



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,  
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil  
Department of Housing, Planning,  
Community and Local Government



**National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011 – 2016**  
**Affirmed under *Rebuilding Ireland*, the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness**  
**and extended to 2020 to continue to deliver on its aims**



**Third Report on Implementation: January – December 2016**

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**The work of this Group has been undertaken in line with the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 and this report meets the criteria as set out in the Transparency Code**

### **Glossary of Terms**

**AHBs** – Approved Housing Bodies

**CALF**- Capital Advance Leasing Facility

**CAS** – Capital Assistance Scheme

**CCMA** – County and City Management Association

**Congregated Settings** – as defined in the 2011 HSE Report *Time to Move on from Congregated Settings, A Strategy for Community Inclusion*, where ten or more people share a single living unit or where the living arrangements are campus-based

**CHO** – Community Healthcare Organisation

**DECLG** – Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

**DHPCLG** – Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (the Department's title was changed with effect from 23 July 2016)

**Deinstitutionalisation** – the transitioning of people with intellectual, physical and mental health disabilities from institutional care to more appropriate community based living arrangements

**DPER** – Department of Public Expenditure & Reform

**DoH** – Department of Health

**DFI** – Disability Federation of Ireland

**HAP** – Housing Assistance Payment

**HSE** – Health Service Executive

**HDSGs** – Housing & Disability Steering Groups

**HIQA** - Health Information and Quality Authority

**HA** - Housing Agency (Housing & Sustainable Communities Agency)

**IMG** - Implementation Monitoring Group

**NDA** – National Disability Authority

**NHSPWD** – National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability

**TSO** – Tenancy Sustainment Officer

## Chapter 1: Introduction

*The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (NHSPWD) 2011 – 2016* was published in October 2011 and the associated *National Implementation Framework* was published in July 2012. These documents are joint publications by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and the Department of Health and are available on the Department's website [www.housing.gov.ie](http://www.housing.gov.ie). Building on the commitment given in the *Programme for Government* to meet the housing needs of people with disabilities, the *NHSPWD* has been affirmed in *Rebuilding Ireland* and extended to 2020 to continue to deliver on its aims.

The Implementation Monitoring Group (IMG) is responsible for reporting on progress made in implementation of the *NHSPWD*. This is the third such progress report and covers the period January to December 2016. The Implementation Framework acknowledges the challenges in implementing the different elements of a multidimensional transition process and provides for the timeframe being extended, if required. The *NHSPWD* will guide policy over the coming years and the DHPCLG, HA, DoH and the HSE, in collaboration with the disability sector, will continue to progress the actions set out therein.

The DHPCLG and DoH wish to acknowledge the work of the Housing Subgroup and note the further progress made in 2016 in implementing the *NHSPWD*. The Departments are also appreciative of the contribution made by the Implementation Monitoring Group and its continued support. In the context of the renewed endorsement of the *NHSPWD* by the Government in *Rebuilding Ireland* in 2016, we look forward to continuing our partnership with all stakeholders and to maintaining steady progress through our collaborative efforts with the HSE, the HA and the disability sector.

**Chapter 2** of the report sets out details of the implementation and reporting framework.

**Chapter 3** of the report outlines the significant progress which has been made by the Housing Subgroup during 2016 under a range of themes:

- **Interagency Cooperation**
- **Guidance and Supports for Local Authorities**
- **Actions at Local Level**
- **Transition of People with Disabilities from Congregated Settings**
- **Housing Options for People with Disabilities: Funding and Progress in 2016**
- **Mental Health**

**Chapter 4** sets out conclusions in relation to progress to date and the importance of continued partnership in taking work forward.

**Chapter 5** sets out priorities for 2017 in meeting key aims in the *NHSPWD*.

## Chapter 2: Monitoring, Reporting & Implementation

### Implementation Monitoring Group (IMG)

The IMG published its first Progress Report in 2014 covering the period September 2012 – December 2013. The second Progress Report covering the period January 2014 – December 2015 was published in 2016. Both Reports are on the Department's website and can be found [here](#). Details of current IMG members are set out at **Appendix 1**.

