



**Submission to the National Homeless
Action Committee on the National
Homelessness Prevention Framework**

March 27, 2026

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About us

The Simon Communities across Ireland are a network of independent communities across the country that provide homeless, housing and treatment services to people facing the trauma and stress of homelessness. With a proud history of over 50 years responding to local needs, the Simon Communities of Ireland works to end long-term homelessness in Ireland and ensure that homelessness where it does occur is rare, short-term, and non-recurring.

The Simon Communities of Ireland (SCI) national office is a leading campaigner nationally in putting forward solutions for tackling homelessness. Our work engages with advocacy, policy and communications that is grounded in the experiences of the local services. We campaign for more effective policies and legislation locally, nationally and at a European level. SCI campaign for practical and sustainable solutions that tackle homelessness head on. Our advocacy and solutions are based on evidence, best practice, and the experiences of the people who use our services.

List of Acronyms

AHB – Approved Housing Body

CAS – Capital Assistance Scheme

CCMA – County and City Management Association

HAP – Housing Assistance Payment

IPAS – International Protection Accommodation Services

NHAC – National Homeless Action Committee

NIMC – National Implementation Monitoring Committee

RTB – Residential Tenancies Board

SCI – Simon Communities of Ireland

SHY – Supported Housing for Youth

UNCPRD – United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Introduction

Preventing homelessness must be understood as both a moral and structural imperative. While Ireland has made important progress in responding to homelessness, the system remains overly reactive, with insufficient emphasis on upstream prevention.

This submission aligns its recommendations with the five categories of prevention set out in the Framework:

1. Universal Prevention: General supports for everyone to reduce the risk of homelessness.
2. Upstream Prevention: Early help for people showing signs of housing difficulty.
3. Crisis-Stage Prevention: Support for people at immediate risk of losing their home.
4. Emergency Stage Prevention: Help for people who are already experiencing homelessness to avoid rough sleeping.
5. Repeat Prevention: Support to stop people from experiencing homelessness again.

While all of the recommendations in this submission are equally important and mutually reinforcing, **we would like to highlight six specific areas where we feel there is an opportunity for substantial impact, many of which could be implemented in the short-term.** These include measures to strengthen community-based mental health, addiction and dual diagnosis supports, reform the HAP scheme and increasing rates to reflect market rent, support the repair and maintenance of Approved Housing Body properties, provide clearer national guidance on the interpretation of homelessness legislation, improve data collection and reporting, and strengthen targeted pathways for young people and care leavers. Taken together, these recommendations speak to the core issues raised throughout the submission: the need for earlier intervention, more consistent access to supports, better prevention for priority cohorts, and enhanced monitoring and reporting.

Key Priority Areas	Priority Recommendation(s)
Mental Health & Addiction	<p>Recommendation 4: Invest in, and expand access to, community-based wraparound supports for mental health, addiction, and dual diagnosis.</p> <p>Recommendation 35: Expand early intervention and prevention services for mental health and addiction and embed the Sharing the Vision Implementation Plan 2025–2027, including the Dual Diagnosis Model of Care, within the Homelessness Prevention Framework.</p>

HAP Scheme	<p>Recommendation 11: Reform and reset the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme as a short-term support, in line with recommendation 39 of the Housing Commission Report.</p> <p>Recommendation 12: In the interim, increase HAP rates to reflect market rents and maintain the current level of tenancies in the system.</p>
Repair and Maintenance of AHB properties	Recommendation 5: Provide a dedicated funding stream for the maintenance and repairs of Approved Housing Body properties.
Clear guidance on legislation	Recommendation 17: Issue clear national guidance to ensure consistent interpretation of homelessness legislation across all local authorities.
Youth homelessness	<p>Recommendation 30: Mainstream and scale up the Supported Housing for Youth model nationally.</p> <p>Recommendation 31: Expand and prioritise the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) for care leavers.</p> <p>Recommendation 33: Reform aftercare eligibility criteria to ensure supports are based on assessed need and vulnerability, rather than time thresholds.</p>
Enhanced data collection & reporting	Recommendation 38: Enhance data collection and reporting by Local Authorities, to better capture hidden homelessness and the impacts of prevention and support services

Importantly, while this submission is structured according to the five categories of prevention and by priority cohorts, in practice many of the recommendations cut across multiple stages of prevention. For example, interventions delivered upstream can also play a critical role in preventing repeat homelessness. Effective policy must therefore operate across all five categories simultaneously.

We also recognise that targeted prevention is needed for specific cohorts, reflecting the diverse and intersecting pathways into homelessness. A one-size-fits-all approach is insufficient; instead, interventions must be tailored to groups who are disproportionately impacted or face distinct structural barriers, including single adults, young people and care leavers, older adults, and people with disabilities. It is vital to recognise individuality and intersectionality across those groups also.

Finally, a meaningful prevention framework must go beyond broad ambition and set out clear pathways, adequately resourced interventions, and measurable outcomes. It must also be underpinned by strong cross-departmental coordination, robust data and monitoring systems, and clear accountability for delivery. It will be necessary for the departments outside of Housing to contribute financially to the resources needed to prevent homelessness.

Part 1: Universal Prevention

Recommendation 1: Ensure a cross-departmental approach is embedded in the Homelessness Prevention Framework, with clear actions and funding across Departments.

Preventing homelessness cannot be achieved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage alone – cross-departmental support is needed to address the root causes of homelessness, poverty, and social exclusion to ensure everyone has access to a safe and secure home. This will need to be supported by ring-fenced budgetary contributions to the Framework. This framework will not be successful if, during budgetary negotiations, departments revert to the typically siloed way of working. Ber Grogan, Executive Director of SCI, made this point at the National Homeless Action Committee (NHAC) in Quarter 3 2025 and it is noted in the minutes.

Recommendation 2: Ensure that information on tenant rights, tenancy sustainment, and homelessness prevention services is accessible, including in plain language, multiple languages, and formats suitable for people with literacy, digital literacy, or other accessibility needs.

Recommendation 3: Develop an automatic signposting system whereby households receiving a Notice of Termination simultaneously receive information about tenancy sustainment and homelessness prevention services.

Rationale: The private rental sector is one of the main causes of homelessness, accounting for about 1 in 5 presentations in Quarter 4 2025.¹

Receiving a Notice of Termination often marks the first clear point at which a household is at risk of losing their home. Many tenants are unaware of available homeless prevention or tenancy sustainment services. An automatic signposting system, whereby tenants receiving Notice of Termination are also provided with information about tenancy sustainment or homeless prevention services, would ensure households are made aware of and receive support at the earliest possible stage, preventing more people from entering homelessness. To be effective, this information must be accessible to all tenants, including those with limited English, literacy challenges, or other accessibility needs, ensuring supports are genuinely accessible. Digital exclusion must also be recognised as a barrier to accessing housing supports, welfare payments, HAP applications, and housing lists - all of which are increasingly online-only. This disproportionately affects older adults, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness. A potential avenue for this signposting system

¹ [Homeless Quarterly Progress Report Q4 2025](#)

could be through the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), which already manages tenancy notifications across the private rented sector.

