

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Aire: An Action Plan on Child and Family Homelessness

November 2026

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Foreword by the Taoiseach



Micheál Martin, Taoiseach

Le teach sábháilte, is féidir le páistí fás, foghlaim, imirt, agus cairde a dhéanamh. Le teach sóisialta nó inacmhainne, bíonn níos mó acmhainní ag teaghlaigh chun fanacht saor ón mbochtaineacht. Agus le teach d'ardchaighdeán, bíonn teaghlaigh níos sásta, níos sláintiúla agus bíonn caidrimh níos láidre acu.

Both I and this Government are determined that every child grows up in a secure, affordable and good quality home.

That is why we are making the largest ever State investment in social and affordable housing, with capital funding of over €9 billion this year alone. It is why we have legislated for the strongest tenancy protections in the history of the State. And it is why we have introduced a wide range of measures to increase the supply of housing in every part of the country.

I know that we are doing the right things, and I know that increasing supply is the single most effective method to tackle homelessness. While we work towards eradicating homelessness by 2030, we also have a responsibility to act here and now for the children and families who are experiencing homelessness today, or who are at risk of becoming so. We need bold, long-term solutions, but we also need practical, immediate action that makes a difference in children's lives today.

That is why we have built this Plan on three clear pillars: prevention, protection, and progression. Prevention is, and will remain, our first priority. Where homelessness cannot be prevented, this Plan seeks to ensure that families find a stable home as quickly as possible, and will put in place the supports needed to ensure that any experience of homelessness is as brief, and as little damaging, as it can be.

This Child and Family Homelessness Action Plan reflects something that I believe strongly: that the needs of

children and families experiencing homelessness are not the responsibility of just the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage alone, but a shared responsibility across the whole of Government. Through this Plan, we will leverage the resources of multiple departments and agencies to respond to the needs of children and uphold their rights.

Children living in emergency accommodation have exactly the same right as any other child to an education, to a family life, to privacy, to sport and culture, and to reach their full potential. This Action Plan reaffirms our responsibility to them, and sets out new measures across health, education, housing, nutrition, child protection, youth services, and transport, each one designed to protect and support children and families.

Nothing in this Plan should be taken to suggest that homelessness is, or ever could be, an acceptable part of life in this country. A hotel room or a family hub is not a home, and we do not pretend otherwise.

Childhood does not pause while we build more homes. It is made up of days, of experiences, of moments that shape a person for the rest of their life. We are committed to building the homes this country needs. But that commitment means nothing if it is not matched by what we do for children today.

This Action Plan reaffirms our determination to end homelessness. That is why every action in this Plan is being progressed within twelve months, and Government will be held to that timeline.



Foreword by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage



James Browne
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Addressing homelessness remains my top priority.

Through *Delivering Homes, Building Communities*, the Government has committed to work towards ending homelessness by 2030 and to ensuring that everyone who experiences homelessness is supported to achieve a sustainable housing outcome.

While progress continues to be made through increased housing supply, enhanced prevention measures and expanded homelessness services, the reality is that too many children and families continue to experience homelessness today.

That simply is not good enough and is why we need a determined, focused and urgent response.

This Child and Family Homelessness Action Plan forms part of that response and is an important step in strengthening our work in dealing with one of the most pressing social challenges facing our country.

On a monthly basis, we focus on the numbers of homelessness, rightly so, but this issue is not just about numbers. I am acutely aware that behind every statistic is a child whose life has been disrupted, a parent struggling to provide stability for their family, and a household facing uncertainty about the future.

Indeed, homelessness can have profound and lasting consequences for children and young people. It can affect their physical and emotional well-being, disrupt their education, impact their development and undermine the sense of security that every child deserves. No child should have to grow up without the stability of a home, and no family should remain in emergency accommodation longer than necessary.

This Action Plan is founded on a clear principle: homelessness should be prevented wherever possible and, where it does occur, it should be rare, brief and non-recurring. Emergency accommodation can never be regarded as a long-term solution. While it provides an essential safety net for families in crisis, our focus must always be on preventing homelessness in the first instance and on supporting families to move as quickly as possible into secure, sustainable housing.

The actions set out in this Plan reflect the recognition that child and family homelessness is not solely a housing issue. It is a challenge that affects every aspect of a child's life and requires a coordinated response across Government and public services. Success will depend on strong leadership, effective local delivery and close collaboration between local authorities, Government Departments, State agencies and service providers. It will also require a relentless focus on implementation and outcomes.

This Plan has been developed in partnership with children and families who have experienced homelessness, as well as with frontline practitioners, local authorities, statutory agencies and advocacy organisations. I have written to the children who contributed to this work to thank them for their input.

Their voices made a real difference, helping to shape a stronger Plan and ensuring that the actions we take are informed by their lived experience. Their insights have shaped a Plan that is grounded in lived experience and focused on practical action. The message we heard was clear: prevention must come first, supports must be timely and responsive, and families must be helped to move more quickly from emergency accommodation into permanent homes.

Our ambition is clear: every child should have the opportunity to grow up in a safe, secure and stable home. This Plan represents an important step towards that goal and towards our wider objective of ending homelessness.



Executive Summary

Nobody deserves to be homeless.

Where it occurs, homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring. Emergency accommodation can never be regarded as a substitute for a secure and sustainable home.

That is why *Delivering Homes, Building Communities*, the Government's Housing Action Plan to 2030, commits to working towards eradicating homelessness.

The Housing Action Plan includes the development of a specific Child and Family Homelessness Action Plan with a coordinated framework for Government Departments, local authorities, State agencies and service providers to strengthen the response to child and family homelessness.

That is the purpose of this Action Plan. We want to build on existing measures and strengthen the supports available to children and families who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness. We want to make sure that families receive timely and appropriate assistance, that barriers to accessing support are reduced, and that services work together more effectively to improve outcomes for children and families.

Recognising the importance of this issue in the context of child wellbeing, social inclusion and poverty reduction, the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage worked in partnership to develop this Plan, supported by relevant Government Departments, local authorities and State bodies.

As is best practice, the Plan has been informed by extensive engagement with Government Departments, State agencies, local authorities, non-governmental organisations, advocacy groups, service providers and members of the public.

Crucially, we also engaged with children and families with lived experience of homelessness and their voices have significantly influenced this Plan.

While the Plan is intended to support all children and families at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness, it recognises that some groups face a heightened risk of housing insecurity and homelessness. These include:

- one-parent families;
- families affected by domestic, sexual and gender-based violence;
- migrant families, including those with International Protection status;
- families that include a person with a disability;
- Traveller and Roma families; and
- families experiencing persistent disadvantage, trauma or intergenerational poverty.

Incorporating the voices of those who have experienced homelessness and focused on the more vulnerable groups in our society, the Plan is structured around three strategic objectives:

Prevention – reducing the risk of children and families entering homelessness through earlier intervention, strengthened supports and improved coordination of services.

Protection – supporting the well-being, development and participation of children and young people who experience homelessness and ensuring that families can access the services and supports they need.

Progression – reducing the time families spend in emergency accommodation and supporting timely transitions to secure and sustainable housing.

There is no one easy solution to tackling homelessness but there are many interventions – when taken together – which can make a significant difference. Accordingly, the Plan contains 43 actions designed to deliver on the objectives outlined above. The actions are rooted in evidence, build on existing policy commitments and programmes, and have been developed in collaboration with the Departments and agencies responsible for their implementation.

Strong governance arrangements will support delivery of the Plan. A Delivery Steering Group, operating under the auspices of the National Homeless Action Committee and chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach, will oversee implementation, monitor progress and support cross-sectoral coordination. The Group will meet quarterly and report through established governance structures, including the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education.

We are committed to incorporating the voices of those with lived experience in the implementation of this Plan also. To support continuous improvement, a public engagement process will be undertaken following the first year of implementation. This will provide an opportunity to share progress, identify emerging challenges and capture learning from stakeholders and those with lived experience. A Delivery and Learning Report will subsequently be submitted to Government to inform future policy development and prioritisation.

Through the implementation of this Action Plan, Government will strengthen its response to child and family homelessness, improve outcomes for children and families, and support the broader ambition of ending homelessness by 2030.



1

Introduction



1. Introduction

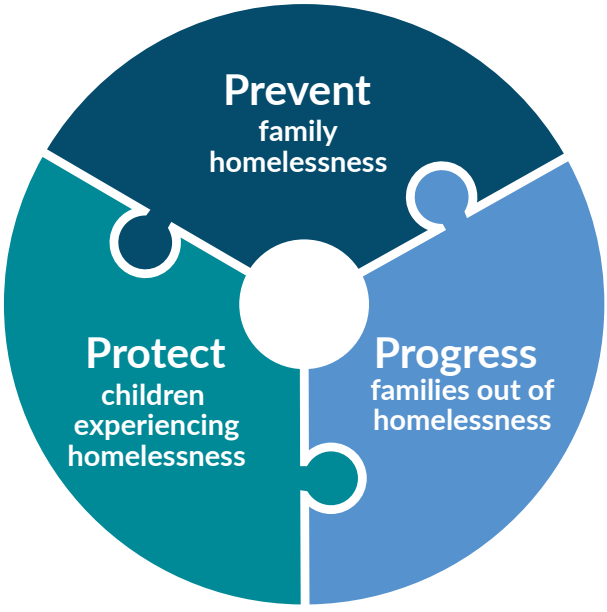
Government is committed to working towards eradicating homelessness by 2030, and this can only be achieved by ensuring that everyone has access to adequate and affordable housing. That is why the Government developed a comprehensive and integrated housing and homelessness plan *Delivering Homes, Building Communities: An Action Plan on Housing Supply and Targeting Homelessness*, and will shortly publish a substantial homelessness prevention framework.

