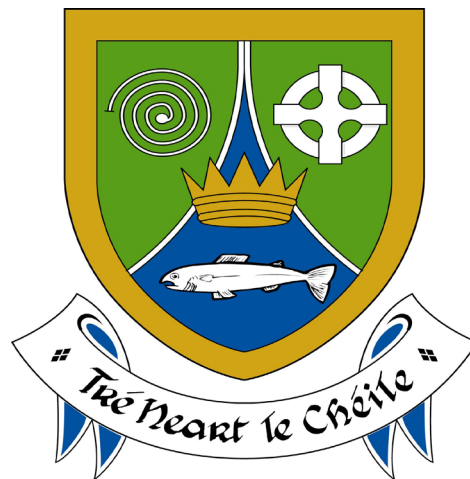


County Meath Strategy for Housing Disabled People 2021-2027



Revised December 2023

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1.0 Introduction

County Meath's Housing & Disability Steering Group has drafted a new action plan regarding housing persons in the County who are living with a disability.

The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Meath County Council's Housing Section, HSE, Approved Housing Bodies, Disabled Persons Representative Organisations, and service providers.

The Terms of Reference for the Steering Group is outlined in Appendix 1.

The Group's goal is to meet the housing needs of disabled people locally, with a focus on forward planning, both in terms of need and having suitable houses and health and welfare supports available to meet that need in a timely manner.

Equality and human rights values, as detailed in Section 5, have motivated the priorities for the Strategy.

This Strategy was initially prepared in 2021 and subsequently reviewed and amended in 2022 to take account of the second National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 published in February 2022. This review further updates the Meath Local Strategy with the National Implementation Plan published in June 2023.

National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027

recognised there are many words and terms that are used to identify disability in Ireland and internationally and the way these words are understood differs across different groups. It notes that for some people, the term ‘disabled people’ is a source of pride, identity and recognition that disabling barriers exist within society and not within individuals. This approach is in line with the social model of disability. The social model of disability looks at how society is structured and how it disables people. It is not based on a person’s impairment. It is about the barriers that exist in terms of attitudes, policy development, access, or lack of supports, and how this can prevent people from participating in society as equals, with choice and control over their own lives. For others, the term ‘people with a disability’ has the same meaning and is important to those who want to be recognised as a person before their disability. This Strategy uses the term ‘disabled people’ in its title and more generally throughout as does the National Strategy and Implementation Plan. However, terms for specific groups of people, such as ‘people with intellectual disabilities’ and ‘people with psychosocial disabilities or mental health difficulties’, will also be used as appropriate in any actions developed by this Steering Group.

2.0 Strategy Vision

To facilitate access for disabled people to the appropriate range of housing and related support services in a timely manner, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality and human rights, individual choice, and independent living.

3.0 Strategy Function

The Meath Housing Disability Steering Group has a remit to deliver on the themes of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 and the National Implementation Plan published, 2023.

Fig.1 Themes identified under the National housing Strategy for Disabled People.



HDSG and members referenced in **64** Actions in the National Implementation Plan.

Named as lead in 11 Actions (including sub actions). These re outlined in Section 9.

Named as partner in 19 actions (including sub actions)

There are also 34 Actions where the partner is named as “All stakeholders” which includes HDSGs.

An accessible version of the the National Implementation Plan is attached to this document for ease of reference.

4.0 Strategy Formulation

Several processes have informed the development of this strategy, which have been guided by the value of democracy, as summarised below:

An advisory committee, drawn from the Steering Group, was formed to guide the overall development of the Strategy, and agree on an overall blueprint for same and was comprised of representatives from Meath Country Council, HSE Adult Disability, HSE Mental Health and person with lived experience of a disability.

A process of pre-draft consultation was conducted, which encompassed the following elements:

Online survey —advertised distributed to all groups affiliated to Meath Public Participation Network, with a personalised invitation to participate with same to those groups on the Network, who have a specific focus on disability.-Questions posed in the on-line survey are outlined in Appendix 2. Appendix 4 provides an analysis of the consultation feedback.

Awareness regarding the Strategy, including the work of the Housing & Disability Steering Group was incorporated with the publicised campaign associated with the on-line survey.