The IMG met twice in 2016 on 19<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> October. At the October meeting it was agreed that a draft report setting out progress in the period January – December 2016 would be prepared and submitted to the group for review and consideration, with a view to publishing on the Department's website by the end of the second quarter of 2017.

### Housing Subgroup

Implementation of the Strategy is being driven by a dedicated Subgroup chaired by the Housing Agency. The Terms of Reference of the Subgroup are set out in the first Progress Report. Details of current membership are set out at **Appendix 2**.

The Housing Subgroup met on six occasions over the course of 2016 and progressed a range of priority actions within an agreed work plan for the year. The 2016 work plan addressed, inter alia, the completion of local Strategic Plans by County and City Councils, continued support for the transitioning of people with intellectual and physical disabilities from congregated settings, ongoing work on a pilot project relating to the transitioning of people with mental health difficulties with low and medium support needs to more appropriate community living arrangements, raising awareness about mental health issues and housing requirements, and commencement of the review of the National Guidelines on the Assessment and Allocation of Housing Provision for People with a Disability.

Details of progress on key issues over the period January to December 2016 are set out in **Chapter 3**.



## Chapter 3: Progress on Implementation

Progress on implementation is reported under a number of key areas:

- **Interagency Cooperation**
- **Guidance and Supports for Local Authorities**
- **Actions at Local Level**
- **Transition of People with Disabilities from Congregated Settings**
- **Housing Options for People with Disabilities: Funding and Progress in 2016**
- **Mental Health**

### **Interagency Cooperation**

The Strategy recognises the need for a robust interagency framework to facilitate person-centred delivery of housing and relevant supports. Good progress has been made in the reporting period, as outlined below.

- The framework of interdepartmental and inter-agency cooperation adopted during the development of the Strategy continued to strengthen over the course of 2016. Key working relationships have been developed between all of the relevant agencies. At national level, DHPCLG, DoH, HSE, the HA and the disability sector work together on an ongoing basis, in a structured framework, supported by the HA chaired Subgroup and Task Groups reporting to it.
- Government policy on deinstitutionalisation (as outlined in the 2011 HSE Report *Time to Move On from Congregated Settings*) is a matter for the DoH and is supported by the *NHSPWD*. The DHPCLG is represented on the HSE led Congregated Settings Working Group, which is implementing the deinstitutionalisation programme. The DHPCLG is also represented on the wider HSE Transforming Lives Working Group, to which the HSE Congregated Settings Working Group report.

- There is overlap in membership of these various groups, which creates synergy between them and helps ensure cohesion in implementation of key national policy objectives. In addition, and outside the formal structures, there is on-going engagement between the DHPCLG, the DoH, the HSE and the HA.

#### *Housing and Disability Steering Groups (HDSGs)*

- In accordance with priority action 2.1 of the *Implementation Framework*, housing authorities are required to establish Housing and Disability Steering Groups (HDSGs) in each County/City Council area to facilitate integrated and timely responses to the housing needs of people with disabilities. The Steering Groups are chaired by Directors of Housing Services and include representation from the HSE and key disability stakeholders. This key action was completed in 2016 and by mid-year HDSGs were set up in all 31 County and City councils.
- The HSE nationally continued to link with all HSE disability representatives on local HDSGs in 2016 to ensure that there was active engagement by the nominated representatives and to review feedback on the progress of groups from a HSE perspective. Where there was a lack of meaningful engagement, this was indicated to the relevant Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) to ensure an appropriate representative was nominated and supported to participate on the local HDSG. Issues arising from the groups were highlighted to the Housing Subgroup for follow up.
- The work programme for the HDSGs is guided by the work plan of the Housing Subgroup at national level. The main work programme for each HDSG in 2016 was the preparation of its local 5 year Strategic Plans, details of which are set out in the 'Actions at Local Level' section below.
- In 2016 HSE national disability staff attended a number of HDSG meetings in local authority areas to support local groups in their work to develop Strategic Plans and to ensure alignment between HSE policies and the *NHSPWD*.