Unfortunately, today, too many children are living in temporary emergency accommodation. Any experience of homelessness for a child is devastating and can have long-term consequences for their well-being and happiness. That is why in this Action Plan Government is providing an enhanced and targeted response for children and their families, as part of the wider goal of ensuring that when it is unavoidable homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

The purpose of this Plan is to bring a specific child and family focus to prevent homelessness, protect those who find themselves homeless, and to ensure they progress beyond homelessness into long-term stable housing as quickly as possible. Nothing in this Plan is intended to imply that homelessness is acceptable, but where children and families experience homelessness, they should be able to access accommodation and supports which respond to the best interests of the child and their longer-term well-being.

While the Government works towards eradicating homelessness, all of the actions identified in this Plan will be progressed urgently within 12 months. The Plan will be monitored quarterly and after one year the Delivery Steering Group (DSG) will submit a delivery and learning report to the National Homeless Action Committee (NHAC) and to Government in order to inform future decision-making and prioritisation.

Figure 1: Driving a whole-of-government response to all dimensions of child and family homelessness



Responding to child homelessness is an interdependent mission



Investment and progress to date

The revised National Development Plan has allocated €36 billion in capital funding for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage over 2026-2030. This record funding provision supports the delivery of an average of 12,000 new build social homes annually by 2030, alongside broader housing supports, including affordable housing. Progress to date has been substantial:

- Between 2020 and 2025, an additional 169,407 new homes were added to the housing stock.
- 60,288 social homes have been delivered through build, acquisition and leasing.
- Over 14,400[1] secure tenancies to families experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness through social housing allocations and supports, such as the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).

Delivering Homes, Building Communities: An Action Plan on Housing Supply and Targeting Homelessness is a comprehensive and integrated housing and homelessness plan based on two key pillars: activating the supply of 300,000 more homes; and supporting people to have a home of their own. Funding of €563 million has been allocated for homelessness services in 2026, supporting the provision and maintenance of emergency accommodation and related services. This includes €50 million of capital funding to provide and maintain homeless emergency accommodation.

Why a dedicated Child and Family Homelessness Action Plan?

Notwithstanding the investment and progress to date, housing demand has continued to rise sharply, driven in part by strong population increases. The CSO has estimated that Ireland's population has increased by over 440,000 from 2021 to 2025. The number of individuals presenting to and accessing homeless emergency accommodation has also increased. In August 2026, there were 2,800 families and 5,830 children in State-funded emergency accommodation. While homelessness affects communities across the country, it is most concentrated in the Dublin region, where 70% of families experiencing homelessness are currently accommodated. Furthermore, almost 20% of all families experiencing homelessness in the Greater Dublin Region are accessing emergency accommodation in the Dublin 1 area.

Accessing emergency accommodation has well-documented negative impacts on the well-being of all individuals and particularly on children and young people. Despite their greater needs, it can also be more difficult for families experiencing homelessness to access healthcare, education, childcare and employment. The longer a family

[1] This figure may be understated as a disaggregated figure for outside Dublin is not available prior to 2022.

remains in emergency accommodation, the greater the cumulative effect on their well-being outcomes. In addition to the social and well-being costs of homelessness, the provision of homeless accommodation brings significant expense for local authorities and the Exchequer. Due to increased demand, inflationary pressures and higher standards, the cost of emergency accommodation has increased significantly in recent years. There are also longer-term costs associated with health, welfare and other social services.

Securing Ireland's Future, the Programme for Government, committed to putting in place special supports for children impacted by homelessness. This dedicated Action Plan on Child and Family Homelessness realises that commitment to respond to the needs of children and families, and complements wider supply and prevention measures referred to above.

Recognising the importance of this issue for child poverty and child well-being, the Department of the Taoiseach (through the Child Poverty and Well-being Programme Office) and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage worked in partnership to develop this Plan, with the support of relevant Government Departments and State bodies.

This Plan was developed through a cross-government process, informed by research and extensive stakeholder engagement. Inputs included a three-week public consultation launched in January 2026, which received 60 submissions; consultations with children with lived experience of homelessness, led by Focus Ireland in February 2026, involving around 50 children; and an in-person stakeholder event in February 2026 attended by over 100 individuals, including children and parents with lived experience. A Public Sector Delivery Group, chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach, ensured coordination across departments and agencies. The Plan is also informed by a Rapid Evidence Review of national and international research, a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA), and the report of an NHAC subgroup examining barriers to exiting emergency accommodation, which set out 13 recommendations (see Appendix 3).

Across the consultation process, over 700 individual recommendations were received and considered. Stakeholder and children's consultations highlighted a strong consensus on children's fundamental needs while living in temporary emergency accommodation. Families should be able to prepare meals and eat together in a calm, family-appropriate environment. Children require safe space to play, complete homework and socialise. Accommodation must support children's basic needs for development, rest and overall well-being, while older children and teenagers also require adequate privacy and space. No child should carry a sense of shame or stigma because of their housing situation.

Approach and guiding principles of this Action Plan

This Action Plan complements wider plans and aims to enhance responses to homelessness to support the specific needs of children and families.

Specifically, it will:

- Support the ambition in *Delivering Homes, Building Communities* to work towards eradicating homelessness by 2030 and that homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring.
- Complement and support the forthcoming *National Homelessness Prevention Framework*, which is due to be published in the second half of 2026.
- Build on the existing support landscape and evidence of what works to improve the well-being of children and families.
- Ensure that policy and services are guided by children's rights and are child and family-centred, including by actively incorporating the voices of children into decision-making.
- Seek to minimise the harm caused by homelessness, while avoiding the risk of normalising or embedding responses that are intended to be temporary.
- Be guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The stakeholder engagement reinforced a central message: our priority must be to prevent families from entering homelessness in the first instance. Furthermore, where children do experience homelessness, greater efforts are required from all departments and state agencies to protect them and their families from its impacts.

This Plan sets out a range of actions to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Prevent** homelessness among families and children through targeted, specific measures that strengthen existing supports.
2. **Protect** the well-being and development of children and young people living in emergency accommodation.
3. **Progress** children and families out of emergency accommodation and into sustainable tenancies as quickly as possible.
4. **Inform** timely responses by enhancing data and research.

Government acknowledges that not all accommodation currently fully meets the needs of children and families. This Plan is intended to drive continuous improvement, ensuring that emergency accommodation is progressively enhanced so that it better meets the needs of all children and families.

The Plan also recognises that certain groups face a heightened risk of homelessness and are disproportionately represented among those experiencing it. These include one-parent families, families affected by domestic violence, migrant families—including those with International Protection status, families with disabilities and Traveller and Roma families, as well as other families who have experienced trauma and intergenerational poverty. The Plan includes targeted actions to address the specific barriers faced by these groups, with further detail set out in Appendix 5.

2

Overview of existing supports and services



2. Overview of existing supports and services

A range of supports exist for families and children that are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness. It is important for this Action Plan to build on the existing support landscape and evidence about what works to enhance the well-being of children and families. To ensure that it does, the Public Sector Delivery Group mapped the existing supports and services.

This mapping, summarised in Figure 2 overleaf, sets out the existing support landscape available to children and families across different points in the housing journey. Figure 2 illustrates how supports operate at key stages, from prevention and early intervention, through homelessness prevention and emergency accommodation, to exits into stable housing, reflecting how service responses shift as families' housing circumstances change.

Some responses relate to general housing services, while others are specifically targeted at preventing homelessness or responding to the experience of homelessness. In other cases, services are delivered through wider child and family support systems but are targeted at families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Finally, Figure 2 includes broader supports for vulnerable families that, while not homeless-specific, play an important role for families experiencing housing insecurity.

Presenting the information in this way demonstrates that responses to family homelessness extend beyond housing alone and require coordinated inputs across multiple sectors. It also shows how different services become more or less central at different stages of the housing journey, underscoring the importance of an integrated, whole-of-government approach to prevention, crisis response and sustainable exits from homelessness.

During the development of this Plan a range of broader proposals and needs were identified which would support the response to child and family homelessness. In order to capture this wider response, Section 2 highlights relevant developments and issues raised during the consultation, which are being progressed elsewhere.



