

Draft Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation 2022-27

Response to Consultation

Date 25 January 2022



ABOUT NIFHA

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations, formed in 1977, is the representative body for Northern Ireland's 20 registered housing associations.

Our members are all not-for-profit organisations. Together, supported by the Department for Communities and the Housing Executive, they provide just under 56,000 social and affordable homes.

Housing associations access private finance to effectively double the number of homes they could build with government housing association grant alone.

Housing associations also deliver high quality care and support to help people stay as independent as possible.

Working in partnership with other organisations, they also invest millions each year in community services and facilities.

Our sector employs more than 3,200 people and manages housing assets worth £4.5 bn.

NIFHA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation 2022-27.

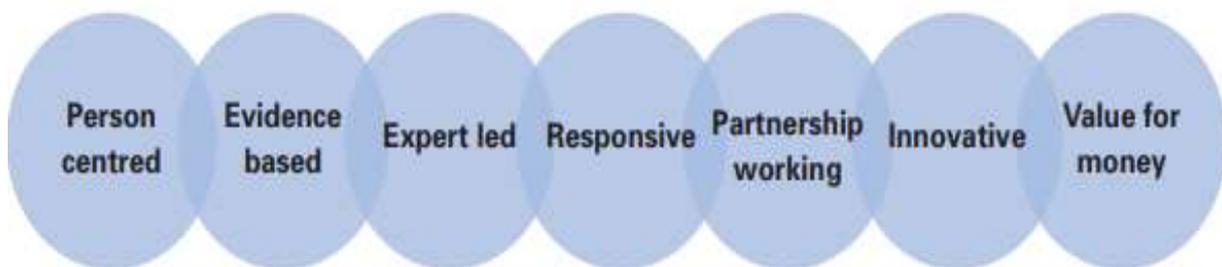
PART 1: SETTING THE CONTEXT

This Action Plan was developed in consultation with key stakeholders as part of the Housing Executive's Strategic Review of Temporary Accommodation project which was

conducted with the goal of assessing how effectively the current temporary accommodation portfolio meets the needs of homeless customers.

PART 2: CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The same principles which underpin the Homelessness Strategy apply to this Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation.



1 Do you agree with the planning principles that will guide the delivery of the Action Plan?

		Yes	No
A	Person Centred	x	

B	Evidence Based Planning	x	
C	Expert Led	x	
D	Responsive	x	
E	Partnership Working	x	
F	Innovative	x	
G	Value for Money	x	

What will success look like?



2 Do you agree with the indicators of success identified in the Action Plan?

		Yes	No
A	Minimised need for temporary accommodation	x	
B	Customer receives appropriate accommodation and support at the point of need	x	
C	Good quality, affordable accommodation, which is safe, warm and well-managed	x	
D	Customers moving on from temporary accommodation sustain their tenancies	x	

It might also be useful to set a target on length of time in temporary accommodation which should be minimised. It may be difficult to minimise need for temporary accommodation without an adequate supply of suitable housing options, tailored to the individuals need.

INDICATOR OF SUCCESS 1 OUTLINED ON PAGES 15 & 16 OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN.

3 The first indicator of success identified in the Action Plan is: To minimise the need for temporary accommodation.

The plan details this will be achieved through ensuring:

- Homelessness is prevented
- Tenancies are sustained
- Rapid rehousing
- Investment in alternatives

Do you agree these are the correct areas of focus to achieve a minimised need for temporary accommodation?

Yes	x
No	

The reasons for homelessness can be complex and it is not always possible to prevent without intensive wraparound support to ensure tenancy sustainment.

Rapid rehousing / Housing First will require adequate funding and increased training and support for front line housing teams.

A Do you agree with the priority actions for this indicator as detailed in the Year 1 Action Plan?

Yes	x
No	

INDICATOR OF SUCCESS 2 OUTLINED ON PAGES 17 & 18 OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN

4 The second indicator of success identified in the Action Plan is: Customer receives appropriate accommodation and support at the point of need, the plan details this will be achieved through ensuring:

- Comprehensive understanding of needs at point of presentation
- Effective case management process
- Flexible support models
- Flexible accommodation options
- Reduced usage of hotel/B&B accommodation

Do you agree these are the correct areas of focus to ensure the customer receives appropriate accommodation and support at the point of need?

Yes	x
No	

A Do you agree with the priority actions for this indicator as detailed in the Year 1 Action Plan?

Yes	x
No	

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INDICATOR OF SUCCESS 3 OUTLINED ON PAGES 19 & 20 OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN

5 The third indicator of success identified in the Action Plan is: A sustainable supply of good quality, affordable accommodation, which is safe, warm and well-managed, the plan details this will be achieved through the development of:

- A sustainable supply
- Physical standards
- Suitability standards
- Service standards

Do you agree these are the correct areas of focus to ensure good quality, affordable accommodation, which is safe, warm and well-managed?

Yes	x
No	

A Do you agree with the priority actions for this indicator as detailed in the Year 1 Action Plan?

Yes	x
No	

INDICATOR OF SUCCESS 4 OUTLINED ON PAGES 21 TO 22 OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN

6 The fourth indicator of success identified in the Action Plan is: Customers moving on from temporary accommodation sustain their tenancies, the plan details this will be achieved through ensuring:

- Enabled customers
- Enabled providers
- Enabled communities

Do you agree these are the correct areas of focus to ensure customers moving on from temporary accommodation sustain their tenancies?

Yes	x
No	

A Do you agree with the priority actions for this indicator as detailed in the Year 1 Action Plan?

Yes	x
No	

7 Do you agree with the enablers that are outlined in the draft Action Plan?

		Yes	No
A	Customer	x	
B	Funding	x	
C	Staff	x	
D	Technology	x	
E	Process	x	
F	Collaboration	x	

G Do you agree with the priority actions for this indicator as detailed in the Year 1 Action Plan?

Yes	x
No	

Further Comments:

8. Please provide any other comments which should be considered in the development of the Action Plan:

Need to determine the impact of remodelling of hostel accommodation on current services and is there scope for this to be re-purposed?

How do you then ensure adequate provision for high and intensive support / care needs, and this will also require significant additional funding for staffing of alternative models eg Housing First Approach.

What would the impact of flipping temporary accommodation to permanent have on short term hostel accommodation?

9. Please provide comments on how the Action Plan should be monitored and reported against:

Monitoring should be outcome focused and include the service user's lived experience to further inform and improve outcomes e.g. reduction in length of time in temporary accommodation / reduction in repeat homelessness / increase in Tenancy Sustainment levels and develop prevention of homelessness measures.

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