## **Guidance and Supports for Local Authorities**

Guidance and support for local authorities continued throughout 2016 to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy at local level. During 2016 the following actions were carried out:

- The HA continued to provide ongoing support to the HDSGs through attendance at their meetings.
- The HA organised regional information and awareness seminars on mental health for local authority and HSE staff. The seminars took place in three separate locations and included talks from the HSE Mental Health Division, Mental Health Reform and a presentation on the Assisted Decision Making legislation. Funding to support the seminars was provided by the DHPCLG, HA and HSE.
- A review of the *National Guidelines for the Assessment and Allocation Process for Housing Provision for People with a Disability* (operational in housing authorities since 2014) commenced in 2016, in consultation with relevant stakeholders. People with disabilities are entitled to apply for an assessment of housing need in accordance with the Guidelines, the aim of which is to help streamline the management of the housing assessment process for people with disabilities, whether living in the community or moving from congregated settings. All housing options are available to people with disabilities as they are to everyone assessed as having a housing need. Work is expected to be completed during 2017, with revised Guidelines to issue thereafter.

## **Actions at Local Level**

### *Local Strategic Plans*

- In line with priority action 1.1 of the *Implementation Framework*, each HDSG has prepared a draft Strategic Plan for its own County/City area, the aim of which is to identify the housing needs of people with a disability, both current and emerging over the next 5 years. The Plans along with the annual *Summary of Social Housing Assessment* will allow local authorities to plan more strategically

for the housing needs of people with a disability and will promote and support the delivery of accommodation for people with disabilities using all appropriate housing supply mechanisms. Around two-thirds of the draft Strategic Plans had been prepared by the end of 2015, with all being completed by mid-2016.

#### *Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011*

- Housing authorities are required under Articles 23 and 24 of the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 to classify any specific accommodation requirements by reference to whether one or more household member has an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. They must also specify any specific accommodation requirement of the household that arises from exceptional medical needs. The 2016 *Summary of Social Housing Assessment* showed 4,456 households in need of housing due to the fact that one of their members had a disability (an increase of 13.7% since 2013). This may be indicative of the fact that people with disabilities are now more aware of their rights in this area and are applying to housing authorities in greater numbers than before. This meets a key priority of the NHSPWD that every person with a disability will undergo an assessment of their social housing need. This will greatly assist housing authorities to plan strategically to meet needs at local level.

In 2016 the HA, funded by the DHPCLG, drafted and circulated an Easy Read Guide (English and Irish versions) for the completion of the Social Housing Assessment Form.

#### *Pilot Housing Advice Centres*

The provision of housing advice centres for people with disabilities are a deliverable under the *NHSPWD* and have been on the agenda of the HDSGs for some time. Following consideration as to the form these should take it was determined that as most local authorities have Customer Service Centres, these should provide the assistance and advice to people with a disability who are seeking a housing assessment.

Additional training has been identified for appropriate staff within local authorities to ensure that they are enabled to offer support to people with disabilities, where required. Work has commenced on the provision of information in an accessible format. An Easy Read Guide for the completion of the Social Housing Application Form is available from every local authority and the Citizens Information website. A Housing Options document in both plain English and Easy Read is being finalised.

### **Transition of People with Disabilities from Congregated settings**

#### *HSE Developments*

- As noted in the second Progress Report, the HSE Subgroup tasked with implementing the *Time to Move on from Congregated Settings* report launched a revised comprehensive master dataset in 2015 to capture a more comprehensive suite of information in relation to housing need, options and the preferences of individuals in congregated settings. During 2016, a detailed analysis of this information was undertaken to produce the first Progress Report on the implementation of the policy, which provided for the first time an analysis of the arrangements that have been put in place for individuals leaving congregated settings alongside other key information.
- Work has been ongoing since 2014 to enhance the tracking of the movements of individuals from congregated settings including some qualitative and quantitative data on post transition arrangements. During 2016 this work continued, ensuring that the data in relation to the movements of people and the impact of housing issues is reported and validated.