Recommendation 4: Invest in, and expand access to, community-based wraparound supports for mental health, addiction, and dual diagnosis.

Rationale: Lack of access to timely mental health and/or addiction services can lead to homelessness.²

Too often, supports are fragmented, crisis-driven, or only accessible once needs have escalated to a point of acute risk, which increases the likelihood of housing instability and entry into homelessness. Evidence from Housing First demonstrates that intensive, multidisciplinary supports are highly effective in sustaining tenancies and improving outcomes. These supports should be expanded upstream as a core prevention measure.

Recommendation 5: Provide a dedicated funding stream for the maintenance and repairs of Approved Housing Body properties.

Recommendation 6: Remove bureaucratic barriers to service provision move towards Service Level Agreements with Approved Housing Bodies and homeless service providers.

Rationale: AHBs accounted for about 50% of social housing delivery in recent years.³

Voluntary and Community Sector organisations have a vital role in providing housing, homelessness, and related services and supports across the country to tens of thousands of persons who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness. However, homeless service providers have raised concerns regarding a lack of funding for maintenance and repairs to properties. Similar concerns were raised in the Housing Commission Report (Section 8.8), which noted that no mechanism is currently available to supplement the gap between rental income, administration, and maintenance costs for local authorities. A number of properties are in need of maintenance due to the date of the property and appliances, or in some cases significant repairs are needed due to damage from previous tenants. It is deeply concerning that some AHB properties – which are direly needed – are sitting vacant due to a lack of funding.

² [California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness | Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative](#)

³ [Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030 - An Action Plan on Housing Supply and Targeting Homelessness](#)

For example, Midlands Simon Community currently have nine one-bedroom apartments and one two-bedroom apartment vacant, some for more than 12 months, in the midland's region. The vacancy of these units is due exclusively to a need for repairs. Refurbishing them offers a cost-effective solution to relocate vulnerable single adults or families from emergency accommodation into stable tenancies. However, there is currently no direct funding mechanism for AHB's like Midlands Simon Community to reinstate void/vacant properties

This could be easily resolved by a direct separate annual Service Level Agreement/Funding Mechanism between AHBs and the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, and would remove bureaucratic barriers to accessing crucial funding needed to provide housing and supports.

Recommendation 7: Introduce socio-economic status as a tenth ground of discrimination under Irish equality legislation.

Rationale: Socio-economic disadvantage is a significant driver of homelessness, impacting access to housing, employment, and essential services.

Nearly one in five people in Ireland are living in enforced deprivation or consistent poverty,⁴ representing a significant proportion of the population. Despite this, there remains a clear gap in existing equality legislation, with those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage often lacking adequate protection from discrimination and mistreatment.⁵ Many European countries have incorporated socio-economic status as a ground of discrimination,⁶ and we urge Ireland to do the same. Introducing socio-economic status as a tenth ground of discrimination would provide an important mechanism to challenge discriminatory practices, support more equitable access to housing and services, and embed a stronger rights-based lens within homelessness prevention policy.

Recommendation 8: Integrate climate resilience into the Homelessness Prevention Framework

Rationale: Climate-related events, including flooding, storms, and infrastructure failures, are an increasing risk to housing stability.

International evidence highlights the growing link between climate vulnerability and housing insecurity, with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identifying internal displacement as a key risk associated with climate change.⁷ To ensure the Framework climate resilient and future-proof, it should incorporate a clear

⁴ [Poverty Survey on Income and Living Conditions \(SILC\) 2024 - Central Statistics Office](#)

⁵ [Policy Statement on Socio-Economic Status as a ground of discrimination under the Equality Acts](#)

⁶ [Socio- Economic Discrimination in international policy – All Together in Dignity – ATD Ireland](#)

⁷ [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)

commitment to climate-related homelessness prevention. This includes early identification of households at risk (for example, those in flood-prone areas or substandard housing), as well as the development of rapid rehousing protocols to ensure that households displaced by climate events can access stable accommodation. Local Authority housing strategies should also integrate climate resilience planning, ensuring that future housing supply and prevention measures reflect both current need and projected climate risks. Targeted supports should be prioritised for those most at risk during climate events, including older people, persons with disabilities, and medically vulnerable groups.

Part 2: Upstream Prevention

Recommendation 9: Introduce a statutory duty to prevent homelessness, requiring Local Authorities to intervene where a household is at risk of homelessness within a defined period.

Rationale: The response to homelessness must be shifted from crisis management to a prevention-first approach.

A statutory duty to prevent homelessness would place a legal obligation on Local Authorities to take proactive steps when a household is identified as being at risk of homelessness within a defined timeframe (e.g., 60 days). Such an approach would ensure that prevention is not dependent on local discretion, but is instead a core, enforceable function of the housing system. It would also provide clarity in terms of timelines, responsibilities, and the types of interventions required to support households to remain in, or secure, suitable accommodation. The introduction of a statutory prevention duty under the UK's [Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#) has been associated with increased early intervention activity and a greater focus on preventing homelessness before it occurs.⁸

Recommendation 10: Increase Rent Supplement rates in line with current 'existing' tenancy rent levels.

Rationale: Market rents are unaffordable and far higher than rent supplement payments.

Rent Supplement is a vital short-term financial support for households who experience a sudden change in circumstances impacting their ability to pay their rent, generally due to loss of employment. The maximum rent limits for Rent Supplement were set in mid-2016 by [S.I. No. 340/2016](#). Since then, national rents for new tenancies have risen by 81%.⁹ Simon Communities of Ireland note that Rent Supplement is a targeted measure for those who are already renting privately and therefore rates should

⁸ [Homelessness Reduction Act 2017: government response to the call for evidence - GOV.UK](#)

⁹ As of Q2 2025, according to RTB new tenancy rent index.

be uplifted in line with market rents for *existing tenancies*. According to the latest figures from the RTB, the national average rent for existing tenancies is €1,494 (17% less than for new tenancies).¹⁰

The private rental sector is one of the main drivers of homelessness in Ireland, with rents skyrocketing and supply remaining constrained over the last number of years. It is imperative that households depending on the private rental sector for their housing remain in their homes for as long as possible, as the current market offers a severe lack of alternatives.

Although Simon Communities of Ireland note that under the National Tenancy Sustainment Framework, Department of Social Protection staff may provide additional financial support above rent limits, it is evident that baseline limits are long overdue for an update to keep up with existing tenancy market rents and prevent homelessness among those living in the private rental sector.