Targeted Stakeholder Engagement – Semi structured interviews were held with several disability service providers in the County. A total of eight such interviews were conducted. The questions that guided the semi structured interviews are contained in Appendix 3

Service Users – views were sought from existing service users housed in the community, facilitated by Clanmor. In addition, Clanmill Housing Association ascertained the views of a recently tenanted family, who has a family member with a physical disability.

A high-level summary of existing statutory service provision was undertaken and documented.

A Post Action Review session was held to review the outcome of a recent established Shared Group Living Scheme for persons with a disability, which was identified as a model for potential replication.

In terms of devising actions, it was agreed that there would be a focus on Added Value Actions, namely several actions that a particular focus will be placed upon beyond what is currently being provided.

Public Sector Duty – A process was engaged with in respect of our obligation to fulfil the Public Sector Duty. Section 6 outlines how this has been achieved.

The Meath Housing Disability Steering Group reviewed the Strategy in 2022 against the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 published in February 2022.

Following the publication of the National Implementation Plan, the County Meath Housing Disability Steering Group completed a workshop facilitated by the Housing Agency in October 2023.

5.0 Group Living Scheme - Post Action Review

A Post Action Review was conducted on 7th April 2021 on the established Group Living Scheme, Blackcastle, Navan. The participating stakeholders in the review were HSE Adult Disability, Praxis Care, Tuath Housing Association, Prosper Meath, and Meath County Council.

The purpose of the Post Action Review was to glean the learning from the implementation of the project to replicate successfully in the future. The session was framed around i) identifying the positive outcomes, ii) key success factors and iii) key areas for improvement.

The positive outcomes recorded has been the successful accommodating of several clients with a disability, who have expressed contentment with their new homes.

Key success factors identified were:

Good mix of clients

High quality housing

Central location and proximity to amenities and transport links

Long lead in period allowed clients to get to know each other through various activities that were arranged during the lead in period. Clients were well prepared and ready for move, when move in date occurred, with friendships formed.

Simplified version of pre-tenancy and tenancy agreement

Differentiation of roles between landlord (Tuath) and support service (Praxis Care)

Several areas for improvement were identified, that would inform future roll out of the model in the County, including:

Units did not include flooring. Some clients were able to afford same, while others were not. For future projects, said costings to be included in original HSE business case for funding.

Mismatch between Tuath specification and HIQUA

Time delay in the delivery of units did create a degree of anxiety for clients, with a lot of reassurance required.

Historic planning permission and subsequent change in regulations – difficulties in retrofitting

In conclusion of the Review session, there was consensus that there was a certainly a need for such a model, with a need to ensure a pipeline of units and related operational funding on an annual basis to satisfy need in the short to medium term.

6.0 Public Sector Duty

In implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, this Strategy has been developed within, and checked against, the parameters of the Meath County Council Equality and Human Rights Values Statement as relevant to the functions addressed by the Strategy.

This Framework was reviewed by the Steering Group, and there was agreement to utilise same for this purpose of this Strategy and the Public Sector Duty. A working document was created which filtered this overall Framework, to represent the specific nature of this Strategy and acted as an aid to the Steering Group in its consideration of the Public Sector Duty.

The identified equality and human rights issues pertinent to this Strategy are outlined in Appendix 5, categorised under the equality and human rights values of Dignity, Inclusion, Social Justice, Democracy and Autonomy

These documents established the foundation from which the Steering Group has regard, in carrying out its function, to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and protect human rights for persons with a disability. The Steering Group was mindful of the principle of intersectionality, and the Strategy seeks to serve and resource the diversity of disabled people across the full range of groups covered by the Public Sector Duty.

At draft Strategy stage, the Steering Group completed a review to ensure that the equality and human rights identified for the Strategy had been addressed through the actions identified, and to determine as to whether there were any further equality and human rights issues of relevance to the Strategy.

7.0 Current Disability Housing Need

Table 1 below records the number of applicants currently on Meath County Council's social housing waiting list who have a declared disability, distributed per disability category.

