

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Reporting Template

This template aims to support CWPPN representatives who sit on local social partnership structures in County Wicklow in providing a report to the wider membership. Please complete the template and return to countywicklowppn@gmail.com **within one week after each meeting**. Please keep responses to 1 page if at all possible.

Name of Committee: Housing SPC

Name of Representative(s): Aoibhinn McCloy, Simon Blankhensee, Mary Ann Parsons

Date of Meeting Attended: 17th December 2019

Most important actions or issues to emerge from a County Wicklow PPN perspective:

Homelessness:

There were 77 presentations of homelessness including those in fear of or at risk of homelessness. Exit strategies are in place for 7 of these.

The Simon Community are working with the council with regard to temporary accommodation. They will be setting up a homeless hub in the old Sonas accommodation..

A tenancy sustainment service is being set up that will cater for those with enduring mental health needs. Two clients in Bray have been identified as first clients.

Housing First (Peter McVerry): There are 4 clients from Wicklow council identified with high needs and will be housed in the 1st quarter of 2020. 11 clients identified overall. They will be provided with both housing and support.

It is important that people inform the council as soon as they are at risk or threatened with homelessness.

The Homeless Action Plan will be reviewed next year and brought to the Housing SPC.

Traveller Accommodation:

There are currently 269 families identified in Wicklow. 80 of these are in need of housing. Traveller Action Plan was adopted in September. Fire audit works have been undertaken.

Capital schemes will be progressing in January.

Choice Based Lettings:

A discussion was held on choice based lettings targets, where applicants can bid for properties via the website according to their needs. Applicants can choose 3 areas of preference. The council will devise their best practice model which will be brought to

the SPC. It will become the main source of social housing. There will be some exemptions ie elderly units. There is a low amount of refusals. Proposing to start initially in Dunlavin.

Housing Maintenance:

Retrofitting – there are two phases – cavities and installation

There are 366 housing in phase 1. They will do each Municipal District in turn. The council hope to do another 300 in 2020. They are trying to achieve a BER rating of B2 in phase 2.

The department will grant aid phase 2 – will look at new boilers, heat controlling, attic insulation etc. The council are currently working on B2 current scheme. There has been difficulty in getting private contractors.

Affordable schemes:

The council looked at sites. The cost of building has increased 40% since last year.

Corporate Estate:

A systematic review is being carried out on all land in Wicklow. Sites have been identified, what was and what was not available.

Claremont – units are being developed in the next 4/5 years.

Social housing need assessment will be carried out in 2020.

Disability:

This is a priority action for 2020

Refugee Resettlement:

The council are working to provide accommodation for 38 Syrian households. Respond will provide resettlement workers and provide intensive support for up to 18 months. The first 8 families were placed in Wicklow, Rathnew and Arklow. Settling has been successful. Next phase will be in January, where 11 families will be housed.

Date of Next Meeting: 18th February @ 2.30pm