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Family Homelessness Service Landscape

1 Wider Supports

Public Health Nursing
Family Resource Centres
Healthy Childhood Programme
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS)
National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)
Traveller accommodation
North-East Inner City Programme (NEIC)
Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)
School summer programme
Income supports
Social housing

If family becomes at-risk of homelessness

2 Prevention

NGO Services
Family Mediation
Social housing allocations
Tenant in situ
Domestic Violence services
Sponsored Early Learning and Care places
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) place finder
Local Authority homeless teams

If family moves into emergency accommodation

3 Protection

Accommodation standards
Family hubs
Private Emergency Accommodation Assertive Case Management Team (PACT) pilot
Key workers
Inclusion health
Social welfare flexibility
HSE Families First

As family seeks permanent housing

4 Progression

Social housing
Supported Housing for Families pilot
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
Community Welfare Officer (CWO)
International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) transition teams

Permanent housing, with appropriate Wider Supports

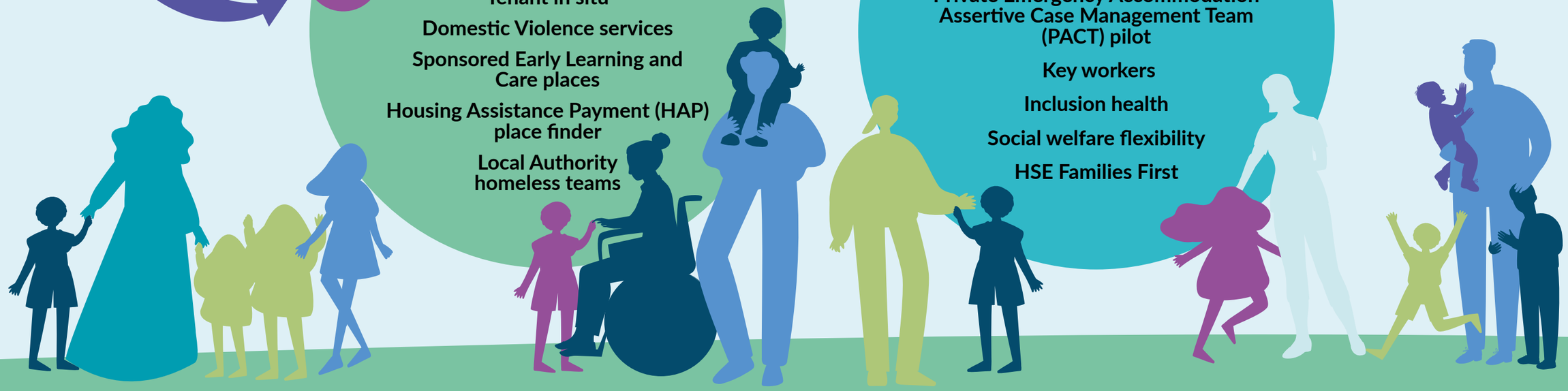


Figure 2: Mapping of existing actions to support vulnerable and homeless families

Recent developments and wider commitments

This Action Plan aims to deliver targeted and specific measures to strengthen supports for families and children experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. As outlined above, this response must build on the existing service landscape. Additionally, a number of recommendations and priorities raised during the consultation process have recently been introduced or agreed by Government, including actions being progressed through *Delivering Homes, Building Communities*.

This section captures the significance of these wider responses and highlights their importance in addressing the needs of children and families.

Housing-specific developments include:

- **Whole-of-Government prevention response:** The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is leading the development of a national Homelessness Prevention Framework to support a more coordinated and proactive approach to preventing homelessness. This Framework will set out tailored measures for groups most at risk and will be in place in the second half of 2026.
- **Rental Legislation:** The Residential Tenancies (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2026 which came into effect on 1 March 2026 provides the strongest tenancy protections in the history of the State. The new Act introduced a new national rent control for all tenancies, which limits rent increases to inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) up to a maximum of 2%. The Act also provides significant improvements in security of tenure for renters.
- **Short-Term Lettings:** The Short-Term Letting register is coming into effect from 1 December 2026. It will allow for increased regulation of the Short-Term Letting sector. The Short-Term Letting and Tourism Bill has been published, which reflects relevant policy agreements. A new National Planning Statement will be published shortly. Regulation of short-term lets has the potential to increase the supply of available properties to support families in the private rental market.
- **Review of HAP:** A review of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) limits is currently underway. This review will develop proposals for setting appropriate new HAP rent limits across all local authorities.
- **Delivery of larger housing units:** Housing Delivery Action Plans will place a particular emphasis on increasing the supply of larger homes, including four-bedroom properties, to better meet the needs of single adults and large families. Targeted acquisition funding will support the transition of families from homelessness into more appropriate long-term accommodation, with a focus on those large families currently in emergency accommodation for extended periods.
- **Second-hand acquisitions:** In addition to ongoing capital investment in new build programmes, Government has approved €373 million for social housing and second-hand acquisitions in 2026 to assist local authorities to address homelessness. This is being supported through ring-fenced funding for:
  - tenant-in-situ acquisitions for private tenants at risk of homelessness;

  - priority cohorts such as older persons, care leavers and people with disabilities; and
  - facilitating exits for households with the longest stays in emergency accommodation.

- **Social housing allocations:** The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is undertaking a review to ensure that social housing allocations are effectively supporting reductions in long-term family homelessness. As part of this, local authority allocation schemes will be examined with a view to strengthening the focus of allocations to families in emergency accommodation.
- **Best interest of the child:** Amendments to the Housing Act 1988 made in 2026 will ensure that consideration of the best interests of children is included in the decision-making process on accommodation for households experiencing homelessness, and will introduce into that Act a legal definition of a child as a person under the age of 18 years.
- **Traveller-specific accommodation:** Increased funding of €34 million will be provided to local authorities to provide Traveller accommodation in 2026.
- **Implementation of the recommendations of the Traveller Accommodation Expert Review Report:** A Programme Board has been established to consider recommendations made in the report and work is ongoing.
- **Victims of Domestic Violence:** To help ensure there are no barriers to accessing support, a protocol has been published with local authorities to support people fleeing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. Subject to meeting social housing eligibility criteria, this will enable individuals to transfer time already accrued on a social housing waiting list when moving between local authority areas.
- **Health supports:** Increased health support will be provided to households experiencing homelessness through the implementation of the HSE National Strategic Plan to Improve the Health of People Experiencing Homelessness. The Department of Health and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will also progress a coordinated funding approach for supported homeless accommodation, ensuring that appropriate supports are available to those who need them.

Wider cross-government measures recently implemented or in train include:

- **Holistic wraparound services:** The HSE's Families First programme is putting in place a dedicated, multi-disciplinary team in 2026 to deliver coordinated, wraparound supports for families experiencing homelessness across the Dublin region.
- **Child poverty and well-being:** In September 2025, Government set an ambitious target to reduce child poverty to 3% consistent poverty by the end of 2030. The new Roadmap for Social Inclusion published in May 2026 reinforces this target.

- **Enhanced education and early years supports:** DEIS Plus launched in March 2026 and commenced implementation in schools in September 2026. It is designed to support schools with the highest concentration of students at risk of educational disadvantage to enable students to achieve their full potential and improve educational outcomes. Equal Start is a funding model and a set of associated universal and targeted measures to support access and participation in early learning and care (ELC) and school-age childcare (SAC) for children and their families who experience disadvantage, including homelessness.
- **Improved financial supports for one-parent families:** The Social Welfare and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024 introduced changes to the social welfare means test, including the exclusion of child maintenance payments from assessment of all means-tested supports administered by the Department of Social Protection.
- **Supports for care leavers:** A revised Protocol on Young People Leaving State Care was developed by: the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; the Department of Children, Disability and Equality; and Tusla. This Protocol issued to local authorities in June 2025 and emphasises the need to ensure a range of accommodation options for young people leaving State care and at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- **Enhanced Child and Youth Mental Health Supports:** There has been significant additional investment by Government over recent years in Child and Youth Mental Health Services, including the establishment of a National Office for Child and Youth Mental Health in the HSE. The Office recently published its new Action Plan 2025-2027 for comprehensive reform of all youth mental health services.
- **Zero Tolerance: Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence 2022-2026:** Cuan is working to increase the number of family refuge units being developed in priority areas to reflect population growth and needs. Cuan is also collaborating with AHBs, local authorities and domestic violence service providers to deliver additional Safe Homes for victims of domestic violence and their families.
- **Domestic Violence Travel Supplement:** Introduced on 5 May 2026, the Department of Social Protection's Travel Supplement supports those fleeing domestic violence by providing assistance without a means test for an initial three-month period. A further three-month extension may be available, subject to standard eligibility and means assessment, helping to ensure continued support during this critical time.