#### *Actions Completed in 2016*

- At the end of 2016, there were 2,580 people resident in a congregated setting. Within the year, 73 people completed their transition to the community and a further 87 are in the process of being supported to move to community living in 2017.

- The DoH has provided dedicated capital funding for disability services over the period 2016-2021. Of this, the HSE allocated €20m targeted capital funding in 2016 for the acquisition and refurbishment of properties to accommodate individuals transitioning from priority institutions identified by the HSE, where all other funding avenues have been exhausted.
- A Service Reform Fund was agreed that will support the phased transition to the person-centred model of services and supports. This is being funded between Atlantic Philanthropies, the DoH, HSE (Social Care and Mental Health Services) and Genio for the period 2016-2019 and is being targeted to support the priority sites as well as providing a competitive funding stream for other innovative projects. During 2016, a significant process was undertaken to review potential projects and make recommendations on the allocation of resources to drive person-centred planning and innovative practice.
- The HSE commenced a housing need profiling exercise to determine what resources are required to support people in congregated settings to access accommodation of their choice. Once completed in 2017, this will identify the demand for the various funding mechanisms and the likely timescale of proposed projects. This data will be shared to inform discussions with DHPCLG and the HDSGs, particularly in terms of the viability and demand for social leasing options, CAS funding and other funding mechanisms.
- Accelerated implementation of *Transforming Lives*, the programme to implement the recommendations of a number of policy documents relating to people with disabilities in Ireland will see a move from institutional models of care to a community based person-centred model, enabling and supporting meaningful lives as chosen by people living with a disability. In this regard, the NDA on behalf of the HSE, has commenced work to capture the costs and benefits to the HSE of moving to new models of service, and in particular to capture the costs and benefits associated with the accelerated decongregation sites.

- The HSE comprehensive communication strategy to support the roll out of a *Time to Move On from Congregated Settings* was finalised and published in 2016. It includes a key message guidance document and a stakeholder mapping tool. This strategy makes reference to the stakeholders that have key roles in relation to housing such as Voluntary Housing Bodies, Local Authorities and Government Departments.
- Work by the HSE to improve public communication and promote positive messages continued in 2016. This included development of additional and targeted communication resources, such as public bulletins, learning events and workshops with providers. The website specific to congregated settings [www.hse.ie/timetomoveon](http://www.hse.ie/timetomoveon), was updated and resource materials have been uploaded. A specific email address has also been created for queries [timetomoveon@hse.ie](mailto:timetomoveon@hse.ie).
- A guidance document for service providers on *Accessing Appropriate Housing in the Community* was developed in 2016 and disseminated by the *Time to Move On* project group through a targeted workshop. This event was supported by the DHPCLG, DoH, HA and AHBs. The guidance signposts the way for service providers that are navigating the broad issues associated with supporting individuals to transition to housing in the community, such as tenancy agreements, individual financial arrangements and options for acquiring housing.

## **Housing Options for People with Disabilities: Funding and Progress in 2016**

### *DHPCLG Leasing Arrangements*

- In line with the *NHSPWD*, current funding of €1m was made available in 2016 by the DHPCLG to support people with disabilities moving from institutional care to community based living arrangements. The HA Subgroup Project Manager continued to drive this objective through ongoing engagement with AHBs, service providers and local authorities. Funding from the Department in 2016 supported continued progress in transitioning people with disabilities as part of the Government's deinstitutionalisation policy.