Recommendation 11: Reform and reset the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme as a short-term support, in line with recommendation 39 of the Housing Commission Report.

Recommendation 12: In the interim, increase HAP rates to reflect market rents and maintain the current level of tenancies in the system.

Rationale: As above, the gap between market rents and HAP means that people are locked out of the market.

Simon Communities of Ireland have continuously shown the inadequacy of current HAP payments through our quarterly *Locked Out of the Market* reports. These reports track the number of properties advertised to rent within HAP limits across 16 study areas over a three-day period. Figure 1 below shows a long-term comparison of the findings of the *Locked Out of the Market* reports from the start of 2020. The availability of rental properties generally, as well as HAP properties, increased significantly during the COVID-19 restrictions. Following the lifting of restrictions, a clear decline can be observed. Although the availability of properties generally has increased since mid-2022, this has not coincided with a similar increase in the availability of HAP properties. Our Quarter 4 2025 [Locked Out of the Market](#) report found just 31 of the 929 properties available on Daft.ie fell within HAP limits – all of which were within discretionary limits. No properties were available within standard HAP limits. This is a concerning trend and highlights how new supply remains largely out of reach for those on low incomes and who are reliant on HAP.

¹⁰ [RTB/ESRI Rent Index - Residential Tenancies Board](#)

Locked Out of the Market 2020-2025

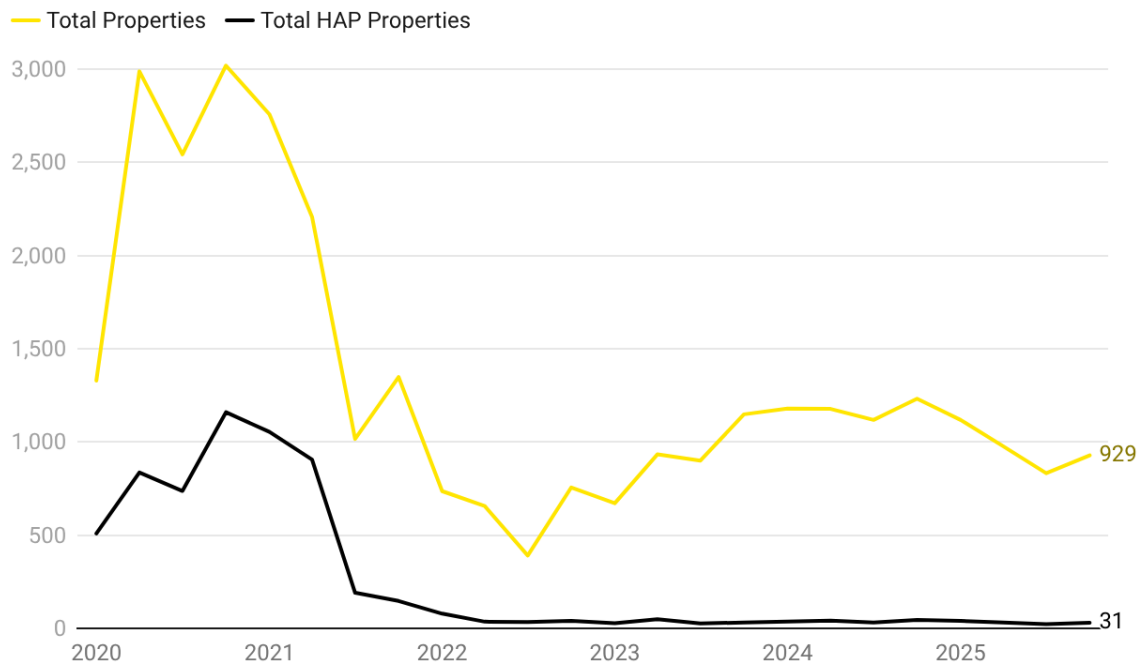


Chart: Simon Communities of Ireland • Source: Simon Communities of Ireland: Locked Out of the Market Reports • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 1: Locked Out of the Market Long-Term Comparison

SCI welcomed the Housing Commission’s recommendation to reform the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), resetting them as short- to medium-term support measures and note that the Department’s review of current HAP limits is underway. We have long advocated for an increase in HAP payments to market level rents to bridge the gap until adequate levels of Local Authority and Approved Housing Body (AHB) social homes become available. HAP base rates must be uplifted to reflect current market rents.

According to Focus Ireland’s Focus on Homelessness Report, the average cost of maintaining a household in emergency accommodation was €45,000 annually in Dublin, and €35,000 outside of Dublin.¹¹ The RTB’s latest Rent Index Report for Q3 2025 reports that the standardised average rent for new tenancies in Dublin is €2,307, and €1,433 outside of Dublin.¹² Table 1 below provides a further breakdown of average costs based on bedrooms, housing type, and location (in Dublin and outside of Dublin). **Increasing HAP rates in line with market rent costs would significantly expand accessibility of the support, prevent thousands from entering homelessness, and support more persons to exit homelessness – all while potentially saving the State**

¹¹ [Focus on Homelessness - Focus Ireland](#)

¹² [RTB/ESRI Rent Index - Residential Tenancies Board](#)

approximately €10,000+ per household in need of support when compared to the cost of providing emergency accommodation.

	1 bedroom		2 bedrooms		3 bedrooms	
	Apartment	House	Apartment	House	Apartment	House
Dublin	€1,922	€1,646	€2,383	€2,105	€3,080	€2,546
Outside Dublin	€1,077	€1,038	€1,387	€1,201	€1,867	€1,420

Table 1: Standardised average rent prices, Q3 2025 (RTB)

Part 3: Crisis-Stage Prevention

Recommendation 13: Expand tenancy sustainment services to prevent households at risk to avoid entering homelessness.

Rationale: It is more economically prudent to sustain someone’s tenancy than to force them to present as homeless and enter that system.

Tenancy sustainment services play a critical role in preventing homelessness by supporting households to maintain existing tenancies and address issues before they escalate to crisis point. Tenant Information and Support services, delivered by Simon Communities across Ireland, work directly with tenants in crisis to provide practical support, advocacy, and referrals to relevant services as appropriate. These early interventions help households to resolve tenancy difficulties, stabilise their housing situation, and avoid eviction. With tenancy sustainment rates over 95%,^{13,14} these programmes have demonstrated success in preventing people from entering homelessness and reducing pressure on emergency accommodation. SCI urge tenancy sustainment services be explicitly recognised, resourced, and expanded as a core preventative measure within the Framework.

Recommendation 14: Provide flexible discretionary funding to homelessness services to support diversion at the point of presentation.

Rationale: As above, it is more economically prudent to sustain tenancies where possible and appropriate.

Diversion supports can provide practical, short-term solutions that address the immediate causes of housing instability - particularly when the risk arises from solvable issues rather than a lack of available housing. Dedicated project workers should meet with every individual or household presenting to homelessness services to explore possible solutions, with a flexible discretionary fund. Examples include covering travel

¹³ [2024-Galway-Simon-Community-Annual-Impact-Report.pdf](#)

¹⁴ [Annual Impact Report 2023 – Dublin Simon Community](#)

costs for a tenant to return home, funding minor repairs to an apartment to resolve a dispute and restore a landlord relationship, or assisting with other short-term financial barriers that, if unaddressed, could trigger tenancy breakdown. By combining hands-on support from project workers with responsive, targeted funding, diversion can prevent entry into homelessness for some households. Cork Simon, with the support of Cork City Council, has been operating a successful diversion programme with new presentations to its shelter at Anderson's Quay since 2023. In 2024 they recorded 113 successful diversions with 139 new presentations – 81% did not return to homeless services in Cork/ Kerry withing the year, as verified via Pass records

Recommendation 15: Continue the tenant-in-situ scheme

Rationale: Tenant-in-situ has prevented thousands of persons from entering homelessness, while also growing social-housing stock.

While recognising the need to increase the supply of new social homes, prevention measures such as Tenant in Situ remain essential. Since its inception, the Tenant in Situ scheme has provided a critical safety net for vulnerable households, preventing displacement and the trauma entering homelessness while increasing social housing stock. According to Gov.ie data, approximately 1500 households were prevented from entering homelessness through the tenant-in-situ scheme in 2024.¹⁵ In the period from Q1 to Q3 2025, 292 Tenant in Situ acquisitions were completed¹⁶ – a reduction that reflects changes in funding for the scheme, rather than a reduction in underlying need.

Importantly, the Tenant in Situ scheme keeps people in their homes and communities, supporting stability and continuity. Embedding Tenant in Situ within the Homelessness Prevention Framework would represent a highly effective and practical step towards preventing homelessness in the immediate term, while working toward longer-term targets for new social housing.

Recommendation 16: Develop dedicated supports to assist private landlords in sustaining tenancies at risk of breakdown.

Rationale: The private rental sector is one of the main causes of homelessness, accounting for about 1 in 5 presentations in Quarter 4 2025.¹⁷

Local Authorities currently provide supports to private landlords participating in the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme, primarily focused on administration

¹⁵ Social Housing Activity by Local Authority 2024. [Available here](#)

¹⁶ [Overall social and affordable housing provision](#) – Social Housing Overview 2016-2025

¹⁷ [Homeless Quarterly Progress Report Q4 2025](#)

and payment processes. These supports should be expanded and formalised to include a more proactive role in sustaining tenancies where there is a risk of breakdown. This includes supporting landlords to manage more complex tenancies, particularly where issues such as arrears, communication difficulties, or tenant vulnerabilities arise.

While some Local Authorities have tenant liaison officers, these roles are generally limited to social housing tenants. A similar model should be extended to the private rented sector, with dedicated staff supporting landlords to resolve issues early and maintain tenancies. Embedding landlord engagement within the Prevention Framework would support tenancy retention, reduce breakdowns into homelessness, and create a more preventative, partnership-based approach between Local Authorities and the private rented sector.

Part 4: Emergency Stage Prevention

Recommendation 17: Issue clear national guidance to ensure consistent interpretation of homelessness legislation across all local authorities.

Recommendation 18: Implement a consistent “no wrong door” approach across all local authorities, ensuring that individuals presenting as homeless can access emergency accommodation without delay.

Rationale: Local Authorities are the key to successful homeless prevention frameworks across the country.

In recent years, Irish Homeless Policy Group members and legal advocacy organisations have observed an increasing reliance by local authorities on “local connection” criteria when responding to homeless presentations outside a person’s county of origin. The 2023 “Local Connection Protocol for Homeless Presentations outside County of Origin,” developed by the County and City Management Association (CCMA), raised serious concerns across the homelessness sector. According to legal analysis and reporting, the Protocol suggested that where a person presents as homeless outside the area in which they have a primary connection: the presenting authority may provide short-term accommodation, and then the individual may then be directed to present to another Local Authority where they are deemed to have a local connection. Key concerns from the sector included that the Protocol had no statutory basis, introduced additional criteria for accessing homelessness services, and it risked undermining rights established under homelessness legislation. In some documented cases, individuals were refused assistance by multiple local authorities, leaving them without access to emergency accommodation until legal intervention occurred.

Access to emergency accommodation must not be contingent on demonstrating a local connection. The new CCMA “Protocol for Homeless Presentations between Local Authorities,” circulated in October 2025 will hopefully bring some improvement

and clarity from the 2023 Protocol. A nationally consistent “no wrong door” approach is required to ensure that homelessness services are needs-led, accessible, and delivered consistently across the State.

The Department must take responsibility in ensuring that Local Authorities are not acting outside of their legal boundaries and are not mis-interpreting statutory requirements.

Recommendation 19: Prioritise early move-on from emergency accommodation into stable, long-term housing, supported by targeted tenancy sustainment services.

Rationale: The longer a person experiences homelessness the more likely they are to experience mental health difficulties, reduced physical health, and social isolation - all of which make it harder to escape homelessness.¹⁸

Prolonged stays in emergency accommodation increase the risk of individuals becoming entrenched in homelessness, making it harder to sustain tenancies and maintain connections to work, education, or community supports.¹⁹ Early move-on is a critical prevention measure for future homelessness, enabling households to transition quickly into secure housing before and avoid stress, uncertainty, and disruption of prolonged emergency accommodation, which can contribute to longer-term housing instability.

Effective early move-on requires coordinated planning between local authorities, housing providers, and support services, including tenancy sustainment teams to ensure households can maintain their new tenancies. Flexible supports, such as assistance with deposits or connecting households with local services, can help smooth transitions and reduce the likelihood of return to emergency accommodation.

Recommendation 20: Put into place regulations in relation to the type of emergency accommodation that households may be accommodated in, and create a statutory limit on the time that a household may spend in emergency accommodation.