Table 1: Total Number of Applicants on Social Housing Waiting List according to Disability Category

(as of Q3 2023)

| Housing List Statistics | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Disability Category on Housing List | 351 | 100.00% |
| Sensory | 69 | 19.66 |
| Physical | 106 | 30.20 |
| Intellectual | 86 | 24.50 |
| Mental | 90 | 25.64 |

The total figure represents approximately 10% of the overall number on Meath County Council's social housing waiting list.

There are no Congregated settings located within the County. However, there may be housing need arising out of Congregated settings in adjoining Counties, where residents indigenous to Meath, may apply for accommodation as part of a decongregated process. It will be necessary to update our data set at that point.

Table 2 below outlines the total number of applicants with a disability that had their accommodation needs fulfilled during the full year in 2022.

Table 2: Total Number of Applicants with a Disability with Accommodation Needs Fulfilled in 2022

| | TOTAL |
|---------------|--------------|
| Physical | 32 |
| Sensory | 15 |
| Mental Health | 6 |
| Intellectual | 7 |
| TOTAL | 60 |

The total figure represents 9% of the overall number of housing supports provided by Meath County Council in 2022.

The Local County Meath Strategy for Housing Disabled People had in its original version a local target of 10 of allocation for disabled people. This has now been superseded by the target of 15% set in the National Strategy.

In addition to the provision of social housing supports, adaptations to existing stock is an important function provided by the Housing Department in support of persons with a disability to continue to live independently in their own home. In 2022, 63 projects were completed on Meath County Council's own social housing stock through the Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme at a total cost of €528,908 while through the suite of private adaptation grants, 485 applications were approved to the value of €3,056,152.

The delivery of new social units is achieved through direct construction programme, Part V and Approved Housing Bodies.

An increased focus has been placed on maximising the number of level access units that are delivered through the above mechanisms. In addition, disability is a recognised priority category in respect of Meath County Council's Acquisition Programme.

In terms of Meath County Council's direct construction programme, physically adapted units are included within a scheme, based on verified need to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH). Furthermore, Universal Design has not been adopted as standard design by the DHLGH, though the piloting of Universal Design has been instigated, with one scheme (design phase) in Meath designated as a Universal Design (Basic) pilot project, with 30% of units within the scheme to be constructed to Universal Design (Basic) standards.

Meath County Council Social and Affordable Build Targets 2022-2026

| Social Housing Build Targets 2022-2026 | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Year | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | Total |
| Target | 413 | 323 | 249 | 267 | 273 | 1,527 |
| Affordable Targets 2022-2026 | | | | | | |
| Target | 10 | 28 | 41 | 36 | 36 | 151 |

8.0 Implementation Structures

Implementation of the Strategy will be overseen by the Steering Group, which will meet quarterly. A Quarterly reporting template has been prepared by the Housing Agency to report on progress in the implementation of the National Implementation Plan.

Quarterly reports to the Local Authority Chief Executive and Housing and Community Strategic Policy Committee are now in place, the latter being a fixed agenda item on Strategic Policy Committee meetings.

Review membership of local Housing Disability Steering Group in 2022

A review Terms of Reference and Review membership of local HDSG was completed in 2022.

The Terms of Reference have again been reviewed in 2023 to in line with the actions assigned to the Housing Disability Steering Group under the National Implementation Plan.

In addition:

Meath County Council has nominated the Senior Executive officer from their Housing Department to Lead on Interagency Collaboration.

Meath County Council has nominated a Disability – Friendly Housing Technical Advisor from within the Housing Department

The HSE has nominated a housing coordinator in each Community Health Organisation (CHO) area for both mental health services and Disability services to Lead on Interagency Collaboration.

Subgroups

In 2022 the housing Disability Steering Group agreed the establishment and terms of reference for a Disability Housing Action Team. The purpose of the Disability Housing Action Team is to formalise the pro-active interagency case management of social housing applicants with a disability, who require multi agency supports.

The Housing Disability Steering Group may establish further subgroups where it considered it appropriate.

Annual Programme of Work

The county Meath Housing Disability Steering Group will agree annually a programme of work, which will be informed by the actions under the National Implementation Plan for which it is the lead body, and which will identify specific initiatives to support these actions.

The Steering Group will also identify measurers to support and monitor progress of actions where it is listed as a partner or stakeholder under the National Implementation Plan.