3

Actions



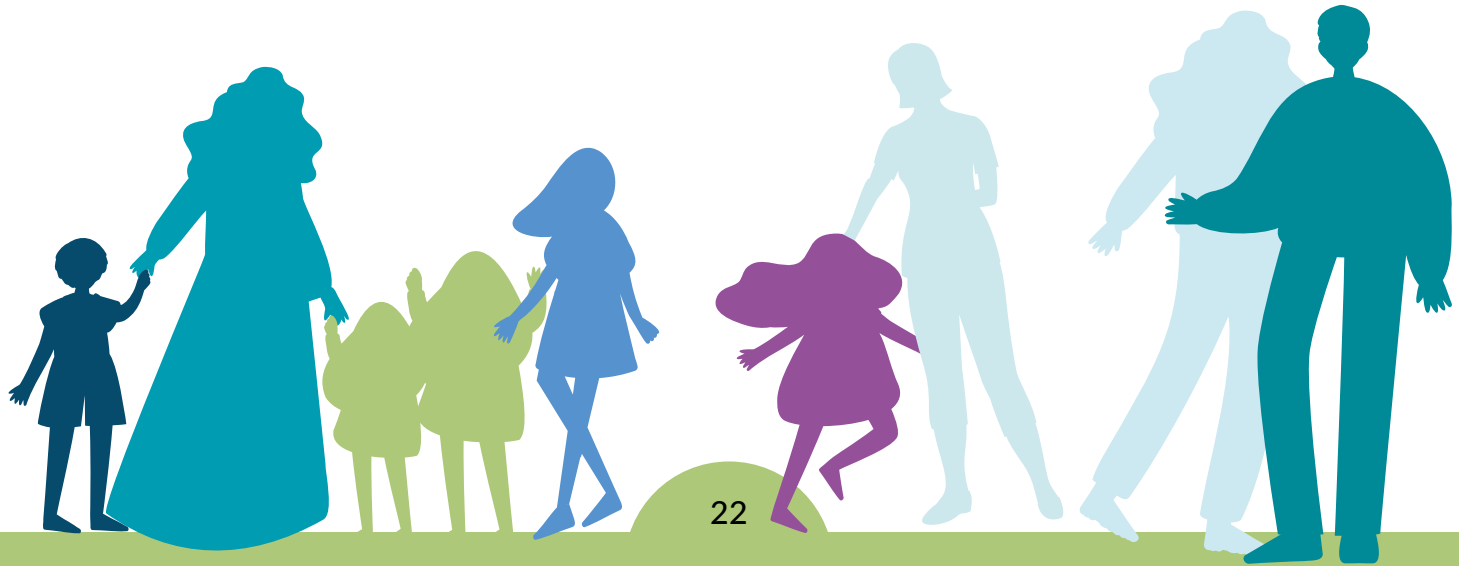
3. Actions

The purpose of this Plan is to urgently deliver an enhanced response to preventing and minimising child and family homelessness. Where children and families do experience homelessness this should not only be brief, but should also be increasingly responsive to the specific needs of children and families. That is why four categories of actions are identified:

1. **Prevent** homelessness among families and children through targeted, specific measures that strengthen existing supports.
2. **Protect** the well-being and development of children and young people living in emergency accommodation.
3. **Progress** children and families out of emergency accommodation and into sustainable tenancies as quickly as possible.
4. **Inform** timely responses by enhancing data and research.

As outlined above (Section 2), it is important that any new measures build on the existing service landscape and are coordinated to ensure efficient delivery and improved outcomes. Some additional measures will require new investment, and further work will be undertaken by departments on costing individual measures. Implementation of individual actions will be subject to the usual Estimates process.

Nothing in this Plan is intended to imply that homelessness is acceptable. But where children and families experience homelessness, they should be able to access accommodation and supports which respond to the best interests of the child and their longer-term well-being. That is why all of the actions identified in this Plan will be progressed within one year - after which the Delivery Steering Group (DSG) will submit a Delivery and Learning Report to NHAC and to Government in order to inform future decision-making and prioritisation.



3.1 Prevent

Access to secure and affordable housing for low-income or otherwise disadvantaged families is the best way to prevent child and family homelessness. The research evidence suggests that reducing poverty generally through income supports, welfare protections, and access to employment has a preventive function, particularly in Ireland where high private rental prices place significant pressure on low-income families.

Key to preventing homelessness is understanding the reasons why families enter homelessness. In 2025, the main reasons for presentations were notices of termination in a private rental property, and relationship breakdown/family circumstances. Other contributing factors for presentation included family reunification, overcrowding, domestic violence and exiting IPAS accommodation.[2]

As illustrated in Section 2 above, there is already a range of measures in place or planned to prevent homelessness.[3] *Delivering Homes, Building Communities: An Action Plan on Housing Supply and Targeting Homelessness* commits to the development of a national Homelessness Prevention Framework, which will allow for the coordination and examination of all such measures to ensure a holistic cross-departmental approach and to identify any gaps particularly in relation to groups most at risk of homelessness. The Prevention Framework will be published in the second half of 2026 and will consider prevention across all at-risk cohorts. This Action Plan will inform that Framework as it relates to the new actions identified specifically for children and families at risk of homelessness.

A significant number of recommendations relating to prevention were made via the consultation processes. Actions already underway and being tracked in another Plan or Strategy are included in Section 2. Recommendations were made around strengthening collaboration, providing appropriate family supports, increasing housing delivery, applying changes to the HAP scheme and additional supports for households who receive a Notice of Termination.

This Action Plan introduces specific new measures designed to support families at an earlier stage, before they present to local authorities in crisis.

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[2] Details in relation to the primary reason for presentation given by the 1,887 families that entered homeless emergency accommodation in 2025 are included in Appendix 1.

[3] Local authorities record preventions that occur at the crisis stage, i.e. at the point where a family will enter homelessness unless a secure solution is found. Local authorities prevented more than 1,500 families from entering homelessness in 2025 through social housing allocations, tenant in situ purchase and HAP/RAS supports. Details of preventions are also included in Appendix 1.

	Action	Lead	Support
1	Implement an effective tenancy support service in every local authority region and across all supported tenancy types including local authority, AHB and HAP tenancies, with funding provided from appropriate departments. Tenancy support should include arrears resolution, landlord mediation, budgeting and money management supports. This tenancy support service will be linked to enhanced family supports (Action 9).	CCMA	DHLGH, Tusla
2	With a view to enhancing existing practice, assess the feasibility of establishing a multi-agency Early Identification and Referral Protocol to flag families at risk of homelessness early.	DHLGH	DCDE, DEY, Tusla
3	Support victims of domestic violence to stay in the family home, where possible and safe to do so. This will be achieved by: • DJHAM will develop a mechanism to allow An Garda Síochána to issue short-term emergency removal orders for perpetrators in cases where there is an immediate risk of domestic violence.	DJHAM	
	• DHLGH to consider the need for a legislative basis to allow for the removal of a perpetrator of domestic violence from a joint local authority tenancy agreement.	DHLGH	
4	Issue updated operational guidance to local authorities on assisting victims of domestic violence to access housing supports quickly.	DHLGH	Cuan
5	Scale existing local authority-led housing support teams and DJHAM contracted NGO support teams to provide dedicated casework support for families with status exiting IPAS accommodation.	CCMA	DHLGH, DJHAM
6	Resource the Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) and the Child and Family Support Networks to strengthen collaboration across housing, health, education and family services.	Tusla	DCDE, All relevant services
7	Enhance preventative measures for Travellers at risk of homelessness, informed by Travellers, including culturally specific information.	DHLGH, The Housing Agency	
8	Deliver standardised, practical training for refuge, local authority and NGO staff to equip them with the knowledge and tools to support those navigating housing options and applications, including homelessness prevention measures such as HAP, rent arrears supports, and domestic violence support pathways.	CCMA, Cuan	DJHAM, DHLGH

3.2 Protect

Targeted supports for children and families can significantly reduce and mitigate some of the worst effects of living in emergency accommodation. While emergency accommodation is unsuitable as a long-term solution, family hubs offer greater stability, safety, and access to facilities and services compared to other forms of private temporary emergency accommodation, such as commercial hotels.

Additional supports such as dedicated workers, using a case management approach, play a key role in fostering trust with families and helping them navigate the challenges of homelessness. Family support and parenting programmes can strengthen relationships and coping skills, helping to reduce risks such as poor mental health and behavioural difficulties. Access to early learning and childcare is also equally important, supporting children's development while enabling parents to engage in employment, training or education.



While acknowledging that prevention is critical, many of the stakeholders who engaged with the development of this Action Plan emphasised the need to do more to protect the well-being of children and families who experience homelessness. The children, facilitated by Focus Ireland, who contributed to the consultation, highlighted several priorities, including:

- The need for consistent rules and standards across all emergency accommodation;
- Ensuring that families are placed near their family, friends and support systems;
- Improving standards in the quality of emergency accommodation;
- Access to child support workers; and
- The availability of appropriate facilities and recreational spaces in emergency accommodation.

The actions in this Plan respond directly to these insights. They include measures to improve the quality and suitability of accommodation for families, expand key frontline supports, and strengthen coordination across services to ensure families receive joined-up support. Actions are focused on ensuring that staff working with families are appropriately resourced, supported and trained, including in areas such as cultural sensitivity and trauma-informed care, to provide effective and responsive services.

