

Public Consultation

Draft Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation

Please use this consultation template for submitting your responses and comments.

Alternatively, the online consultation can be downloaded at <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations> where you can also view the full consultation report and the associated screening documents.

If you are completing an electronic version of this form, it should be emailed to: homelessness.strategy@nihe.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can return hard copies of the completed form to:

Anthony Lavery, (Homeless Projects)

1st Floor South,

9 Lanyon Place,

Belfast,

BT1 3LZ

The Housing Executive welcomes any comments you wish to make on all of the proposals or just on those issues that are of particular interest to you in the consultation.

All responses should be received by 5pm on Tuesday 25th January 2022 to ensure they can be fully considered.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Confidentiality of Consultations

The Housing Executive will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Housing Executive can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely the Housing Executive in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or treated as confidential, although this will also be guided by Data Protection legislation.

The means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Housing Executive should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Housing Executive's functions and it would not otherwise be provided.
- The Housing Executive should not agree to hold information received from third parties 'in confidence' which is not confidential in nature.
- Acceptance by the Housing Executive of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see the website at:

<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>)



Consultation Response

Your Details					
Is this submission on behalf of an:		Organisation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Individual	<input type="radio"/>
Name:	Click here to enter text.				
Organisation:	Belfast City Council				
Postal Address:	Belfast City Hall, Belfast				
Postcode:	BT1 5GS				
Email:	Click here to enter text.				

1	Do you agree with the planning principles that will guide the delivery of the Action Plan?	YES	NO
A	Person Centred	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B	Evidence Based Planning	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C	Expert Led	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D	Responsive	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E	Partnership Working	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
F	Innovative	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
G	Value for Money	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Further Comments:

We are supportive of the planning principles and have no further comments to add at this point.

2	Do you agree with the indicators of success identified in the Action Plan?	YES	NO
A	Minimised need for temporary accommodation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B	Customer receives appropriate accommodation and support at the point of need	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C	Good quality, affordable accommodation which is safe, warm and well-managed	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D	Customers moving on from temporary accommodation sustain their tenancies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Further Comments:

We are supportive of the indicators of success and have no further comments to add at this point.

3	<p>The first indicator of success identified in the Action Plan is: To minimise the need for temporary accommodation.</p> <p>The plan details this will be achieved through ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness is prevented • Tenancies are sustained • Rapid rehousing • Investment in alternatives <p>These areas are further outlined on pages 15 & 16 of the draft Action Plan.</p> <p>Do you agree these are the correct areas of focus to achieve a minimised need for temporary accommodation?</p>	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
<p>Further Comments:</p> <p>We have nothing further to add.</p>			
A	<p>Do you agree with the priority actions for this indicator as detailed in the Year 1 Action Plan?</p>	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
<p>Further Comments:</p> <p>We welcome the focus on expanding Housing First and Housing Led responses – and the aim of ‘normal housing within normal communities’ as well as the focus on repurposing and reconfiguration of existing provision such as hostels.</p> <p>As the action plan notes, there is a high concentration of hostel provision across Belfast as a whole, and particularly within Belfast City Centre, and the associated ‘challenges with large scale congregate settings’ are felt by partner organisations (such as BCC, PSNI, etc.) and as such we are keen to continue to both develop and build upon collaborative approaches.</p>			

4	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>These areas are further outlined on pages 17 & 18 of the draft Action Plan.</p> <p>Do you agree these are the correct areas of focus to ensure the customer receives appropriate accommodation and support at the point of need?</p>	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
<p>Further Comments:</p> <p>We have nothing further to add.</p>			
A	<p>Do you agree with the priority actions for this indicator as detailed in the Year 1 Action Plan?</p>	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
<p>Further Comments:</p> <p>We have nothing further to add.</p>			

5	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable supply • Physical standards • Suitability standards • Service standards <p>These areas are further outlined on pages 19 & 20 of the draft Action Plan. Do you agree these are the correct areas of focus to ensure good quality, affordable accommodation which is safe, warm and well-managed</p>	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
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Further Comments:

We have nothing further to add.

A	Do you agree with the priority actions for this indicator as detailed in the Year 1 Action Plan?	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
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Further Comments:

Consideration needed in relation to how need will be prioritised whilst demand continues to outstrip supply in relation to housing options locally and across the region – particularly for complex needs clients who often present in crisis and who often also have urgent and/or longstanding requirements in relation to wider support needs (e.g. where a Belfast-based individual is placed in temporary accommodation in Derry/Londonderry but they are required to attend substitute prescribing services, and to pick up scripts, in Belfast and this cannot be easily changed or where they are under paramilitary threat – real or perceived) which necessitate placement in certain settings or locations?

6	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabled customers • Enabled providers • Enabled communities <p>These areas are further outlined on pages 21 & 22 of the draft Action Plan. Do you agree these are the correct areas of focus to ensure customers moving on from temporary accommodation sustain their tenancies?</p>	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
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Further Comments:

We have nothing further to add.

A	Do you agree with the priority actions for this indicator as detailed in the Year 1 Action Plan?	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
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Further Comments:

- Develop projects to build community capacity to prevent homelessness and sustain tenancies

Could include an additional action (or be more specific on this action) around working with existing community support providers (e.g. in Belfast - advice services, Area Partnership Boards, etc.) and those commissioning community support services (BCC, BHSCT, etc.) to identify collaborative projects or ways in which existing supports could be enhanced.

Staff – as well as training to be able to provide improved direct support, the priority actions will need to be aware of wider support available at community level, particularly when it comes to longer term aspect which will be focussed on creating connections for the customer within the local community – promoting that sense of belonging and integration into the area in which they have been housed as well as for some community acceptance – if they are returning to a community/area where they have been known previously. Again fostering and formalising linkages with key community organisations/partnerships within localities will be key.

Agree that the Complex Lives approach should be mainstreamed if proven successful and that elements of it should be expanded on – where appropriate – beyond ‘complex lives’ clients.

7	Do you agree with the enablers that are outlined in the draft Action Plan?	YES <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
A	Customer	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B	Funding	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C	Staff	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D	Technology	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E	Process	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
F	Collaboration	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Further Comments: We have nothing further to add.			
G	Do you agree with the priority actions for this indicator as detailed in the Year 1 Action Plan?	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
Further Comments: As already demonstrated during the prototyping phase of the Complex Lives approach – collaboration is key not only at a case management/delivery level but also at a planning, policy setting/review and commissioning level across key agencies with an indirect role in preventing homelessness. As well as ensuring effective commissioning structures are in place to prioritise funding internally, there is also a need to influence effective commissioning by partner organisations to ensure that both prevention and treatment interventions are, at a minimum, complimentary and where possible, working in tandem to achieve improved outcomes for the customer, particularly those with complex needs.			

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

We are supportive of the development of the Action Plan and have nothing further to add.

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

We currently have no views on how the Action Plan should be monitored and reported against.