion

This Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021- 2026 will be formally reviewed annually by the Housing Disability Steering Group, in partnership with disabled people and disabled peoples' organisations. This will allow emerging needs to be central to the review along with assessment of performance against targets and highlighting key learning areas for enhanced strategy implementation.

The work of the HSDG in overseeing the preparation and completion of this draft plan, together with the inputs by Independent Living Movement Ireland, is acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

Housing Disability Steering Group members

| Title | Name | Organisation |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Local Authority representatives | |
| Chair | Elaine Leech | SDCC |
| LA staff | Fiona Hendley | SDCC |
| LA staff | Adrienne Moloney | SDCC |
| LA staff | Leona Maher | SDCC |
| HSE representatives | | |
| Mental health | John Cowman | Creative Foundations |
| Disability | Catherine Elliot Lewis | HSE |
| Disability Sector representatives | | |
| Physical | Jean Coleman | IWA |
| Sensory | Kevin Dempsey/Laura Sweeney | Stewarts Care |
| Intellectual | Caitriona Morton | Cheeverstown House |
| Mental health | Brian Riordan/Julie Cruikshank | HAIL |
| Approved Housing Body representatives | | |
| AHB | Eimer Lynch | Clann Housing |
| AHB | Sean Crowley | SJOG |
| Disabled Persons Organisation | | |
| DPO | Gladys O'Neill/Michael Seifu | South Dublin Disability Platform |
| DPO | Waiting for new rep to be put forward | Voice of Vision Impairment (VVI) |

National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 Implementation Plan

Housing Disability Steering Group actions

Theme 1 – Accessible housing and communities

Outcome 1.1 There is an increase in the provision of accessible housing for disabled people by the setting of local, need-related [F15] targets for all social housing providers using a universal design approach, as appropriate.

Action 1.1.2.

Each Housing and Disability Steering Group (HDSG) will review their Local Strategic Plan (LSP) to take account of the outcomes and actions of the new Strategy and this Implementation Plan and to align with targets set in their Housing Delivery Action Plans and other actions from Housing for All.

- Lead: LAs,
- Other Partners: HDSG member organisations,
- Timelines: Q4 2023,
- KPI: Local Strategic Plan reviewed and updated.

Action 1.1.3

Housing and Disability Steering Groups will report quarterly on the implementation of their Local Strategic Plans regarding housing for disabled people to the Chief Executive and the Strategic Policy Committee.

Subsequently the report must be submitted to The Housing Agency who will be responsible for reporting at national level.

- Lead: LAs,
- Other Partners: HDSG member organisations,
- Timelines: Underway and ongoing,
- KPI: Reports submitted to The Housing Agency.

Outcome 1.4 Local authorities strategically plan for the housing needs of disabled people in their administrative area.

Action 1.4.1.

Local authorities must carry out an audit of their current social housing waiting list to establish the number of disabled people on the list, in line with Action 1.1.4.

- Lead: LAs,
- Other Partners: HDSGs,,
- Timeline: Q1 2024,.
- KPI: Audit reports completed by all LAs.

Theme 2 – Interagency collaboration and the provision of supports

Outcome 2.3 Local authorities and the HSE work and collaborate efficiently, improving access to housing for disabled people.

Action 2.3.3.

The Housing and Disability Steering Groups (HDSGs) have been identified in both Housing for All and the new Strategy as key to the implementation of the Strategy at local level. As a result, the following will be actioned:

a) HDSGs will review their Terms of Reference and their frequency of meetings.

- Lead: HDSGs,
- Other Partners: All HDSG Members,
- Timeline: Q4 2023,
- KPI: Each HDSG reviews their Terms of Reference and their membership and submits to the HA and National Implementation Steering Group.

b) HDSGs will review their membership and ensure there is representation from Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) on each group. Membership should be reviewed annually to ensure that there is fair representation.

- Lead: HDSGs,
- Other Partners: All HDSG Members,
- Timeline: Q4 2023,
- KPI: There is an increase in DPO membership in all HDSGs.

c) HDSGs will report quarterly on their delivery, allocations, pipeline delivery and support packages.

- Lead: HDSGs,
- Other Partners: All HDSG Members,
- Timeline: Underway and ongoing,
- KPI: Each HDSG coordinates with members and submits their quarterly returns to the HA and National Implementation Steering Group.

d) HDSGs will examine how members represent their sector and how the group supports members to report back to their sector.

- Lead: HDSGs,
- Other Partners: All HDSG Members,
- Timeline: Q3 2023,
- KPI: Sector forums are established where representatives report to their sector.

e) Establish subgroups of the HDSGs to deal with specific issues or groups, as appropriate.

- Lead: HDSGs,
- Other Partners: All HDSG Members,
- Timeline: Underway and ongoing,
- KPI: Subgroups established to deal with specific issues.

f) All stakeholders communicate on pipeline delivery to allow for effective planning including gains from the close working relationships.

- Lead: HDSGs,
- Other Partners: All HDSG Members,
- Timeline: Underway and ongoing,
- KPI: Stakeholder communication on pipeline delivery in place.

g) Ensure that delivery is provided in a coordinated way without competition for existing supply.

- Lead: HDSGs,
- Other Partners: All HDSG Members,
- Timeline: Underway and ongoing,
- KPI: Measures in place to reduce risk of competition.

h) A formal process will be put in place through The Housing Agency to allow HDSGs to escalate issues to be dealt with at a national level, as appropriate.

- Lead: HA,
- Other Partners: All HDSG Members,
- Timeline: Q3 2023,
- KPI: Process in place.

i) HDSGs to encourage and facilitate smaller specialised AHBs to undertake new projects.

- Lead: HDSGs,
- Other Partners: All HDSG Members,
- Timeline: Underway and Ongoing,

KPI: HDSGs have reached out to smaller specialised AHBs in their area

Theme 4 – Communication and access to information

Outcome 4.5 Better sharing of data to produce more collated data.

Action 4.5.5

Conduct a mapping exercise of county wide services under housing, health, and community for each county.

- Lead: HDSGs,
- Other Partners: All Stakeholders,
- Timeline: Q2 2024,
- KPI: Mapping exercise completed and report produce.

Theme 5 – Knowledge, capacity and expertise

Outcome 5.1 Local authorities, the HSE and Approved Housing Bodies have the knowledge base, expertise and capacity to provide services and relevant information to disabled people.

Action 5.1.5.

HDSGs organise “shared learning” days in their local authority where representatives from LAs and disability services share learning with members.

- Lead: HDSGs,
- Other Partners: All stakeholders,
- Timeline: Ongoing from Q3 2023,
- KPI: Timetable prepared and “shared learning” days held