	Action	Lead	Support
9	Family Resource Centres will provide enhanced support to children and families in emergency accommodation or at risk of homelessness.	Tusla	DCDE
10	As proposed by lone parents supported by Focus Ireland, develop a support resource for parents entering emergency accommodation, including tailored guidance for specific groups of vulnerable parents.	The Housing Agency	DHLGH, DCDE, Tusla, HSE, DRHE
11	Engage with National Childcare Scheme sponsor bodies and homeless representative organisations to co-create effective solutions to address barriers to access and participation in early learning and childcare by children experiencing homelessness. This will include the development of actions to facilitate urgent movements from one service to another, for families in transition.	DCDE	
12	Develop and deliver enhanced case management supports for families with high and complex needs in the Dublin region in partnership with HSE Families First and NGO providers and scale this model nationally through the HSE.	HSE, DRHE	DHLGH, DoH, CCMA
13	Enhance Parent Support Programmes including pregnancy support for households experiencing homelessness (e.g. Anew Support programmes).	Tusla	DCDE
14	Implement a strengthened Placement Sustainment Protocol across all emergency accommodation services to ensure families are supported to transition safely to alternative accommodation where placements break down.	CCMA	
15	Ensure adequate resourcing of Housing Support Officer and Family Homeless Action Team posts to meet demand.	CCMA	DHLGH
16	Ensure the appropriate prioritisation of children in emergency accommodation for Public Health Nurse health and development checks, having regard to the National Caseload Prioritisation Procedure (NCCP).	HSE	DoH
17	Embed a Tusla Liaison Social Worker in the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive.	Tusla	DRHE, DCDE
18	Expand the provision of accessible emergency accommodation for households with disabilities.	HSE, CCMA	DHLGH, DoH

continued

	Action	Lead	Support
19	Strengthen standards and compliance with family specific standards for emergency accommodation, as outlined in the National Quality Standards Framework (NQSF).	CCMA	DHLGH, DoH
	• Specifically, establish food provision standards, including appropriate cooking facilities, and prioritise and promote optimal infant and child nutrition. This will be complemented by ensuring parents are made aware of and directed to all the information and resources available to them to support healthy nutrition for their families.	HSE	
20	Ensure tendering for emergency accommodation for families is weighted in favour of self-catering facilities. This will be balanced against overall need for emergency accommodation and options available.	CCMA, HSE	DHLGH, DoH
21	Deliver targeted communications and practical guidance tools to school, youth service and other relevant service providers on available supports for homeless children.	DEY	
22	Leverage the Community Sport Facilities Fund to support local authorities to equip emergency accommodation facilities with appropriate sports and recreational resources.	DCCS	CCMA
23	In order to enhance existing protections, develop sector-specific Child Protection Guidelines for all homeless service providers in consultation with the sector.	DHLGH	Tusla, DCDE, CCMA
24	Establish a working group to standardise homeless assessments across local authorities so that children's needs are consistently captured; use findings to develop Best Interests of the Child guidelines following enactment of 1988 Housing Act amendments.	DHLGH	CCMA
25	Prioritise the needs of young people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness in the development of local service requirement proposals for Cycle 3 of the UBU Your Space Your Place scheme.	DEY	
26	Ensure children experiencing homelessness are supported to access sports, cultural and arts opportunities by embedding their inclusion in National Governing Body outreach initiatives and strengthening engagement through programmes such as the Creative Youth Plan, Local Creative Youth Partnerships and the Creative Youth Nurture Fund.	DCCS	

continued

	Action	Lead	Support
27	Implement the provisions of the recently enacted Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 (as amended) to ensure the inclusion of Tusla on Joint Homelessness Consultative Fora, ensuring child welfare expertise is embedded in regional homeless governance.	DHLGH	DCDE, Tusla
28	Recognising the importance of national consistency, ensure access to Leap Cards, where required to access school, for children living in emergency accommodation.	D/Transport, DHLGH	National Transport Authority
29	Ensure that all of those providing services to homeless children and families have the skills, capabilities and awareness to meet their specific needs: • Develop trauma-informed, child-centred training and resources focusing on managing the social and educational impacts of homelessness for children including on friendships and school attendance.	CCMA	DHLGH, DCDE, HSE, Cuan, Tusla
	• Ensure all Local Authority and service provider staff are trained in equality, cultural sensitivity and trauma-informed care. This training should address: domestic violence; cultural competency; disability; care leavers; IPAS transitions; lone parents; and ethnic minorities.	The Housing Agency, CCMA	



3.3 Progress

It is critical that children and families who experience homelessness do so for the shortest possible length of time. Research on supporting families to exit emergency accommodation settings emphasises the importance of adequate housing supply, targeted allocation policies, and tailored supports for families with more complex needs. Long-term family homelessness is particularly concentrated among larger households, whose extended stays in emergency accommodation often stem from a lack of suitably sized social housing and affordable private rental options. These families are also more likely to have complex health and social needs, and can be more likely to experience discrimination when seeking permanent housing.

Research on effective policy responses highlights the positive impact of prioritising families experiencing homelessness in social housing allocations. It also points to the relevance of the Housing First principles for families with complex needs – particularly the combination of access to housing with coordinated, wraparound dedicated supports.

As we saw in Section 2, accelerating exits from homelessness is a priority being delivered through a wide range of existing and emerging measures, and local authorities continue to support families in exiting homelessness at scale. In 2025, 1,129 families exited emergency accommodation (see table in Appendix 1), and *Delivering Homes, Building Communities* commits to addressing the housing needs of larger households. Local authorities' Housing Delivery Action Plans will ensure that local authority delivery of social housing is in line with the type and size of social housing needed in their area. Further commitments include ring-fenced funding for targeted acquisitions for families living longest in emergency accommodation and a review of local authority allocation schemes to ensure that sufficient allocations of social housing are being made to reduce long-term family homelessness.

The aim of this Action Plan is to enhance the specific focus on children and families within existing responses, while also identifying new actions required. These measures cannot be read in isolation from the wider developments described in Section 2 and are dependent on the ambition outlined in the first two action areas of this Plan: to prevent family homelessness and to ensure that any experience of homelessness does not undermine the well-being of children and families.

This Plan seeks to strengthen the overall response by introducing targeted, progression-focused actions. These include increasing the supply of appropriate accommodation, enhancing supports to help families access housing, and developing targeted, cross-agency supported housing schemes for families with complex needs.

	Action	Lead	Support
30	Set targets, as required, in local authority Housing Delivery Action Plans for the delivery of 4-bedroom units.	CCMA	DHLGH
31	Increase the use of modular accommodation on local authority owned land and licensing options as a higher-quality alternative to emergency accommodation.	CCMA	DHLGH
32	Expand the Supported Housing for Families Pilot (Galway Pilot) to support families with complex needs to exit emergency accommodation and maintain secure tenancies.	DHLGH, CCMA	HSE, Tusla
33	Ensure all families in emergency accommodation maintain an active and up-to-date social housing application. Provide relevant refresher sectoral training to keyworkers in local authorities.	CCMA	DHLGH
34	Local authorities, together with support services where it is appropriate, to identify individual pathways out of homelessness for every family, and to make every effort to find appropriate solutions where estate management or other issues arise.	CCMA	DHLGH
35	Local authorities to expand and ensure consistent provision of Tenancy Sustainment Supports to help families to securely transition into and maintain tenancies.	CCMA	DHLGH, HSE, DoH
36	To encourage private rental supply, raise awareness of the full range of supports and schemes available.	The Housing Agency	DHLGH
37	Examine the potential role of developing homeless-specific leasing streams targeting families with the longest stays in emergency accommodation. Monitor the success of the enhanced RAS programme in Dublin and consider application elsewhere.	DHLGH	
38	Strengthen existing local authority community integration structures, including LAITs and Community Fora, to support the transition of ethnically diverse households into stable long-term accommodation.	CCMA	DHLGH

3.4 Inform

Ensuring comprehensive, responsive and timely data is a critical foundation for effectively preventing and responding to homelessness. During the consultation to inform this Action Plan, stakeholders emphasised that a strong focus on research, data and evaluation is essential to ensuring that actions to prevent and address child and family homelessness are effective, targeted and responsive to changing needs. Government published the National Equality Data Strategy in March 2026 which will help improve the collection, disaggregation and use of equality data.

