



18th December, 2019

Deputy Darragh O'Brien, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ: 50520/19

To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to address the rehabilitation needs of homeless persons with addiction issues through the new National Drugs Strategy which was to be effective from January 2017.

Dear Deputy O'Brien,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE supports the health needs of people accessing homeless services through primary care and through specific targeted interventions. Some specific initiatives under the above action 2.1.25 (a)-(d) in *Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery* are as follows:

The HSE is supporting the rollout of the Housing First model. Housing First involves the provision of time-unlimited multi-disciplinary wrap around health supports, including mental health and addiction supports, for people who have been sleeping rough and people who are long term homeless with high support needs. Drug and substance use is highly prevalent in this population. At the end of 2019 over 300 tenancies will have been provided in the Dublin region with 35 new tenancies across Cork, Limerick and Galway. The target by end 2021 is the provision of 663 tenancies nationally.

Cork/Kerry addiction service has led out on a process to develop a standardised assessment and care plan document in conjunction with prison and homeless services. In line with the National Drugs Rehabilitation Framework (NDRF), this is to ensure that people affected by drug and alcohol misuse are offered a range of integrated options tailored to meet their needs and create for them an individual rehabilitation pathway, regardless of what service they first access. Given the diversity of the supports that may be required during rehabilitation, the NDRF states that no one individual or agency has the range of competencies, expertise or resources to meet all the needs of a Service User. The case management framework is



designed to co-ordinate the services being received and to identify through assessments which supports should be sought for the Service User. Under this framework, Service User's needs and input are central to the development and on-going implementation of their individual care plan. Specific training on key-working, care planning and case management that incorporates this documentation has been developed to support workers in the field. An e-learning programme on the National Drug Rehabilitation Framework is nearing completion and will be available on HSELand. The National Social Inclusion Office is supporting the roll out of this standardised document nationally. Four areas have been chosen to implement the pilot. It is also being used as part of the Housing First National Implementation Plan 2018-2021.

In addition, the HSE has supported the development of a number of homeless specific residential rehabilitation services such as Cuan Mhuire Western Road, Dublin Simon Detox and Stabilisation. A number of step-down facilities have also been developed such as Suamhneas, Peter McVerry and Focus Ireland in CHO 9.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist