



Homeless Link

# Housing First for Youth

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
2023



**FOCUS**  
Ireland

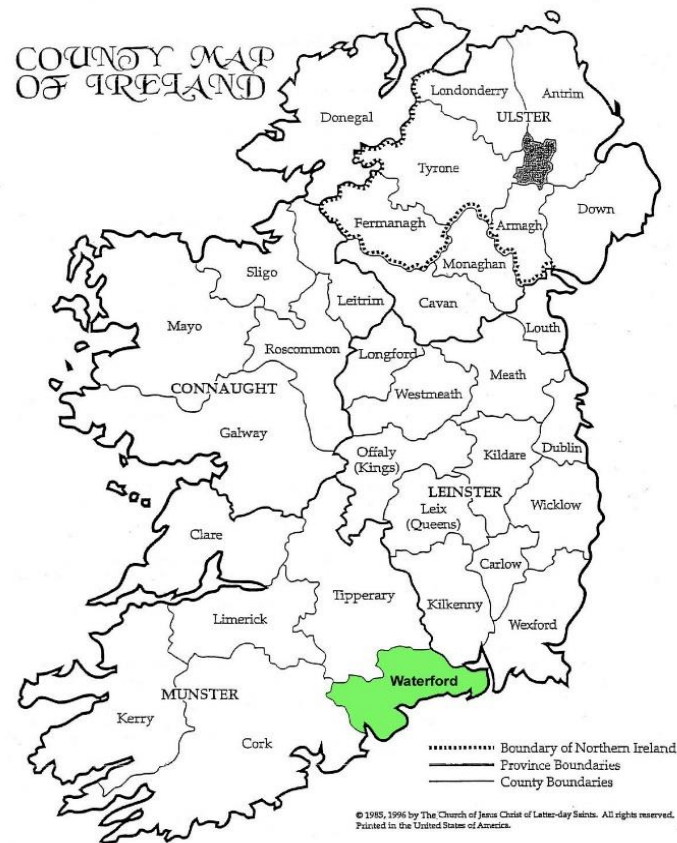
**Challenging  
homelessness.  
Changing lives.**

**Housing First for  
Youth in practice  
Waterford**

# The beginning .....



**Waterford** : 53,504 people live in the city, with a wider metropolitan population of 82,963.



# Setting Up the Service – Why & How ?

## Funding

- ❖ Local Government - municipality
- ❖ Statutory Health Service



## Mentoring

Feantsa



## Service Model Details

Target Group : Young people aged 18-26 yrs. of age who are in unstable or emergency accommodation and for young people at risk of homelessness coming from state care.

**FOCUS**  
Ireland

# Principles of Housing First for Youth

Principles outlined by Gaetz (2013)

- Immediate access to housing with no preconditions
- Youth choice and self-determination
- Positive youth development orientation
- Individualised and client-driven supports with no time limits
- Social and community integration

## HF4Y in operation :

### Staffing :

2 specifically allocated staff members with caseload of between 10 –15\* young people

### Tools to Service Delivery :

- P.I.E. – Psychologically Informed Environment
- T.I.C. - Trauma Informed Care
- Restorative Practices
- Intensive Case Management in a Care and Case management framework

## Housing

- The HF4Y program uses a combination of housing provided by Focus Ireland, Local Authority, Approved housing bodies and private market
  - Supported housing
  - Transitional Housing - 'Stickability'
  - Step down housing
  - Long term housing
  - Privated Rented



# Care and Case Management – Shared Care

- Adapted from NDRIC (National Drugs Rehabilitation Implementation Committee), Shared Care and Case Management is a framework used by Homeless Services across the South East of Ireland
- Shared Care and Case Management is a multifaceted collaborative process between Service Users and Service Providers focused on improving the quality of service provided and the impact on outcomes for the client

# Outcomes of Service to date

- Since 2015 we have worked with 48 Young people
- 42 young people received tenancies
- 96 % Sustainment Rate – includes early intervention and house moves
- Zero Discharge to homelessness – working with 1 young people currently in prison. One young person disengaged from the service .
- 15 young people accessing education and employment
- Gender balance : 48% male and 52% female
- 22 Young families
- 2020 reconfigured our Aftercare Service to a HF4Y Prevention model utilising the Tusla Cas properties



Questions ?