Collaboration

Collaboration is highlighted as a core objective of this Strategy. All collaborative work will be underpinned by the values of data confidentiality and privacy and will be compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

The Steering Group commits to further expand the participation of disabled people on the Group, in a manner that is both representative and accountable.

9. Housing Disability Steering Group Priority Actions under the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 National Implementation Plan 2023

Theme 1 – Accessible Housing and Communities

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

Action 1.4.1

All stakeholders must assist to inform the local strategic planning for the changing community support needs of disabled people in the community, and those who are living in the family home as their carers get older.

Lead: HDSG members

Other Partners: All stakeholders

Timeline: From Q3 2023

KPI: Local Strategic Plans reviewed annually

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

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 produced

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: Other stakeholders

Timeline: Ongoing from Q3 2023

KPIs: Timetable prepared and “shared learning days” held.

Appendix 1:

Terms of Reference Housing Disability Steering Group

(Reviewed - December 2023)

Housing and Disability Steering Groups were established in Local Authorities administrative areas under the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2011-2016 {extended to 2021}.

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 reaffirms the structure of the Housing and Disability Steering Group as the most effective forum for the delivery of the outcomes of the Strategy at local level.

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 Implementation Plan identifies the Housing and Disability Steering Group as the lead body for 11 actions, partner in 19 and a stakeholder in a further 34 actions. The terms of reference will support the Housing and Disability Steering Group in the delivery of these actions.

The purpose of the group is to assist in the delivery of the Housing Strategy for Disabled People.

Membership

As per the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027, membership of the Steering Group will be:

Director of Housing Services in the local authority (Chair).

HSE Community Health Organisation Area Manager or equivalent.

Dedicated Housing Representative for Disability Service HSE.

Dedicated Housing Representative for Mental Health Service HSE.

Representatives from Disabled Persons Representative Organisations (DPROs).

Representatives from service providers for disabled people

Representatives of the Approved Housing Body sector.

Representatives from the local authority, as appropriate.

Representatives should be at a senior level and should be competent in representing the needs of the various disability groups. Local authority representatives from relevant sections of the housing department such as Housing Allocation, Architects Department, Housing Development, Social Work etc. should attend meetings, where appropriate.

The term of the membership of the Steering Group will be 24 months and the membership will be reviewed at the end of this period to ensure that there is fair representation across the sector.

The criteria for the selection of the membership shall be as follows:

HSE Representatives – these individuals shall be nominated at CHO level. The request for the nomination will be sent by the Housing Agency to the HSE representatives on the National Housing Strategy Disabled People Subgroup. There will be a representative from Disability Services (Disability Manager) and Mental Health Services.

Disability Sector Representatives – The Chair of the HDSG will send invitations for Disability Sector representatives to the Head of Service in the Community Health Organisation Area. The Head of Service will nominate representatives on the basis of:

The representatives from the voluntary sector will be agreed by the Head of Service with the Disability Umbrella organisations. The disability sector nominations represent their sector rather than just their organisation/local service.

Representatives will have the requisite knowledge relevant to the remit of the group (housing for disabled people).

Where there are Congregated Settings in the area, at least one senior manager representing these services (HSE and/or voluntary) will be nominated to the group. It would be most appropriate that the representative/s are from the largest facilities in the Area. Where there are a significant number or diverse range of congregated settings, more than one representative may be nominated.

It should be noted that the disability sector representatives represent their sector rather than just their organisation.

Local Approved Housing Bodies Representatives – representation should be sought from the Approved Housing Bodies operating in the locality. The representatives should come from the general housing provision Approved Housing Bodies as well as from disability specific providers.

Role

The role of the Steering Group will include:

Consulting with and advising the Local Authority on the local implementation of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027, including the housing of persons with disabilities transitioning from institutional care.

Review the targets in the Local Strategic Plan to ensure that they are realistic yet challenging and that they result in increased delivery of appropriate/varied types of housing for people with disabilities, and to also ensure that while the targets are based on the identified need (Housing Waiting List) that they take cognisance of emerging need.

To monitor the plan for delivery of social housing for disabled people against the targets set at each meeting. This will include the ongoing review of the Council and Approved Housing Bodies pipelines for delivery to allow for input into the appropriateness of developments for specific housing types.

Developing, monitoring and reviewing of local interagency protocols, as appropriate.

Working with all housing delivery agencies to promote the provision of housing for disabled people.

Acting as a forum for the exchange of information and experience.

Reporting to the Housing Subgroup and the Implementation Monitoring Group as required.

Provide feedback and constructive challenge as necessary to the Department of Housing regarding barriers that exist to meeting the housing requirements of people with disabilities.

Periodic review of the Local Authority Housing Strategy for Disabled People.

Working towards the progressive realisation of the housing-related provisions contained in Article 9(1)(a), Article 19(a), Article 28(1) and 28(2)(d) of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Actions

The Steering Group are required to carry out the following actions:

Engage with the Local Authority on its implementation of the National Guidelines for Housing Assessment and Allocation for disabled people including those transitioning from institutional settings to identify any obstacles or barriers in the implementation of the Guidelines.

Assist all members of the group to gather and disseminate information.

Report annually on allocations made in the previous calendar year to disabled people in each of the disability categories.

Develop strategic implementation processes with the LA while also monitoring the implementation of the Local Authority Strategic Plan:

Ascertain with Housing Allocations Department the needs of the households on the Local Authority waiting list by grouping the need across the following categories:

No adaptations required (need maybe specific location or type of property such as ground floor accommodation or accommodation above ground floor but with lift access).

Minor level of Adaptations required (such as access ramps, grab rails).

Medium level of Adaptations required (such as level access shower, works such as door widening, minor structural work).

Major level of Adaptations/Purpose Built Accommodation (such as extensions, wheelchair liveable accommodation).

Devise means of planning for and meeting emerging need.

Provide information on need to the Local Authority regarding area of representation.

Identify possible supply opportunities in areas of identified need.

Consult on pipeline delivery (Local Authority, Part V's and Approved Housing Bodies) and developing mechanisms to ensure that the pipeline for delivery will meet the need including specific design requirements.

Complete a register of adapted properties suitable for disabled people owned by the Local Authority and Approved Housing Bodies, this should include details of the adaptations made and any specific design required.

Explore options for increasing the supply of housing for disabled people being delivered by the private sector.

Identify key barriers or challenges for disabled people accessing housing and if possible, addressing these issues at local level. If it is not a local issue, then the issue should be escalated to the Housing Subgroup for discussion and actioning if appropriate.

The Housing and Disability Steering Groups are required to carry out actions as under the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 Implementation Plan.

Working Groups/Forums

The Steering Group may wish to establish working groups in order to progress the actions required. How the actions are progressed is an issue for the Steering Group to determine. The group may also wish to assist in the establishment of forums to ensure the views, issues and challenges of the sector more general are represented and that information from the group is disseminated to the sector.

Meetings

The Steering Group will meet a **minimum of four times** a year.

During certain stages of the implementation of the Strategy and the Strategic Plans there may be a requirement to meet more regularly.

Subgroups established will their terms of reference agreed by the Housing Disability Steering Group.

Appendix 2:

Online Consultation Survey

Preamble:

Co. Meath's Housing & Disability Steering Group, coordinated by Meath County Council, has started work on drafting a new action plan for housing persons in the County who are living with a disability. Our local action plan will feed into the new national strategy, due to be developed later this year.

The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Meath County Council's Housing Section, HSE, Approved Housing Bodies and groups involved with persons with a disability. The Group's goal is to meet the housing needs of people with disabilities locally, with a focus on forward planning, both in terms of need and also having suitable houses and health & welfare supports available to meet that need in a timely manner.

As part of the process in drafting the new action plan, the Steering Group is keen to get the views from people with lived experiences, as well as all groups, agencies and representatives involved with persons with a disability.

All your answers will be treated in absolute confidence and will only be used in anonymised and aggregated form.