- As was the case in previous years, the 2016 funding was part capitalised. This was necessary as the majority of applications had a capital funding element such as adaptation works, CALF or a mix of both. This mix of current and capital funding facilitated the transitioning of 6 people with physical, mental health and intellectual disabilities leaving institutional care in the 2016 period as well as continuing to pay the leasing agreements committed to in 2015. A further 8 applications were approved in 2016 which will facilitate the transitioning of 21 people. These applications are expected to be finalised in 2017.
- While leasing activity increased in 2016 compared to 2015, the provision of ring-fenced capital funding of €10m by the DHPCLG in 2016 to support acceleration of the deinstitutionalisation programme shifted the focus to the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS), resulting in lower than expected numbers of leasing applications for current funding. While the €1 million from DHPCLG will once again be available in 2017 to support the deinstitutionalisation process, it is likely that demand under the leasing scheme will continue to fall as the focus shifts further towards the CAS. As a result, it is envisaged that this current funding will be used to support alternative objectives under the NHSPWD.

#### *Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)*

- The CAS provides funding of up to 100% to AHBs for the provision of independent living accommodation to meet the needs of persons requiring specific categories of housing, including the elderly, people with disabilities and homeless people.
- In June 2016 DHPCLG issued a further “Call for Proposals” informing local authorities that it was accepting applications for capital funding for the delivery of housing accommodation to cater for the priority groups under the CAS including people with a disability, with a particular emphasis, but not exclusively, on moving people with a disability from a congregated setting into community based living. As noted above, the Department allocated ring-fenced funding of €10m from the 2016 CAS budget specifically to provide accommodation for



people with a disability moving from a congregated setting into community based living.

- To maximise effectiveness and expenditure in 2016, the ring-fenced funding was aimed primarily at supporting the acquisition of properties that would facilitate this transition. The lead-in time for new build projects effectively ruled out this option for 2016. Over €2 million was approved by DHPCLG in 2016 towards accommodation (including accommodation for carers) for 20 people who had moved out of congregated settings. Total expenditure under the CAS in 2016 was €37 million, which supported the delivery of 319 units of accommodation overall, including units for people with a disability.

#### *Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)*

- HAP is a form of social housing support for people who have a long-term housing need. It was introduced on a statutory phased basis to allow for learning in the operation of the scheme as it rolled out across local authorities. Through the phased nature of HAP new local authorities introducing the scheme have benefitted from the experience of those authorities in which the scheme has been operational for longer. By the end of 2016, HAP was operational in 28 local authority areas with the remaining three introducing the scheme in March 2017.
- HAP provides a more integrated system of housing supports; the scheme aims to allow all social housing supports to be accessed through the local authority and to allow recipients to take up full-time employment and still keep their housing support. The effect is that those eligible can avail of an immediate form of social housing support. HAP is just one of a range of options available to local authorities in providing social housing support, including for people with disabilities.

#### *Rent Supplement and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)*

- As the HAP scheme is rolled out across local authorities, rent supplement is no longer available to households with a long-term housing need in that particular

local authority, as existing rent supplement recipients are moved to HAP. RAS tenancies will be phased out in favour of HAP over time.

### *Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability*

#### *Private Housing*

- The suite of grants available to private home owners is 80% funded by DHPCLG with a 20% contribution from the resources of each local authority. The three separate grants available under the scheme are:
  - the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability (up to €30,000)
  - Housing Aid for Older People (up to €8,000)
  - the Mobility Aids Grant (up to €6,000)
  
- In 2014 over 7,500 households benefitted under the scheme at a cost of over €45.5m, in 2015 almost 7,600 benefitted at a cost of almost €48m and in 2016 over 8,000 households benefitted at a cost of over €50m as broken down in the table below. These figures include 20% funding provided from the local authority's own revenue resources.