Rationale: A significant number of households are spending extended periods in emergency accommodation.²⁰

¹⁸

https://assets.ctfassets.net/6sxvmndnnpn0s/2v7vmNIMnPDfqQXRLkfUtq/b0e83dd39d63cae76aacfe4db8d03d49/Research_report_Sick_and_Tired_Dec_2004.pdf

¹⁹

https://assets.ctfassets.net/6sxvmndnnpn0s/2v7vmNIMnPDfqQXRLkfUtq/b0e83dd39d63cae76aacfe4db8d03d49/Research_report_Sick_and_Tired_Dec_2004.pdf

²⁰ [Homeless Quarterly Progress Report Q4 2025](#)

There far too many people spending lengthy periods in emergency accommodation – as of Quarter 4 2025, 4,156 households (3,136 single households and 1,020 family households) were living in emergency accommodation for a year or longer – 1,914 of which (1,379 single households and 535 family households) were there two years or longer.²¹ The Framework should prioritise supporting persons experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, while ensuring that the amount of time households spend in emergency accommodation is minimal. In England, for example, Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 places an obligation on local housing authorities to ensure that accommodation provided to persons experiencing homelessness is suitable. Secondary legislation provides that “B&B accommodation is not to be regarded as suitable for an applicant with family commitments’ where the applicant has already occupied B&B accommodation for a period of six weeks.”²²

Part 5: Repeat Prevention

Recommendation 21: Align local authority Garda vetting practices with the principles of the forthcoming Criminal Justice (Rehabilitative Periods) Bill 2018 by adopting proportionate, risk-based assessments that remove unnecessary barriers to housing for people exiting homelessness.

Rationale: Criminal history is a barrier to people accessing appropriate accommodation.²³

Local Authority and some AHB Garda vetting carried out before accessing social housing can act as a significant barrier to accessing housing supports for people exiting homelessness. This approach does not always account for the context in which offences may have occurred, particularly where individuals were experiencing homelessness, addiction or poor mental health. As a result, people who are actively engaging with services and seeking to exit homelessness may face additional structural barriers that delay or prevent access to stable housing.

While the progression of the Criminal Justice (Rehabilitative Periods) Bill 2018 is a very welcome development in supporting rehabilitation and reducing long-term penalties associated with minor offences, its impact will depend on how it is operationalised within housing and homelessness systems. In the interim, there is an opportunity for local authorities to adopt more flexible, risk-based approaches. Rather than applying rigid exclusionary criteria, local authorities could undertake individualised risk assessments that consider the nature, timing, and context of

²¹ [Homeless Quarterly Progress Report Q4 2025](#)

²² See Articles 3-4 of the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2003 (SI No. 3326 of 2003).

²³ [iprt_from_punishment_to_prevention-final_report.pdf](#)

offences, as well as evidence of engagement with support services and progression toward stability.

Anecdotal reports suggests that some local authorities, such as Galway City Council, are already adopting more nuanced approaches, applying case-by-case risk assessments that allow for greater flexibility and fairness in decision-making. This highlights the potential for wider system learning and the development of national guidance to ensure consistency across local authorities. Greater emphasis on staff training and awareness could also support more proportionate and informed decision-making, ensuring that past offences - particularly those linked to experiences of homelessness – do not act as a blanket barrier to accessing housing supports.

Part 6: Priority Cohorts

6.1 Single Adults

While the recently announced housing plan, *Delivering Homes, Building Communities (2025–2030)* sets out welcome ambitions to end homelessness, it does not include dedicated targets, funding, or pathways for single adults experiencing homelessness, despite the fact that single-adult households make up the majority of housing need in Ireland:

- One-adult households account for 60.8% (36,416 households) of the main social housing waiting list (2024), up from 57.4% in 2023.
- They represent 22% of HAP tenancies.
- As of January 2026, 7,447 single adult households were living in emergency accommodation, representing almost 75% of all households in homeless services.

Excluding single adults from plans and policies to address homelessness renders them invisible and undermines the Government’s commitment to end homelessness by 2030. It may also add to the stigma associated with homelessness and inadvertently lead to a hierarchy of ‘deservedness’. Safe shelter is a basic human right and should be treated as so. **The Homeless Prevention Framework must include tailored, flexible responses to cohorts most at risk and affected by homelessness – including adults experiencing homelessness alone.**

Recommendation 22: Increase the immediate delivery of one-bedroom homes.

Recommendation 23: Establish a Rapid Rehousing Programme for Single Adults, with a target of 3,000 placements per year across AHB, Local Authority, acquisition, and leasing routes.

Rationale: It is critical that the delivery of housing reflects the composition of households with social housing needs.

The Housing Commission Report highlights the limited availability of one-bedroom properties in the community – which are necessary to support single adults experiencing homelessness. One-adult households remain the majority household group on the main social housing list, growing from 57.4% (33,746 households) in 2023²⁴ to 60.8% (36,416 households) in 2024.²⁵ One-adult households also make up 22% of HAP tenancies,²⁶ and as of January 2026, there were 7,447 single adult households (nearly 75% of all households) living in emergency accommodation.²⁷ One-bedroom properties are also critical for the delivery of Housing First programmes (see recommendations 24 & 25).

Local Authorities must be directed to match the housing plans in their areas to the actual housing need. One-bed units and four or five-bed units must be included in all Local Authority plans. We recommend that in areas where single households exceed 60% of social housing need, a minimum of 40% of new social housing allocations be one-bed units.

A Rapid Rehousing Programme for Single Adults should also be developed, with a target of 3,000 placements per year across AHB, Local Authority, acquisition, and leasing routes in line with the scale of the challenge involved in preventing long-term homelessness for single households in emergency accommodation. A significant number will require some level of tenancy support after exiting homeless services and as noted earlier, this needs to be planned for.

Recommendation 24: Fully resource and expand Housing First. Ensure allocation of Housing First placements to not inadvertently penalise persons who engage with services.

Recommendation 25: Adapt service models for the cohort for whom Housing First is not currently effective.

Rationale: Build on the success of Housing First and introduce some flexibility to service.

Housing First is grounded the principle that access to housing is a fundamental right, not something to be earned. These programmes provide direct access to permanent housing and wraparound services (e.g. health, mental health, and addiction services) and have shown very high levels of success in ending long-term

²⁴ The Housing Agency (2024) Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2023.

²⁵ The Housing Agency (2025) Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2024.

²⁶ DHLGH (2024) HAP Performance Indicators – 2022.

²⁷ [Homeless Report January 2026](#)

homelessness in both Ireland and abroad. The Housing Agency reported an 86% tenancy sustainment rate in 2023, demonstrating the impact of these vital services in ending long-term homelessness, particularly for people with complex needs.²⁸

However, with limited stock for Housing First, existing stock is allocated to those deemed most vulnerable and at risk, such as those who are not currently engaged with addiction or mental health services. While prioritising vulnerability is both necessary and appropriate, the current approach risks penalising positive engagement with services. Inadvertently penalising individuals for engaging in treatment risks prolonging housing instability, increasing the likelihood of relapse, and ultimately driving avoidable entries or re-entries into homelessness. Urgent investment in Housing First must therefore be prioritised to expand availability and, in the interim, allocation processes should be reviewed to ensure that people are not disadvantaged for seeking support. Housing First targets in the current Housing Strategy are 2000 - they should be increased to 2300 to allow for the elaboration of the model to include congregate Housing First – which is a central plank of the Finnish Housing First strategy.²⁹

While Housing First has a highly successful 86% tenancy sustainment rate, it does not work for every person. For the 14% of individuals with particularly complex needs that Housing First does not work for, often because of the impact of social isolation or unwelcome visitors, alternative interventions should be explored and implemented, including Congregate Housing First arrangements. This well-evidenced approach involves the provision of on-site wraparound services within an apartment block with Housing First units (as opposed to visiting wrap-around services). In Ireland, for example, the services provided by Peter McVerry Trust at onset of the pandemic drew on this model. An evaluation of that service found that providing the services onsite helped to build trust and engage clients who otherwise would not have engaged with services.³⁰

Recommendation 26: Strengthen transition pathways from state institutions into housing.

