

Public Consultation

Draft Homelessness Strategy 2022-27

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

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

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

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

Richard Tanswell, (Homelessness Policy & Strategy)

1st Floor South,

9 Lanyon Place,

Belfast,

BT1 3LZ

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

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

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Confidentiality of Consultations

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ending Homelessness Together

Draft Homelessness Strategy 2022-27



Consultation Response

Your Details					
Is this submission on behalf of an:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Organisation</td> <td><input checked="" type="radio"/></td> <td>Individual</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> </table>	Organisation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Individual	<input type="radio"/>
Organisation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Individual	<input type="radio"/>		
Name:	Click here to enter text.				
Organisation:	Belfast City Council				
Postal Address:	Belfast City Hall, Belfast				
Postcode:	BT1 5GS				
Email:	Click here to enter text.				

Please note that if a response is recorded on behalf of an organisation the consultation response will include the name of an organisation while all individual responses will be anonymised as 'individual'

1	Do you agree with the vision of 'Ending Homelessness Together'?	YES	NO
		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Further Comments:			
We are supportive of the vision and have no further comments at this point.			

2	Do you agree with the aim of 'Wherever possible homelessness should be prevented, if homelessness cannot be prevented it should be rare, brief and non-recurring'?	YES	NO
		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Further Comments:			
We agree with the aim and have no further comments at this point.			

3	Do you agree with the principles that will guide the delivery of the Strategy?	YES	NO
A	Person Centred	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B	Evidence Based	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C	Partnership Working	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D	Expert Led	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E	Responsive	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
F	Innovative	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
G	Delivering Value for Money	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Further Comments:			

In terms of A and C – it is also important to consider when/where families of customers are engaged with (where appropriate) both in terms of prevention (trying to prevent or intervene early where relationship breakdowns lead to homelessness) as well as in terms of supporting individuals to secure and maintain tenancies i.e. assessing the ability of the family to act as positive or stabilising influence and in providing ongoing support and to be able to link in with/work alongside support services.

4	Do you agree with the focus objective 1 - 'Prioritise homelessness prevention;?	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
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Further Comments:

We agree with the focus objective and have no further comments at this point.

5	Do you agree with the focus outlined in objective 1 that will guide the Year 1 Action Plan? The draft Strategy outlines that actions identified in each year's Annual Plan throughout the lifespan of the Strategy will focus on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Prevention Activity • Secondary Prevention Activity • Tertiary Prevention Activity These areas are further outlined on page 29 to 31 of the draft Strategy.	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
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Further Comments:

Primary prevention

The aim to ensure cross-departmental focus at a strategic level coincides with the aim of ensuring multi-agency involvement at the area/operational level – collaboration with key partners across both of these tiers will be key to the successful delivery of the strategy.

Secondary prevention

Welcome focus on extending Homeless Prevention Fund in order to mainstream projects delivering best outcomes given that prevention efforts often need to be sustained over time in order to maximise impact.

Tertiary prevention

Working collaboratively also key to assisting people to sustain their tenancies – particularly those with complex needs – the ability to tap into wider supports at a community level will be vital.

A	What priority actions do you feel should be considered for objective 1 in the Year 1 Action Plan?
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Need to take into consideration the needs of people that have No Recourse to Public Funds and do not have the wider support mechanisms that other categories of people might have ie through friends and family that they can draw on. People with no recourse to public funds are very often prohibited from accessing homeless shelters that rely on public funds. Consideration should be given to the impact of the 'Everyone in' policy that existed during the Covid 19 pandemic, which provided accommodation to homeless people that had no recourse to public funds.

6	Do you agree with objective 2 - 'Address homelessness by providing secure, appropriate accommodation and support;?'	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
<p>Further Comments:</p> <p>From discussions with groups from various communities, it is accepted that hate crime, particularly that of race hate crime is underreported. Therefore, this needs to be a consideration when supporting people into long term housing.</p> <p>Work needs to be undertaken within communities regarding integration and how challenges around inclusion can be addressed.</p>			

7	<p>Do you agree with the focus outlined in objective 2 that will guide the Year 1 Action Plan? The draft Strategy outlines that actions identified in each year's Annual Plan throughout the lifespan of the Strategy will focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the needs of our customers • Improving Access & Inclusion • Flexible and responsive accommodation & support services at the point of need • Implementing 'Homeless to Home', Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation <p>These areas are further outlined on pages 37 to 39 of the draft Strategy.</p>	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
<p>Further Comments:</p> <p>We agree with the focus objective and have no further comments at this point.</p>			
A	What priority actions do you feel should be considered for objective 2 in the Year 1 Action Plan?		
<p>We have no comment to make at this point.</p>			

8	Do you agree with objective 3 - 'Support customers exiting homelessness into settled accommodation'?	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
<p>Further Comments:</p> <p>We are proud to be a partner in taking forward the Complex Lives approach and are hopeful that its implementation, alongside Housing First, will make a difference to, and ultimately see a dramatic reduction in, those impacted by chronic homelessness.</p>			

9	Do you agree with the focus outlined in objective 3 that will guide the Year 1 Action Plan? The draft Strategy outlines that actions identified in each year's Annual Plan throughout the lifespan of the Strategy will focus on the following:	YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Supply • Support • Community Integration <p>These areas are further outlined on pages 47 to 48 of the draft Strategy.</p>		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Further Comments:			
We agree with the focus objective and have no further comments at this point.			
A	What priority actions do you feel should be considered for objective 3 in the Year 1 Action Plan?		
All three – supply, support and integration are inter-related and inter-dependent and as such need to carry equal weight and equal focus in terms of the actions outlined.			

10	Do you agree with the enablers that are outlined in the draft Strategy?	YES	NO
A	Experiential Evidence	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B	Collaboration	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C	Legislation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D	Interdepartmental Approach	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E	Funding	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
F	Staff	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
G	Process	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Further Comments:			
We agree with the enablers as outlined and have no further comments at this point.			
H	What would you want to see prioritised in the Year 1 Action plan in terms of enablers?		
Clarity on the funding that will be available – by DfC and cross-departmentally is critical in terms of additional funding as well as in terms of improved alignment of existing funding (e.g. for homelessness and via supporting people).			

11. Please provide any other comments which should be considered in the development and delivery of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27

We are supportive of the development of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 and have no further comments at this point.

12. Please provide comments on how the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 should be monitored and reported against:

We currently have no views on how the Homeless Strategy 2022-27 should be monitored and reported against.