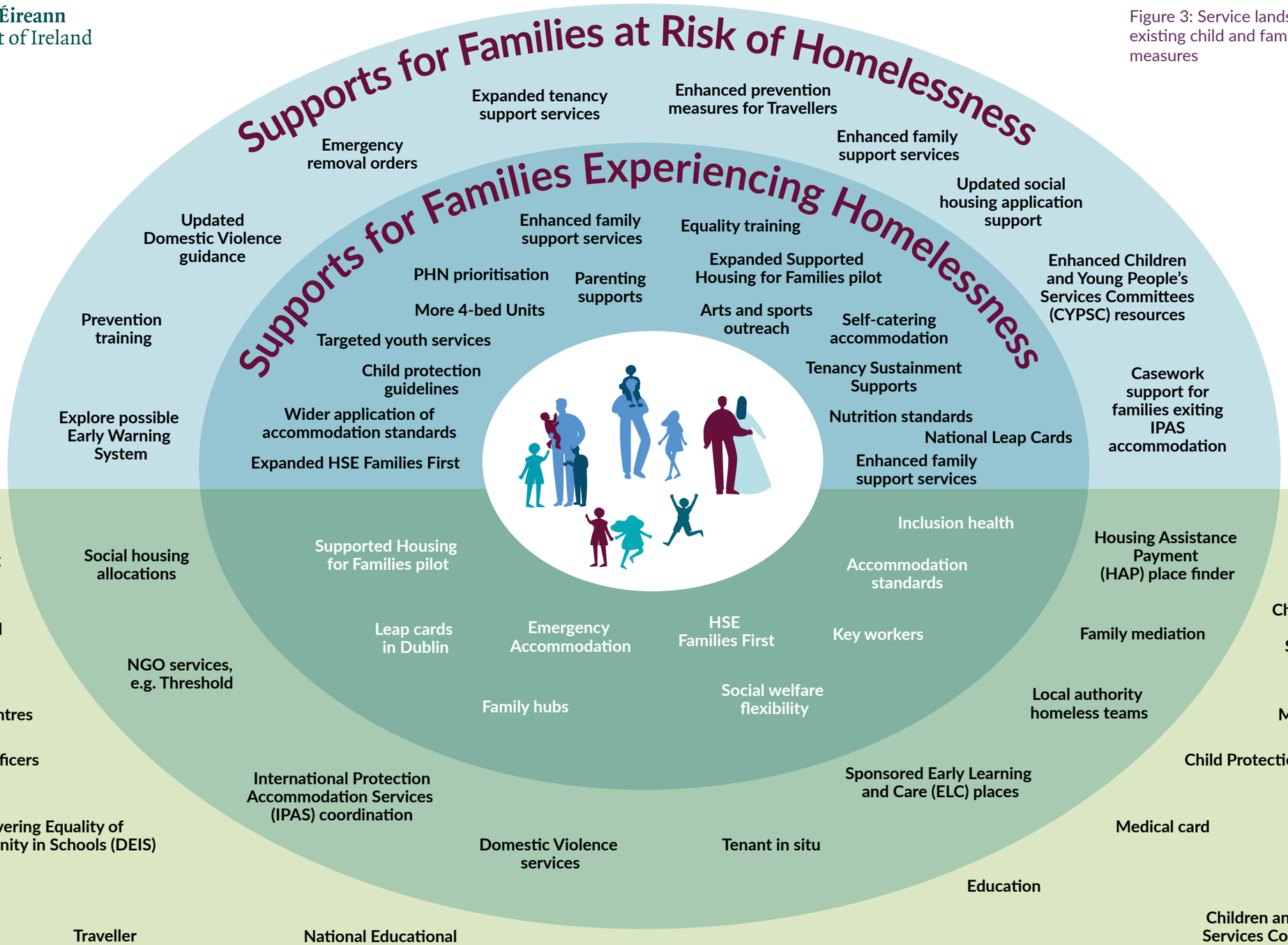
High-quality data and robust evaluation enable Government to understand what is driving family homelessness, to identify what works well in preventing it and supporting exits, and to recognise where gaps or unintended consequences remain.

While comprehensive and timely data already underpins the Government response to homelessness, several specific actions were identified to strengthen the data and research landscape.

	Action	Lead	Support
39	Research and report on patterns of repeat family homelessness, examining the impact of family size and housing pathways, with implications reviewed by the Delivery Steering Group.	DRHE	
40	Examine use of social housing assistance, including HAP and RAS, among those with status in IPAS accommodation.	DHLGH	
41	Develop a data-sharing protocol between DJHAM (IPAS, Family Reunification, Immigration) and local authorities to enable direct information sharing on households with status; and take action as required to ensure there is a legal basis underpinning this data sharing.	DHLGH, DJHAM, CCMA	
42	Establish comprehensive, consistent data on the service activity of families accessing domestic violence accommodation and community-based domestic violence services.	Cuan	DJHAM
43	Expand data capture on families in emergency accommodation, including ethnicity and average duration of stay; add average family homelessness duration to quarterly national reporting.	DHLGH	CCMA

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Figure 3: Service landscape of new and existing child and family homelessness measures



Wider Supports for Children and Families

See supporting glossary in Appendix 2

4

Governance and accountability



4. Governance and accountability

This Action Plan sets out immediate and targeted measures to accelerate the response to child and family homelessness, with the emphasis on prevention, protection and accelerating progression out of homelessness. The development of this Action Plan was informed by extensive public and stakeholder engagement. Given the urgency of this issue, a consistent theme emerging from these contributions emphasised the importance of rapid delivery, ongoing monitoring, and continued engagement with stakeholders.

In order to support the ambition in *Delivering Homes, Building Communities* to work towards the eradication of homelessness by 2030 and that homelessness should be "rare, brief, and non-recurring", all of the actions in this Plan will be progressed as a matter of priority. After one year, the learning from this Plan will be captured to inform future decision making and prioritisation. However, the comprehensive whole-of-government approach outlined in this Plan will be sustained for as long as required.

Delivery and oversight

To drive the delivery of actions, a Delivery Steering Group (DSG) will be established under the auspices of the National Homeless Action Committee (NHAC), which is chaired by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The DSG will track implementation, monitor implementation risks and their mitigation, capture learning, and identify necessary adjustments or new actions.

The DSG will comprise representatives from key government departments and State bodies as well as representatives from the NGO sector. The DSG will be chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach at Assistant Secretary level, meet at least quarterly, and provide regular updates to the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education.

Strengthening local coordination

The Action Plan recognises the need to strengthen coordination and cohesion across the services and supports that children and families rely on. It aims to enhance the existing landscape to ensure that families and children receive timely and appropriate support.

At local authority level, the administration of homeless services is organised on a regional basis, across nine administrative regions. Each region has a homelessness consultative forum, bringing together the relevant State and non-governmental organisations involved in the delivery of homeless services in a particular region. A statutory Management Group exists for each regional forum, comprising representatives from the relevant housing authorities and the Health Service Executive (HSE). It is the

responsibility of the Management Group to consider issues around the need for homeless services and to plan for the implementation, funding and co-ordination of such services. Increased national policy coherence will be underpinned by strong local coordination including through the important roles of Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) and the Joint Homelessness Consultative Fora.

Focus on outcomes and learning

In monitoring the implementation of this Action Plan, the purpose is to move beyond tracking delivery of individual actions and to seek to understand how it is driving outcomes - Are fewer children experiencing homelessness? Are their experiences of homelessness shorter? Are there marked improvements in meeting needs during unavoidable periods of homelessness? Are we reducing the long-term negative consequences of homelessness for child and family well-being?

All of the actions in this Plan will be progressed within one year and will be reviewed quarterly by the DSG, which will regularly update the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education. After one year, the DSG will host a public consultation to share updates and emerging learnings with wider stakeholders, including children and young people. The DSG will then submit a Delivery and Learning Report to NHAC and to Government in order to inform future decision-making and prioritisation.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Use of Local Authority Emergency Accommodation – Statistics

National Homeless EA Usage Yearly Comparison December 2024-2025							
Period	**Singles**	**Families**	**Total Households**	**Adults in Families**	**Total Adults**	**Children under 18**	**Total Individuals**
Dec-24	6,847	2,092	8,939	3,507	10,354	4,510	**14,864**
Dec-25	7,311	2,478	9,789	4,235	11,546	5,188	**16,734**
Actual Change	464	386	850	728	1,192	678	**1,870**
% Change	**6.8%**	**18.5%**	**9.5%**	**20.8%**	**11.5%**	**15.0%**	**12.6%**

Reasons for Presentation – households entering emergency accommodation.		Families		Singles		Total	
Category	**Primary reason given for presentation**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024-2025 Household Actual Change**	**2024-2025 Household Overall % Change**
Affordability	Insufficient Funds/ Affordability Issues	21	14	73	43	-37	-39.4%
Affordability	No Income Source	5	0	26	19	-12	-38.7%
Affordability	Overcrowding	134	98	191	103	-124	-38.2%
Affordability	Property Repossessed	9	8	18	15	-4	-14.8%
Family Relationship	Domestic Violence	69	94	42	66	49	44.1%
Family Relationship	Relationship breakdown/Family Circumstance	421	355	1,133	997	-202	-13.0%
Migration	Family Reunification	51	99	16	19	51	76.1%
Migration	Irish Resident Returning from Abroad[4]	6	22	24	35	27	90.0%
Migration	Leaving Direct Provision – within 6 months	39	83	595	484	-67	-10.6%

continued

[4] This category was added in Q3 2024.