Recommendation 27: Provide trained housing caseworkers to those with accommodation needs in in-patient mental health services.

Recommendation 28: Fully resource and expand prison in-reach services provided by the Voluntary and Community Sector. Increase visibility and awareness of these services.

²⁸ [Press Release: Housing First successful in ending long term homelessness | The Housing Agency](#)

²⁹ [2019-10-10-HFinEurope_Full-Report2019_final.pdf](#)

³⁰ [An Evaluation of Peter McVerry Trust During the COVID-19 Pandemic Report Launch - Peter McVerry Trust](#)

Rationale: Discharge into homelessness from mental health services and prisons is a systemic failure.

There is an urgent need to strengthen transition pathways from state institutions into housing. A study of an acute mental health unit in Tallaght found that nearly 40% of in-patients had accommodation-related needs.³¹ Discharges into homelessness from in-patient mental health services can exacerbate mental health difficulties and create a cycle of institutionalisation and homelessness.³² Indeed, in 2023, 302 individuals without a fixed address were admitted to inpatient psychiatric units, with most of these being readmissions.³³ Additionally, in 2024, about 12% of those entering prison self-reported having no fixed abode,³⁴ and 317 people applied for social housing prior to their release from prison, and were released from prison to attend public housing appointments for emergency accommodation.³⁵

Housing caseworkers, with mental health awareness training, should be made available to every person with accommodation needs in mental health services, to provide support in finding accessible housing. In-reach services such as those provided by Tosú and Focus Ireland should be fully resourced and expanded to ensure no person is discharged from prison without a housing plan in place. As part of this, awareness of these services and housing pathways should be raised within the prisons. An example of this could be the Irish Prison System’s “Mental Health Week” - a week-long programme hosted by prison schools which hosts workshops, events, and speakers about mental health and well-being. This week-long event is very well received by those in prison,³⁶ and could be a model for a “Housing Week.”

2.2 Young Adults

There are several critical points at which youth homelessness could be prevented. Often, family escalation often occurs without timely access to mediation or intensive family support.³⁷ Supports are often accessed only at crisis point, rather than earlier when relationships may be more reparable. Transition points, particularly the transition out of State care at age 18, also represent a major missed prevention opportunity. The current legal requirement that a child must have spent 12 months in the care of the State between the ages of 13 and 18 years to be eligible for aftercare means that many young persons with significant care experiences are excluded from

³¹ [Prevalence of housing needs among inpatients: a 1 year audit of housing needs in the acute mental health unit in Tallaght Hospital - PubMed](#)

³² [Homelessness-and-mental-health-report.pdf](#)

³³ [Annual Report on the Activities of Irish Psychiatric Units and Hospitals, 2023](#)

³⁴ [PERSONS-COMMITTED-by-County-Year-2007-to-Year-2024.pdf](#)

³⁵ [Prison Service – Thursday, 3 Jul 2025 – Parliamentary Questions \(34th Dáil\) – Houses of the Oireachtas](#)

³⁶ [Mental Health Services & Support in Prisons - Mental Health Reform](#)

³⁷ [Evaluation of Focus Ireland’s Young Family Mediation Service](#)

vital supports. This includes those who may enter care later in adolescence or experience multiple short care episodes. As a result, some of the most vulnerable young persons enter adulthood without adequate housing supports, income, or aftercare planning, which significantly increases their risk of entering homelessness.

Recommendation 29: Mainstream and scale up Young Family Mediation Services nationally.

Rationale: Family conflict is a key driver of youth homelessness.³⁸

A recent [evaluation of Focus Ireland's Young Family Mediation Service](#) highlighted the positive impact of the services for young persons and their families. Youth Family Mediation aims to provide a structured environment to address conflict within families, allowing young persons to stay in the family home and prevent them from entering homelessness. Both young persons and their families who were supported by the service reflected positively, citing the mediators as a key reason they were still living at home. The report estimates that the cost per mediation case, which typically concludes within 12 months, is €5,869.56. For comparison, the average cost of providing residential care to a child is €6,193 per week. Each child that a mediator prevents from entering residential care could therefore save the State €317,052 annually. Young Family Mediation Services is a cost-effective intervention to prevent children and young persons from entering care services or homelessness, and should be prioritised. Upstream Prevention

Recommendation 30: Mainstream and scale up the Supported Housing for Youth model nationally.

Rationale: Combining stable housing with wraparound supports improves long-term outcomes and reduces reliance on emergency accommodation.³⁹

The Supported Housing for Youth (SHY) pilot, operated by Focus Ireland and Clúid Housing in Dublin, provides stable housing for young persons as well as tailored wraparound support, including independent living skills, case management, and assistance with health, education, and employment services. Early evidence from the pilot highlights better long-term outcomes in health, education, and employment, and reduced reliance on emergency accommodation.⁴⁰ A commitment to mainstreaming this model under the new housing plan, *Delivering Homes, Building Communities* is welcome and SCI urge this also be included in the Homeless Prevention Framework.

³⁸ [Youth-Homelessness-in-the-Dublin-Region-2023.pdf](#)

³⁹ Focus Ireland (2025). Recommendations to Government for Budget 2026. Available at [Policy - Focus Ireland](#)

⁴⁰ Focus Ireland (2025). Recommendations to Government for Budget 2026. Available at [Policy - Focus Ireland](#)

Recommendation 31: Expand and prioritise the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) for care leavers.

Recommendation 32: Review the current funding scheme for CAS to account for long-term costs of property maintenance and estate management.