**Thank You**

# Housing First for Youth in Wales

Alex Osmond, Housing First and Lived Experience Manager, Cymorth Cymru



# This session

- Overview
- Funding arrangements
- Fidelity to principles
- HF4Y sub group
- Concerns as identified in survey

# Housing First for Youth in Wales: an overview

- Over 10 projects that exclusively deliver Housing First for Youth
- Several services combine Housing First and HF for Youth
- We use a distinct set of principles for Housing First in Wales, and those were specialised further into a set of Housing First for Youth principle

# Housing First for Youth in Wales: an overview

- Welsh Government funds many of these services directly
- Housing Support Grant funds many of the others
- A small number with alternative funders
- An evaluation exercise is currently taking place to assess the impact of some of these projects

# Fidelity to the principles

- Some services have established a steering group to agree and lead on the approach to Housing First for Youth, with close alignment to principles at a practical level
- Partnership agreements have been signed, committing all organisations to delivering the principles
- Relationships with clients are key – letting them decide when they want to engage with support



# Fidelity to the principles

- Establishing clear relationships, roles and boundaries with RSLs, separating support and housing management
- Harm reduction dependent on signposting and making clients aware of services
- Similarly, signposting the availability of partner agencies from the start is crucial

# Fidelity to the principles

- Accreditation (for Housing First) shows taking the time to fully absorb the principles and 'prepare' the service before actually delivering it is positive
- Where organisations run several Housing First or HF4Y projects, ensure that learning is shared within said organisation

# Fidelity to the principles

- Ensure that every level is properly involved in discussions and decisions around fidelity – from commissioners to support workers
- Multi-agency ‘lessons learned’ meetings

# Gauging outcomes and measuring success

- Celebrating successes with clients, no matter how 'small' they might seem – 'feel-good Fridays' are one example
- Similarly, sharing good experiences with colleagues and wider teams – discussions at staff meetings, for example
- Case studies are effective – can be shared with partners and colleagues, and reflected on

# Gauging outcomes and measuring success

- More explicit 'traditional' indicator lists (people moving into affordable housing in the area of their choice; people settling in their home; increased levels of stability; support being provided by other agencies; people being ready to move onto a 'dormant' list) – some of these have their own criteria
- Ongoing work in most services to determine how best to gauge outcomes and measure success

# Recent topics of concern or interest

- Transitions out of Housing First for Youth and into Housing First, or other options
- Engagement and how to maintain it
- Caseload and team capacity
- Supporting young people and their perception of the model, as well as consequences to decisions
- Ensuring new homes are equipped as quickly as possible
- Ensuring the referral process works quickly and effectively
- Digital poverty
- Influencing partner agencies and organisations
- Evidencing good work and measuring outcomes

# Any questions?

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Housing & Communities

# Housing First for Youth Webinar

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

**Homelessness Advice and Support Team**





# Aim of the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme - SHAP

**To increase the supply of high-quality accommodation and support to address gaps in homelessness pathway provision.**

**SHAP will target 2 groups:**

- 1. Adults with a history of rough sleeping**
- 2. Young people aged 18-25 at risk of or experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping.**

# Adults with a history of rough sleeping who experience multiple disadvantage

- **Adults with the longest histories of rough sleeping or the most complex needs** (including those known to LAs as the Target Priority Group), to help them recover from rough sleeping and its associated traumas.
- Individuals with longer histories of rough sleeping who experience multiple disadvantages are likely to require **specialist accommodation and support** in order to recover.
- People who have experienced longer-term rough sleeping and have taken the first step of accessing accommodation are at risk of returning to rough sleeping without the right kind of support.
- People sleeping rough - especially those furthest from accessing services successfully - often miss out on resources.
- **Can provide specialist accommodation where individuals are not well served by existing provision (e.g. supported accommodation for women) where there is need.**



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**To provide accommodation with support for young adults aged 18-25 who have a history of rough sleeping OR who would be at high risk of homelessness and rough sleeping, and who have needs that cannot be met in existing accommodation pathways.**

Some areas are only identified as eligible for the Young People (YP) funding, whilst other areas can bid for YP and/or Adult funding.

Upper tier/combined authority bids can include provision for young people from neighbouring districts to those identified as eligible for funding, but must demonstrate how the scheme will meet the needs of young people in the target local authority area.

# Young People age 18-25

**Strategic Gap Analysis** – evidence what the needs are and the gaps in current provision, and what type of service is needed to meet those needs.

**This could include:**

Services for YP with multiple and complex needs and have been unable to manage within supported housing services.

Specialist accommodation for YP who are not well served by existing provision e.g., LGBTQ+ young people, young offenders, YP at risk from gang-related activity.

Finding alternatives to accommodation schemes that are not working well due to size, location, configuration etc.