1. Please tell us who you are? (SELECT OPTION)

Person with a disability

Family member of a person with a disability

Carer of a person with a disability

Service Provider

Other (please specify)

2. Are you aware of the current County Meath Strategy for Housing People with Disability 2011-2020? (SELECT OPTION)

Yes

No

3. In terms of the areas listed below, how would you rate current provision in the County? (SELECT OPTION)

Supply of accessible homes

Very Good Good Adequate Inadequate Don't Know

Awareness around pathway to accessing housing supports

Very Good Good Adequate Inadequate Don't Know

Collaboration between relevant services/agencies

Very Good Good Adequate Inadequate Don't Know

Provision of social and care packages to support independent living

Very Good Good Adequate Inadequate Don't Know

Provision of adaptation schemes/grants to existing homes

Very Good Good Adequate Inadequate Don't Know

Presence of Day Services to promote community integration

Very Good Good Adequate Inadequate Don't Know

4. Are there any other areas not listed under Question 3 that the Steering Group should also be considering? (INSERT COMMENT)

5. What do you consider to be the main challenge/s for persons with a disability in accessing housing/living independently in Co. Meath at present? (INSERT COMMENT)

6. What would you like see happen (either at local or national level) to overcome these challenge/s? (INSERT COMMENT)

7. If you are a person with a disability, and have had experience in accessing housing and related social and care supports so as to live independently in Co. Meath, please tell us your experience: (What worked well and possible areas for improvement?) (INSERT COMMENT)

Conclusion:

Thank you for completing this survey. If you wish to find out more about the work of Meath's Housing & Disability Steering Group and be informed further on the draft strategy as it is developed, please e-mail Meath County Council's Housing Section at the following address: housingdisabilitystrategy@meathcoco.ie

Appendix 3:

Service Providers Semi Structured interview

What is your organization's role in respect of disabled people?

What are the key services that your organization provides and capacity?

Has your organization any data pertaining to your service user group that might help in setting the context here in Co. Meath?

From your organization's perspective, what are the main barriers to Persons with a Disability accessing housing/living independently?

What would your organization like to see happen (either at local level or national level) to overcome these challenges?

Priority areas for draft Strategy may include:

- i) Increased supply of accessible homes
- ii) Increased awareness around pathway to accessing housing
- iii) Stronger collaboration between services
- iv) Increase support packages to support independent living
- v) Increase provision re: adaptations to existing homes

From your organization service user perspective, which do you feel would be the main priority and are there other priorities not listed above?

Has your organization completed any recent consultation with service users that could help inform the draft Strategy?

Would your organization be willing to facilitate some consultation with service users in respect of the draft Strategy?

Has your organization any examples of good practice/aware of any good practice that could inform actions in the draft Strategy?

Appendix 4:

Consultation Outcomes

The output from the consultation process, as described in Section 4.0 has been reviewed. A summary of the key findings is detailed below.

Main Barriers to Persons with a Disability Accessing Housing/living indedendently.

Cost and availability of accessible housing

Type of house and location important. Central and safe important factors in location. Minor ASB in an area can have a more significant impact on persons with a disability and there is a need to be mindful of this in terms of selected location.

Communications between services

Transparency regarding how systems work

Availability of equipment from HSE

Lack of key designated person for families in accessing/co-ordinating services

Lack of sheltered/supported accommodation.

Shortage of respite accommodation

Securing operational budgets once units are identified.

Provision of Personal Assistant hours

Accurate representation of those in need of housing who have a disability.

Means testing associated with private adaptation grants - too restrictive.

Housing and accommodation pathway not understood or used.

Improvements Sought to Improved Service Provision

Better supports for families to adapt existing housing.

Clearer pathway in accessing supports.

Part M Regulations – need to update to reflect guidelines issued by the Association of OTs of Ireland

Joined up working across services.

OT reports on Housing files need to be up to date at the point of allocation of a property.

Need to consider emerging need of those already housed in community residences – As a person gets older, the accommodation provided may no longer be appropriate.

Need to review service user needs of those currently in 24/7
Community Residence

Enhanced tenancy sustainment supports for those with mental health issues

Establishment of Mental Health Rehabilitation Team in the County

Befriending scheme to facilitate community integration and combat isolation.

Completion of post action reviews and monitoring post tenancy

Disability ‘designated person’ or ‘filter’ persons within organisations who will understand the disability context.

Person centred planning for independent living. Concept of Housing Service Statement to be issued to applicants with a disability.

Adequate storage in shared accommodation models plus adequate parking

Forward planning and creating relationships between services.

Avoid crisis management scenarios.

Application of universal design and incorporation of higher accessibility standards into Part M regulations

Target of 7% for new social housing to be wheelchair accessible. Perceived 'additions' should be standard. Properties should be wheelchair useable, not just wheelchair accessible.

Campaigns to highlight the importance of applying for social housing support early rather than at the point of crisis.

Examples of Good Practice

7 units, Ballis, Navan – good location, services coordinated, support staff on site.

Valhalla, Clondalkin (24 units). Completed in 2014 – support staff on site.

3 units, Blackcastle, Navan

An Fraoch, Belmullet Housing Scheme

Kilkenny/Roscommon – innovative design in the inclusion for personal assistant, ie two units with PA living accommodation between both units

Listening to clients and their experience

Respite houses and replication of same

Quality frameworks

Best Practice Access Guidelines (Chapter 10) published by the Irish Wheelchair Association

‘Think Ahead, Think Housing’ campaign.

‘Offer Zone’ analysis.

HSE Consumer Panel

Priority Areas (Confirmed)

Increased supply of accessible homes

Increased awareness around the pathway to accessing housing.

Stronger collaboration between services

Increase support packages to support independent living.

Increase provision re: adaptations to existing homes.

Appendix 5

Assessment of Equality and Human Rights Issues

The assessment of equality and human rights issues has involved the identification of the issues faced by the groups (grounds) covered by the Duty and identified as applicable to the Strategy for Housing Persons with a Disability 2021-2026.

The purpose of the assessment is to enable the Meath Housing Disability Steering Group to track its current responses to the issues identified and to further develop these responses as found to be necessary. The assessment process aims to further improve impact on equality and human rights.

The assessment has been completed under the Values framework outlined in section 4.3, and establishes the equality and human rights issues, relevant to the identified equality grounds, and functions of the Meath Housing Disability Steering Group, as captured in section 4.2.

The assessment is based on an examination of the following:

Situation – refers to the disadvantage in the level and quality of resources the group can access, such as employment, housing, education and health.

Experience – refers to the quality of the group’s engagement with wider society, including public services

Identity – refers to the manner in which the group gives expression to its identity and the specific needs that arise from this diversity

Dignity:

Equality and human rights issues faced by the identified groups, relating to **dignity**, that have a relevance to the functions of the Meath Housing Disability Steering Group are:

Prejudice and attitudinal barriers

Breach of privacy and data confidentiality

Expectations held by the identified groups, of discrimination and harassment and barriers to service provision that arise from these

Discrimination

Inclusion:

Equality and human rights issues faced by the identified groups, relating to **inclusion**, that have a relevance to the functions of the Meath Housing Disability Steering Group are:

Isolation, vulnerability, loneliness, and fear of crime

Barriers to access services due to design, manner of delivery, and inflexibilities in meeting specific needs

Lack of universal design, in particular for housing, buildings, public spaces, and IT infrastructure

Barriers of communication, including issues such as lack of interpretation and translation and lack of accessible formats and media

Lack of understanding, awareness, and recognition of diversity among service providers, and decision-makers

Lack of attention to the specific needs of people at the intersections between the identified groups

Social Justice:

Equality and human rights issues faced by the identified groups, relating to **social justice**, that have a relevance to the functions of the Meath Housing Disability Steering Group are:

Housing insecurity, poor quality housing conditions, access barriers due to housing design or lack of adaptation, and lack of appropriate accommodation

Participation barriers due to digital literacy issues

Participation barriers due to limited transport availability or accessibility

Democracy:

Equality and human rights issues faced by the identified groups, relating to **democracy**, that have a relevance to the functions of the Meath Housing Disability Steering Group are:

Lack of opportunities to voice perspectives and lack of influence on decision-making

Lack of capacity, including resources and organisation, to effectively represent the voice of identified groups.

Lack of knowledge due to inadequate information flows and inappropriate channels of communication used to reach the identified groups.

Lack of transparency and accountability on the part of decision-makers

Autonomy:

Equality and human rights issues faced by the identified groups, relating to **autonomy**, that have a relevance to the functions of the Meath Housing Disability Steering Group are:

Absence of or limited options made available in services.

Lack of independence due to inadequate resources or inadequate supports.

Congregated settings and forms of institutional care that limit choices and independence

Lack of confidence and motivation in making choices