Rationale: Care leavers are at heightened risk for entering homelessness.⁴¹

The Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) for care leavers programme is also a positive initiative providing long-term, secure tenancies along with dedicated aftercare support from Tusla to care leavers assessed as being at considerable risk of homelessness. A 2022 review of the scheme highlighted its success in providing security and stability in housing for CAS for care leaver clients.⁴² However, since 2018, just 117 homes have been delivered through the scheme.⁴³ It is estimated that 500 young people leave care every year upon reaching the age of 18.⁴⁴ With just 10 units delivered in 2024, this means that just 2% of State care leavers were accommodated through the scheme in 2024. With adequate investment and prioritisation within the Homelessness Prevention Framework, CAS has the potential to significantly strengthen both upstream and repeat prevention, ensuring care leavers can transition from state care into stable housing with the supports needed to sustain tenancies and prevent homelessness. Importantly, however, we continue to have very serious concerns about the adequacy of CAS funding to meet the long-term costs of property maintenance and estate management and recommend that that the scheme be urgently reviewed from a financial sustainability perspective.

Recommendation 33: Reform aftercare eligibility criteria to ensure supports are based on assessed need and vulnerability, rather than time thresholds.

Rationale: Aftercare supports should be based on assessed need and vulnerability, rather than time thresholds.

While the Child Care Act 1991 established the State’s role in providing aftercare, its discretionary framing, where Tusla ‘may’ provide aftercare following assessment, resulted in inconsistent access. The Child Care (Amendment) Act 2015, enacted in 2017, made aftercare a statutory requirement. While this was welcome progress, the introduction of specific eligibility criteria has contributed to anomalies and unintended consequences. Under the amended legislation, Tusla is legally required to provide aftercare only to “eligible young people,” defined as those who have spent at least 12 months in State care between the ages of 13 and 18. This threshold was introduced

⁴¹ [What happens after care? Investigating the post-care housing pathways and experiences of adult care leavers in Ireland - ScienceDirect](#)

⁴² Preventing Homelessness among Care Leavers: Review of the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) for Care Leavers. [Available here.](#)

⁴³ Dáil Éireann Debate, Housing Provision, 20 March 2024. [Available here.](#)

⁴⁴ [Irish Aftercare Network Calls For More Support For Young People Leaving Care - Focus Ireland](#)

amid concerns about creating an entitlement that might incentivise State care placements, but in practice it has excluded many young people with substantial care needs. While the legislation does not state that other young people are ineligible for aftercare, resource pressures have meant that exceptions based on assessed need are now far less common.

As a result, young people with extensive interactions with Tusla – in some cases over the course of several years – can be excluded from aftercare because the formal decision to bring them into care occurred after their 17th birthday or because their care experience consisted of multiple short placements. For example, a young person may enter care shortly after their 17th birthday due to serious risks at home, yet be deemed ineligible for aftercare because they have not spent 12 months in care. Despite clear evidence of vulnerability and lack of family support, such young people are routinely referred to adult homelessness services at 18, rather than supported through a planned transition to aftercare. This situation also arises where families are known to Tusla for prolonged periods due to parental addiction or instability. In some cases, older children are not taken into State care due to placement constraints or attempts to maintain family-based solutions. When that young person turns 18, they may have no aftercare entitlement despite years of statutory involvement – which often results them entering into homelessness.

This presents a clear disconnect between child protection, aftercare, and housing systems, whereby a policy meant to prioritise family solutions paradoxically penalises some young people by denying them access to aftercare supports when family-based interventions are unsuccessful after their 17th birthday. Addressing this requires reform of aftercare eligibility criteria to ensure supports are based on assessed need and vulnerability, rather than time thresholds.

2.3 People with Disabilities

Disabled persons are at increased risk of experiencing homelessness compared to their non-disabled counterparts,⁴⁵ and are disproportionately represented among homeless populations. The National Disability Authority reports that 29% of persons living in shelters or refuges were experiencing a “psychological or emotional condition or a mental health issue” – nearly six times the rate of the general population. Additionally, 15% of those in refuges or shelters experienced difficulties with pain, breathing or other chronic illnesses or conditions.⁴⁶

Recommendation 34: Embed the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022–2027 within the Homelessness Prevention Framework.

⁴⁵ [Addressing the health inequalities for people experiencing homelessness and disability | Homeless Link](#)

⁴⁶ [NDA Factsheet: Housing - National Disability Authority](#)

Rationale: Supporting disabled persons to live independently, with the appropriate choices and control over where, how, and with whom is critical to preventing homelessness.

Supporting disabled persons to live independently, with the appropriate choices and control over where, how, and with whom, as well as access to employment, education, healthcare, and other supports, is critical to homelessness prevention amongst this cohort. The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 is a welcome step in this direction, and the Homelessness Prevention Framework should build on this by embedding its commitments within the framework, particularly in relation to accessible housing supply, coordinated service delivery, and person-centred supports.

Recommendation 35: Expand early intervention and prevention services for mental health and addiction and embed *the Sharing the Vision Implementation Plan 2025–2027*, including the Dual Diagnosis Model of Care, within the Homelessness Prevention Framework.

Rationale: The relationship between homelessness and mental health and addiction is bi-directional.⁴⁷

People experiencing homelessness experience significantly higher rates of mental health difficulties compared to the general population, including much higher prevalence of dual diagnoses of mental health and addiction (58-65% vs 1%, respectively).⁴⁸ The relationship between both addiction and mental health difficulties is bi-directional; persons experiencing mental health or substance use difficulties are at increased risk of entering homelessness, and the experience of homelessness itself increases the risk that an individual will experience mental health difficulties or addiction.⁴⁹

Ensuring timely access to supports and services is critical to both preventing and ending homelessness – particularly long-term or multi-episodic homelessness. Stigma, the transient nature of homelessness, and the very experience of mental health difficulties and/or addiction all serve as barriers to accessing services and supports. This highlights the need for strong inter-agency links between mental health professionals and front-line workers in the homeless sector, and those experiencing homelessness. It also highlights the need to have appropriately trained mental health and addiction teams on-site and directly employed by organisations, such as those employed by Simon Communities across Ireland (Section 39 funding). Homeless specific outreach and in-reach community orientated addiction and mental health

⁴⁷ [Homelessness, housing instability and mental health: making the connections - PMC](#)

⁴⁸ Torchalla, I. et al., “Substance Use and Predictors of Substance Dependence in Homeless Women,” *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 118, no. 2–3: 173–79

⁴⁹ [Homelessness, housing instability and mental health: making the connections - PMC](#)

services are required, with multi-disciplinary teams who are skilled in challenges related to dual-diagnosis and the unique needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Persons with psychosocial disabilities or enduring mental health difficulties must be afforded rights under the UNCRPD as well as Ireland's Equal Status Act. *Sharing the Vision*, Ireland's Mental Health Policy down to 2030, recognises persons experiencing homelessness as a priority group, with Recommendations 58 and 59 addressing service gaps and barriers faced by persons experiencing homelessness. The Homelessness Prevention Framework should therefore build on these commitments by embedding the actions set out in the 2025-2027 implementation plan. This includes progressing integrated, community-based mental health and addiction supports, with a particular focus on dual diagnosis and the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

2.4 Older adults

Recommendation 36: Build awareness of relevant legislation and tenants' rights among older adults. Make accessing tenancy sustainment and homelessness prevention services easier for older adults.