# SHAP Programme Overview

Announced in September 2022 as part of the Government's rough sleeping strategy - sets out how Government is investing £2 billion over the next 3 years to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping

Focus on longer-term accommodation

**Supported housing, Housing First and housing-led schemes within scope**

Backed by over £200 million of funding for both capital delivery and revenue support

Commitment of 3 years' revenue funding from completion of accommodation (including a short lead-in time where required)

5 Cycles for co-production to facilitate partnership working and bids with continuous market engagement up to 12 months (subject to available funding)

# Key Principles

## Targeted

- **SHAP will fund accommodation in areas where data indicates the highest level of need for accommodation for:**
- Adults with the longest histories of rough sleeping or the most complex needs (including those known to LAs as the target priority group), to help them recover from rough sleeping and its associated traumas.
- **Young people (age 18-25) who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping.**

## Place based and co-produced

- Local systems and communities are best placed to identify specific gaps and design local solutions.
- **Councils should identify available resources in their current homelessness pathway provision and how SHAP will fill gaps and enhance local strategy.**
- DLUHC advisers and GLA/Homes England will support localities to develop high quality bids.

## Multi-disciplinary partnerships

- Local systems will need to **collaborate to co-design the best local solutions** to address entrenched patterns of rough sleeping or to provide the right support for young people at risk.
- **This may include commissioners, service providers, integrated care partnerships, public health, voluntary, community and social enterprise, and business sectors.**



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## Accommodation

SHAP is primarily focussed on the provision of **longer-term accommodation**.

The programme is designed to ensure **flexibility to suit and meet local need**.

### Supported Accommodation

Housing First-type Accommodation

Housing Led Accommodation

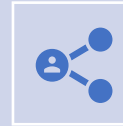
Specialist housing for young people.

## What will SHAP fund?

### Support



SHAP will offer **revenue funding for support services for up to 3 years** from the date of completion.



Support should meet the **individual needs of the service user**.



Where relevant, support should include plans for **assisting individuals through any transitions through the housing pathway** and should be structured to facilitate **long-term trusting relationships**.



## Capital

- Purchase and repair
- Purchase of existing satisfactory homes (off the shelf)
- Development of new build properties
- Lease and repair
- Refurbishing and repurposing of existing stock and other assets



# Assessment Criteria

## 1. Local need and impact of schemes

On both the indicated target group and on the wider local homelessness and housing system.

## 2. Collaboration and support

Bidders should provide evidence of collaboration and partnerships with local stakeholders, including those with lived experience where possible, and confirmation of the necessary support for the bid within the authority.

## 3. Quality of Accommodation and Support

Accommodation and support should be of sufficient quality and appropriate to the individual needs of the service user.

## 4. Deliverability

Schemes should be sustainable and deliverable within the timescales of the programme. Bidders should evidence consideration of delivery risk and credible mitigation options.

## 5. Value for money

Expected to demonstrate that steps have been taken to maximise value for money, including grant per units and revenue cost per person per unit, along with alignment of capital and revenue funding requests.





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# Contact

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**HF4Y Housing First 4 Youth**

# Housing First Europe Hub

## WE ARE:

A diverse partnership of over 25 partners & associates - cities, organisations, housing providers, foundations, ministries and researchers

A centre for sharing knowledge:

- Starting Housing First
- Managing & growing Housing First
- Scaling and systems change





# ENDING HOMELESSNESS WITH HOUSING FIRST

## What Do We Mean?

Housing First for Youth is rights based approach to supporting young people in housing which has adapted the core principles of Housing First to meet the specific needs of young people. History: co-developed in Europe and Canada starting in 2015

- Prevention of youth homelessness

## Strong evidence base:

- HF4Y pilot projects in Scotland and France, success in Ireland, Netherlands, and Canada



Immediate access to housing  
with no pre-conditions



Social and community  
integration



Positive youth development  
orientation

## CORE PRINCIPLES OF HF4Y



Individualized and  
client-driven supports



Youth choice and  
self-determination



HF4Y programmes  
& projects  
in place or in  
development...

- Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- France
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- England
- Canada
- Spain
- Denmark
- Finland
- Czechia

# Resources

Introduction Guide

Programme model guide in EN & FR

Evaluation

Training & Train the Trainer

Community of Practice

- monthly - European call

Starter's Kit - what YOU need to start and scale

HF4Y

- co-production;
- your input







# HF for Youth Your network

Monthly Community of Practice  
call

Trainers/colleagues

Shared resources





THANK YOU!

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# Homeless Link

## What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services. We work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and campaign for policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

[homeless.org.uk](https://homeless.org.uk)

[@HomelessLink](https://twitter.com/HomelessLink)