Category	Primary reason given for presentation	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024-2025 Household Actual Change	2024-2025 Household Overall % Change
Migration	Newly Arrived to Ireland – within 6 months	36	35	124	113	-12	-7.5%
Other	Other Reason Given	88	189	665	298	-266	-35.3%
Other	Unknown Reason	68	27	234	104	-171	-56.6%
Rental Market	Notice of Termination in private rental property	743	725	692	510	-200	-13.9%
Rental Market	Left Informal Tenancy[4]	24	56	136	255	151	94.4%
Support needs	Entrenched Rough Sleeper[4]	0	1	64	160	97	151.6%
Support needs	Substance Misuse[4]	0	3	81	252	174	214.8%
Transition	Leaving Institution[4] (Care/Hospital/ Prison/Refuge)	50	78	173	381	236	105.8%
Total		**1,764**	**1,887**	**4,287**	**3,854**	**-310**	**-5.1%**

National Preventions by type 2024-2025									
	Single			Family			Total Adults		
Tenancy Type - Prevention	2024	2025	% Change	2024	2025	% Change	2024	2025	% Change
Local Authority Lettings	266	251	-5.6%	244	286	17.2%	679	737	8.5%
LA Tenant in Situ (TiS)	275	61	-77.8%	759	240	-68.4%	1,676	512	-69.5%
AHB Lettings	335	266	-20.6%	222	172	-22.5%	681	537	-21.1%
Private Rented (HAP and RAS)	979	702	-28.3%	1,029	874	-15.1%	2,397	1,942	-19.0%
Private Rented (Other)	10	8	-20.0%	5	3	-40.0%	23	13	-43.5%
Supported Long Term Accommodation	49	38	-22.4%	3	9	200.0%	53	50	-5.7%
Total	**1,914**	**1,326**	**-30.7%**	**2,262**	**1,584**	**-30.0%**	**5,509**	**3,791**	**-31.2%**

National Exits by type 2024-2025									
	Single			Family			Total Adults		
Tenancy Type - Exit	2024	2025	% Change	2024	2025	% Change	2024	2025	% Change
Local Authority Lettings	441	395	-10.4%	496	435	-12.3%	1,251	1,094	-12.5%
AHB Lettings	549	613	11.7%	430	460	7.0%	1,212	1,306	7.8%
Private Rented (HAP and RAS)	393	333	-15.3%	269	213	-20.8%	773	664	-14.1%
Private Rented (Other)	28	27	-3.6%	7	12	71.4%	41	47	14.6%
Supported Long Term Accommodation	90	82	-8.9%	11	9	-18.2%	107	92	-14.0%
Total	**1,501**	**1,450**	**-3.4%**	**1,213**	**1,129**	**-6.9%**	**3,384**	**3,203**	**-5.3%**

Duration of Single and Family Households in Emergency Accommodation on December 31 2025		
	Single	Family
0-6 months	1636	386
6-12 months	996	384
12-18 months	682	280
18-24 months	583	223
24+ months	1,080	485
Totals	**4,977**	**1,758**

National Family Exits – 2025	
Tenancy Type - Exit	**Family #**
Local Authority Lettings	435
AHB Lettings	460
Private Rented (HAP and RAS)	213
Private Rented (Other)	12
Supported Long Term Accommodation	9
Total	**1,129**

Citizenship Breakdown of Adults in Homeless Emergency Accommodation in December 2025		
Irish	5,734	49.70%
EEA/UK	2,289	19.80%
Non-EEA	3,523	30.50%
Total	**11,546**	**100%**

Appendix 2: Glossary

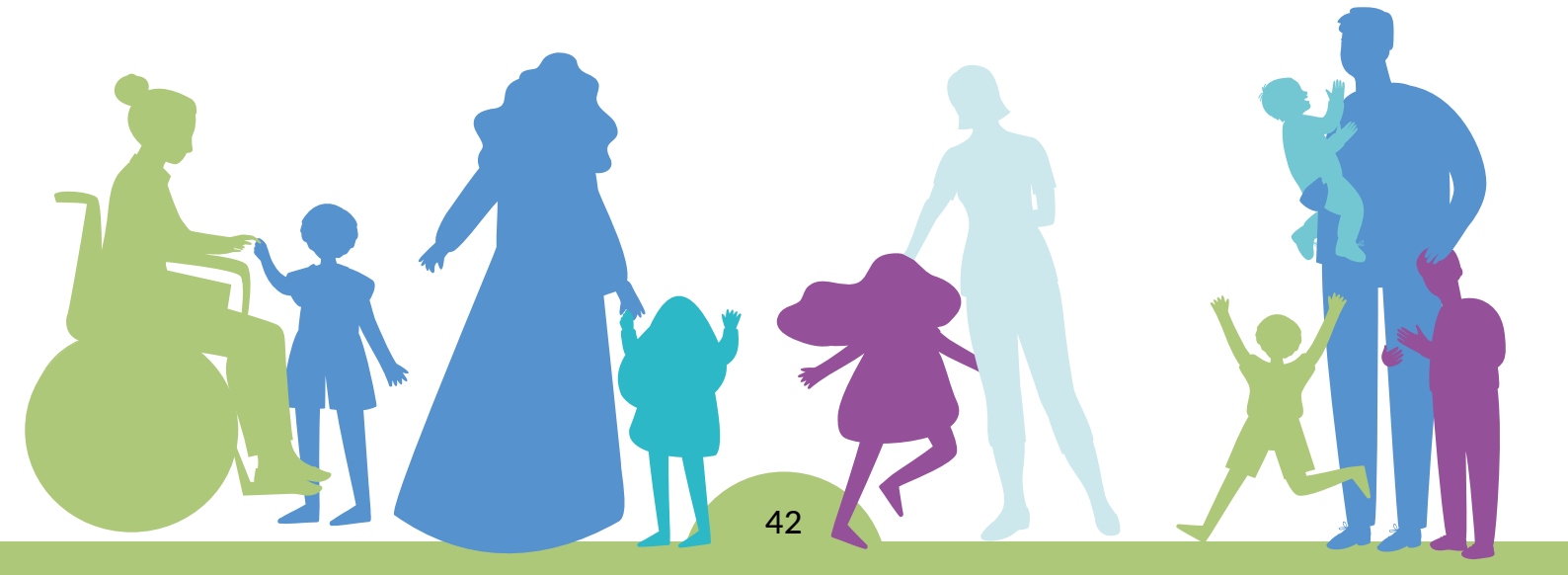
AHB	Approved Housing Body
BTSCFA	Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCMA	County and City Management Association
CFSNs	Child and Family Support Networks
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CWO	Community Welfare Officer
Cuan	Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committee
DCDE	Department of Children, Disability and Equality
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DEIS+	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools Plus
DEY	Department of Education and Youth
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DJHAM	Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration
DoH	Department of Health
D/Transport	Department of Transport
DRHE	Dublin Region Homeless Executive
DSG	Delivery Steering Group
DV	Domestic Violence
EWS	Educational Welfare Service (part of TESS)
FRCs	Family Resource Centres
HAP	Housing Assistance Payment
HSCL	Home School Community Liaison (part of TESS)
HSE	Health Service Executive
IPAS	International Protection Accommodation Service
MABS	Money Advice and Budgeting Service
Meitheal	Tusla-led Early Intervention National Practice Model
NCS	National Childcare Scheme
NEIC CC	North-East Inner City Connects Programme
NEIC MDT	North-East Inner City Multi Disciplinary Team
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHAC	National Homeless Action Committee
Pact	Private Emergency Accommodation Assertive Case Management Team
PPFS	Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Programme
RAS	Rental Accommodation Scheme
SCP	School Completion Programme (part of TESS)
TESS	Tusla Education Support Service
Tusla	Child and Family Agency

Appendix 3: NHAC Families Subgroup Recommendations

1. DHLGH to introduce an enhanced RAS programme to increase landlord participation in RAS through tailored enhancements with a particular focus on moving households experiencing long-term homelessness out of emergency accommodation into secure tenancies.
2. DHLGH to explore the potential for further homeless-specific streams of leasing programmes, such as Repair and Lease, which could be targeted exclusively as exit opportunities for long-term homeless families.
3. Local authorities to support AHBs with acquisitions to address long-term family homelessness.
4. The Housing Agency to undertake a targeted campaign directed at landlords setting out all funding schemes available to landlords in the private rental sector.
5. DRHE to include the impact of family size and housing pathways in its research on patterns of family homelessness. DRHE to publish research, and implications to be examined by the Child and Family Homelessness Action Plan Steering Group.
6. DHLGH and Dublin local authorities to review the data on families 2+ years in emergency accommodation and DRHE to map the progress of exiting families.
7. DHLGH to add a metric for the average duration of family homelessness to the quarterly report on the number of households in emergency homeless accommodation.
8. The four Dublin Local authorities should consider their pipeline of larger accommodation and how long it will take to house existing numbers. DHLGH should support the building of stock targeted at ending long-term homelessness.
9. Local authorities to work with support services to identify individual pathways out of homelessness for all families. Where barriers, such as support or estate management issues are identified, appropriate solutions should be agreed.
10. Local authorities to expand and ensure consistent provision of Tenancy Sustainment Supports to help families to securely transition into and maintain tenancies.
11. Keyworkers to prioritise supporting families to complete and/or maintain active social housing applications. Provide Refresher Sectoral Training Seminar to Keyworkers in the Dublin Region on the Social Housing Application and Eligibility Process.
12. Ensure training of staff on the security of tenure offered by new rental legislation with a view to ensuring families receive the message about greater stability and security offered in private rental sector.
13. HSE to deliver a wraparound, family-centred support service “Families First” for families experiencing homelessness and families living in Private Emergency Accommodation.

Appendix 4: Membership of the Public Sector Delivery Group

1. Department of the Taoiseach
2. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
3. Department of Children, Disability and Equality
4. Department of Health
5. Department of Education
6. Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
7. Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration
8. Department of Social Protection
9. Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)
10. Health Service Executive (HSE)
11. Tusla
12. The Housing Agency
13. Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE)

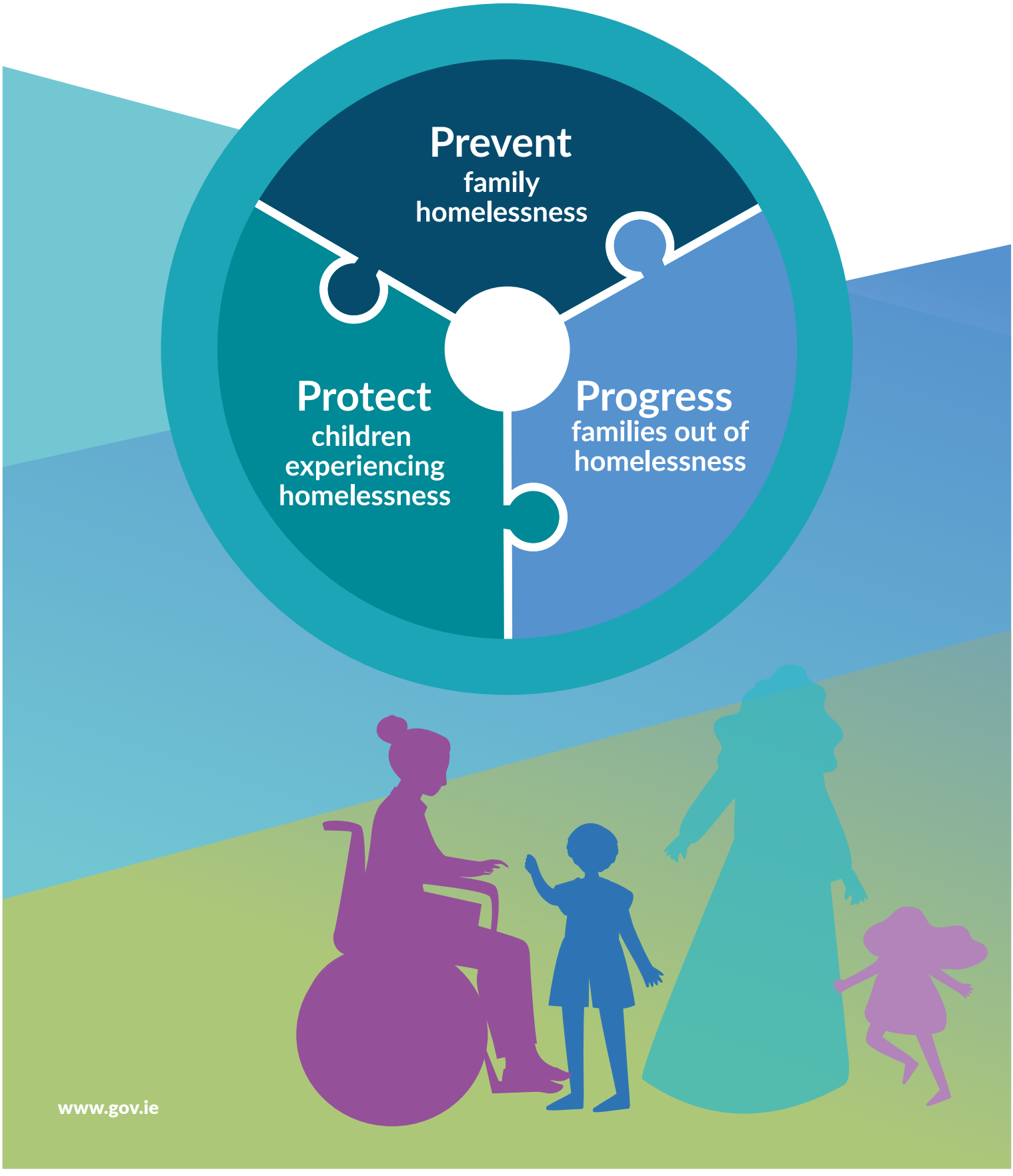


Appendix 5: Actions Specifically Addressing At-Risk Cohorts

Action	All at risk cohorts
8	Deliver standardised, practical training for refuge, local authority and NGO staff to equip them with the knowledge and tools to support those navigating housing options and applications, including homelessness prevention measures such as HAP, rent arrears supports, and domestic violence support pathways.
9	Family Resource Centres will provide enhanced support to children and families in emergency accommodation or at risk of homelessness.
29	Ensure that all of those providing services to homeless children and families have the skills, capabilities and awareness to meet their specific needs: • Develop trauma-informed, child-centred training and resources focusing on managing the social and educational impacts of homelessness for children including on friendships and school attendance. • Provide training to all local authority and service provider staff in equality, cultural sensitivity and trauma-informed care. This training should address: domestic violence; cultural competency; disability; care leavers; IPAS transitions; lone parents; and ethnic minorities.
Action	**One-parent families**
10	As proposed by lone parents supported by Focus Ireland, develop a support resource for parents entering emergency accommodation, including tailored guidance for specific groups of vulnerable parents.
13	Enhance Parent Support Programmes including pregnancy support for households experiencing homelessness (e.g. Anew Support programmes).
Action	**Families with experiences of domestic violence**
3	Support victims of domestic violence to stay in the family home, where possible and safe to do so. This will be achieved by: • DJHAM will develop a mechanism to allow An Garda Síochána to issue short-term emergency removal orders for perpetrators in cases where there is an immediate risk of domestic violence. • DHLGH to consider the need for a legislative basis to allow for the removal of a perpetrator of domestic violence from a joint local authority tenancy agreement.
4	Issue updated, operational guidance to local authorities on assisting victims of domestic violence to access housing supports quickly.
8	Deliver standardised, practical training for refuge, local authority and NGO staff to equip them with the knowledge and tools to support those navigating housing options and applications, including homelessness prevention measures such as HAP, rent arrears supports, and domestic violence support pathways.

continued

42	Establish comprehensive, consistent data on the service activity of families accessing domestic violence accommodation and community-based domestic violence services.
Action	**Migrant families, including those with International Protection status**
5	Scale existing local authority-led housing support teams and DJHAM contracted NGO support teams to provide dedicated casework support for families with status exiting IPAS accommodation.
38	Strengthen existing local authority community integration structures, including LAITs and Community Fora, to support the transition of ethnically diverse households into stable long-term accommodation.
40	Examine use of social housing assistance, including HAP and RAS, among those with status in IPAS accommodation.
41	Develop a data-sharing protocol between DJHAM (IPAS, Family Reunification, Immigration) and local authorities to enable direct information sharing on households with status; and take action as required to ensure there is a legal basis underpinning this data sharing.
Action	**Families with disabilities**
18	Expand the provision of accessible emergency accommodation for households with disabilities.
Action	**Traveller and Roma families**
7	Enhance preventative measures for Travellers at risk of homelessness, informed by Travellers, including culturally specific information and resources.
43	Expand data capture on families in emergency accommodation, including ethnicity and average duration of stay; add average family homelessness duration to quarterly national reporting.
Action	**Families who have experienced trauma and intergenerational poverty**
1	Implement an effective tenancy support service in every local authority region and across all supported tenancy types including local authority, AHB and HAP tenancies, with funding provided from appropriate departments. Tenancy support should include arrears resolution, landlord mediation, budgeting and money management supports. This tenancy support service will be linked to enhanced family support (Action 9).
2	With a view to enhancing existing practice, assess the feasibility of establishing a multi-agency Early Identification and Referral Protocol to flag families at risk of homelessness early.
32	Expand the Supported Housing for Families Pilot (Galway Pilot) to support families with complex needs to exit emergency accommodation and maintain secure tenancies.
34	Local authorities, together with support services where it is appropriate, to identify individual pathways out of homelessness for every family, and to make every effort to find appropriate solutions where estate management or other issues arise.
39	Research and report on patterns of repeat family homelessness, examining the impact of family size and housing pathways, with implications reviewed by the Delivery Steering Group.


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