Rationale: Older adults are a distinct cohort and require tailored prevention supports.

Our recent report on [Older Adult Homelessness](#) highlights how some older people experiencing homelessness have been denied their full rights or lacked adequate access to entitlements, which in some cases contributed directly to their pathways into homelessness. Issues include inadequate protection against eviction, discrimination linked to HAP, and difficulties accessing welfare supports. Ensuring older adults are aware of their rights and can access support requires more than making information available online; it must be actively signposted in communities, for example via local noticeboards.

Recommendation 37: Streamline planning and funding processes to speed up the delivery of new developments providing age-friendly housing.

Rationale: There are an increasing number of older adults accessing emergency accommodation.⁵⁰

Addressing the gap between housing need and supply for older persons requires both reducing housing costs - through greater investment in social housing, for example - and increasing incomes. It is equally important that available housing is suitable for older people's cognitive, functional, and mobility needs, as well as their social and personal preferences. One-bedroom properties, for instance, are often most

⁵⁰ [Older Adult Homelessness](#)

appropriate for older adults experiencing homelessness, yet these units remain scarce in the current housing market. Accelerating the delivery of age-friendly housing, with clear timelines and dedicated funding streams, is essential to preventing homelessness and supporting older adults to live independently in secure, suitable accommodation.

Part 7: Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Recommendation 38: Enhance data collection and reporting by Local Authorities, to better capture hidden homelessness and the impacts of prevention and support services

Rationale: Local Authorities are responsible for assessing persons who present as homeless.

Accurate data is essential to responding effectively to the homelessness crisis, as it can give an indication as to what interventions are working and where further support is needed. The current homeless figures only capture those accessing State-funded emergency accommodation. Thousands more are estimated to be experiencing ‘hidden homelessness’ (e.g. persons sleeping rough, in cars or in workplaces, persons couch surfing, squatting, or living in insecure or inadequate housing, etc.).⁵¹ SCI welcome the Department’s commitment to collecting and publishing quarterly data on numbers of persons exiting homelessness and time spent in homelessness in *Delivering Homes, Building Communities*.

Local authorities are also well-placed to provide valuable data. SCI urge that, as part of the Homelessness Prevention Framework, Local Authorities provide quarterly, publicly available reports on the number of adults, children, and families presenting for support due to homelessness, and, of these:

- The number that are subsequently assessed and regarded as experiencing homelessness under s.2 of the Housing Act 1988,
- The number that are regarded as experiencing homelessness that are subsequently allocated emergency accommodation,
- The number that are regarded as experiencing homelessness but that are not allocated emergency accommodation, and the reasons given,
- The number that are not regarded as experiencing homelessness under s. 2 of the Housing Act 1988, and the reasons for this determination,

⁵¹ Cunnigham, Kevin, “Under the Radar: Unveiling Hidden Homelessness Across the Island of Ireland.” Simon Communities of Ireland and Simon Community NI. May 2024. <https://www.simon.ie/e-publication/under-the-radar-unveiling-hidden-homelessness-across-the-island-of-ireland/>

- The number of those that are not regarded as experiencing homelessness that are signposted to appropriate support or prevention services.

This data will provide valuable information, capture impacts of support or prevention services, and inform further evidence-based policies and interventions. SCI note Kildare County Council have adopted a motion to collect this data.

Recommendation 39: Building on Recommendation 32, enhance data collection to capture repeat presentations, outcomes of Local Authority referrals to prevention services and to provide disaggregated data on priority cohorts.

Rationale: Enhanced data collection will demonstrate the impact of the Homeless Prevention Framework and highlight gaps.

While improved reporting on presentations and referrals as outlined in Recommendation 32 is an important first step, there is also need to better assess key elements of the Prevention Framework, such as tracking repeat presentations, in order to measure whether Repeat Prevention measures are working. It would also be valuable to better understand the impact of Crisis Prevention measures, such as through capturing what happens after individuals presenting to Local Authorities are signposted to prevention and support services – that is, the number of people who engage with these services and outcomes. In addition, more granular data is needed to understand how different cohorts experience homelessness and access supports. Collecting disaggregated data on homelessness presentations, such as by household type, age, and disability status, would enable Local Authorities, policymakers, and service providers to assess whether prevention measures are working for priority groups and to identify gaps in service provision. Strengthening data in this way would support a more targeted, evidence-based approach to homelessness prevention, while building on the core reporting improvements set out in Recommendation 32.

Recommendation 40: Ensure the Framework is underpinned by clear actions, ring-fenced annual implementation budgets, defined timelines, and measurable outcomes.

Recommendation 41: Ensure the Homelessness Prevention Framework is embedded within existing national and regional governance structures, including NHAC, regional homeless fora, and Local Authority Homeless Action Plans.

Recommendation 42: Establish a dedicated implementation monitoring committee that includes people with lived experience to oversee delivery.

Recommendation 43: Embed the voices of people with lived experience throughout implementation, delivery, and review.

Rationale: The Framework will only be effective if it is supported by clear actions, ring-fenced budgets, defined timelines, and measurable outcomes that allow progress to be monitored and delivered.

It is vital for the Homelessness Prevention Framework to be underpinned by annual, ring-fenced implementation budgets and a robust monitoring and accountability framework, including clearly defined outputs and outcomes. It should not operate as a standalone policy document, but be clearly linked into existing delivery and oversight structures. It should set out how its actions will be progressed through structures such as NHAC, regional homeless fora, and Local Authority Homeless Action Plans, with clear lines of responsibility between national policy, regional coordination, and local delivery.

Local Authority Homeless Action Plans should explicitly reflect the Framework's prevention priorities, with clear local targets, timelines, and review points. This should be supported through regular reporting cycles so that progress can be monitored consistently over time. Embedding the Framework in local plans would help ensure that prevention is not treated as a national aspiration alone, but as an operational responsibility at local level.

To support effective oversight, SCl further recommends the establishment of a dedicated implementation monitoring committee to oversee delivery of the actions within the Framework. Insights can be drawn from the governance structures of *Sharing the Vision*, Ireland's national mental health policy, which is overseen by a National Implementation Monitoring Committee (NIMC) and supported by a Reference Group of people with lived experience. Adopting a similar model would strengthen transparency, accountability, and Framework's capacity to deliver meaningful change. In addition to representation on an implementation monitoring committee, lived experience should also be embedded within regional homeless fora, local planning processes, service design exercises, and review mechanisms to ensure that prevention efforts reflect the realities of those most impacted.

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