<b>Grants paid</b>				
	<b>People with a Disability</b>	<b>Older People</b>	<b>Mobility Aids</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2014</b>	2192	3634	1721	7,547
<b>2015</b>	2600	3127	1869	7,596
<b>2016</b>	2714	3425	1871	8,010

#### *Social Housing*

- DHPCLG also provides funding to local authorities for adaptations and extensions to the existing social housing stock to meet the needs of local authority tenants. The scheme applies to adaptations that are necessary to address the needs of older people or people with a disability who may require stairlifts; grab-rails; showers; wet-rooms and ramps etc. It also provides funding for extensions such as the installation of a downstairs bedroom or bathroom.

- The scheme is demand-led and allows local authorities to prioritise works based on need. Exchequer funding meets 90% of the cost of such works, with the local authority providing the remaining 10%. DHPCLG recouped almost €8m funding to local authorities in 2014 increasing to almost €9.5m in 2015. In 2016 funding increased again with €13.5m being recouped to local authorities supporting improvements in over 1,000 units.

### **Mental Health**

- The *NHSPWD* gives effect to the housing commitments contained in the Government's mental health policy, *A Vision for Change*. Priority Action 5.3 of the *Implementation Framework* seeks to facilitate the transitioning of people with mental health difficulties with low and medium supports needs, from HSE mental health facilities to appropriate community settings, including the transfer of the ownership of the HSE residences to housing authorities.
- To kick-start work on this objective, and as part of the learning process to develop a reliable model for implementation, a pilot project commenced in the Kildare area. Condition surveys were carried out on four properties for 16 individuals but the pilot did not proceed in this location due to local issues. As a result the pilot was moved to Laois/Offaly in 2015 and the project commenced with 15 people. As part of the project a new model of support was piloted with the introduction of a Mental Health Tenancy Sustainment Officer. It was envisaged that the pilot project would be completed by 2016, but this was not possible due to unanticipated legal issues relating to the transfer of the properties. These issues were subsequently resolved and it is envisaged that the pilot project will be finalised in 2017.
- Subject to a satisfactory review of the pilot project and robust governance being in place, funding in principle for the national rollout was agreed between the DHPCLG, DoH and HSE in 2016 for a three year period, up to 2020.

## Chapter 4 – Conclusions

In 2016 the *Programme for a Partnership Government* committed "to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are incorporated into all future housing policies". The reaffirmation of the *NHSPWD* (2011) in the *Rebuilding Ireland* Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness (2016) and the extension of the Strategy to 2020 demonstrate a renewed determination at the highest level to putting in place the structures and supports that are essential to ensuring that the housing and related needs of people with disabilities are addressed. This is underpinned by significant increases in funding in 2016, as outlined in Chapter 3. It is clear that the focus will continue to be on supporting people with disabilities who wish to live independently in their own homes, with appropriate supports.

Driven nationally by the *NHSPWD*, actions taken by local authorities and other agencies are key to achieving the aims of the Strategy. In 2016 there were some landmark initiatives that will contribute significantly to improving the lives of people with disabilities in the years to come. Firstly, the establishment of the HDSGs in each local authority by mid-2016, with representation from key disability stakeholders, will facilitate more strategic planning at local level under the guidance of the HA Sub-Group at national level. Current and estimated emerging needs over a 5 year span will now be mapped in the local Strategic Plans and targets set, and this will be reviewed annually. For the first time, people with disabilities will be able to see exactly how the housing need in their own local area is being addressed.

Another key piece of work which got underway in 2016 is the review of the *National Guidelines for the Assessment and Allocation Process for Housing Provision for People with a Disability*. This is a considerable body of work involving wide consultation and significant engagement from the relevant stakeholders. The revised Guidelines, when finalised in 2017, will take account of experience to date in operating the current Guidelines operational since 2014 and will benefit from the considerable feedback from a range of stakeholders. As such, they will be an invaluable resource for people with disabilities and their representatives, housing

authorities and practitioners and all stakeholders. An Easy to Read Guide for the completion of the Social Housing Assessment Form is also now available from local authorities and will make the application process easier to navigate for people with disabilities.

The HSE-led deinstitutionalisation programme was given renewed impetus in 2016 through the €10m ring-fenced CAS funding by the DHPCLG and the €20m capital provided by the DoH to the HSE. This has been complemented by additional actions by the HSE, such as the publication of the first Progress Report on the implementation of the *Time to Move On* report, the ongoing project to enhance the tracking of the movements of individuals from congregated settings along with qualitative and quantitative data, the launch of a comprehensive communication strategy, and the publication of a guidance document for service providers relating to the support of persons transitioning to community living. Together these measures provide a solid basis to consolidate and accelerate progress to date using the tools and skills sets that have now been developed and refined.

As 2016 was the first year in which there was a particular focus on congregated settings under the CAS scheme, it afforded an opportunity to identify and learn from the experience of seeking solutions to issues that arose, and to plan for the measures that need to be taken to address these in future. This will be done collaboratively with the DoH, HSE and the HA who have identified similar issues, to ensure that a cohesive approach is adopted.

The steady progress on implementing the *NHSPWD* in 2016, building on the earlier years of the Strategy, is testament to the effectiveness of the key working relationships between the relevant agencies that are now firmly established. A partnership approach is a fundamental principle of the Strategy which recognises that the provision of suitable housing is only one element in supporting people with disabilities to live fully inclusive lives. This approach involves not only secure and sustainable tenancies but the provision of person centred community based health

and care services, facilitating access to education, training and employment and enabling full integration and participation within communities of choice.

In its monitoring role, the IMG is aware that achieving the ambitious but legitimate aims of the Strategy will require sustained effort on behalf of all the agencies tasked with its implementation. While progress made to date is evident, and is making a real difference in the lives of people with disabilities, the challenges ahead should not be underestimated. The Group reiterates its view that the extended lifespan of the Strategy, combined with the additional resources becoming available, and the partnership approach which is now well embedded, will ensure that the momentum behind the achievements so far will be maintained in the years ahead.

## Chapter 5 - Priorities for 2017

Implementation of the Strategy will continue in 2017 through the Housing Subgroup, supported by the DHPCLG, DoH, the HSE and the disability sector.

- DHPCLG will continue to actively engage at national level with the HA, DoH, the HSE and representatives of the disability sector through participation in the various working groups and meetings.
- Progress on implementation of the *NHSPWD* will continue to be monitored and reported by the IMG. This report for the period 2016 will be published on the DHPCLG website. Progress will also be updated in the context of *Rebuilding Ireland*.
- The *Programme for a Partnership Government (2016)* contains a commitment to continue to move people with disabilities out of congregated settings, to enable them to live independently and to be included in the community. At the end of 2015, 2,725 people were living in congregated settings and the objective is to reduce this figure by one third by 2021 and ultimately, to eliminate all congregated settings. The HSE target for transition in 2017 is 223 people from 21 priority sites, including those individuals that providers had identified for transition in 2016 but whose moves were delayed. The DHPCLG will continue to work with and support the HSE and DoH to progress this programme.
- CAS funding will once again be available to provide housing for people with disabilities. Total CAS funding in 2017 is €66m. It is not proposed to specifically ring-fence funding for Congregated Settings but funding will be available for all disability related applications, including for those in the community and those moving from congregated settings.
- DHPCLG will work with the HSE and HA on developing further guidance to clarify issues of common concern which arose in 2016, the first year of particular focus

on congregated settings using DHPCLG CAS funding and capital funding provided by DoH and HSE.

- DHPCLG is also working closely with local authorities and stakeholder groups to review and streamline the application process for the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with Disabilities.
- A review of the National Guidelines for the *Assessment and Allocation Process for Housing Provision for People with a Disability* (operational in housing authorities since 2014) which commenced in 2016 is expected to be finalised in 2017.
- The HSE will complete the 'Housing Need' profiling exercise to determine what resources are required to support people in congregated settings to access appropriate accommodation of their choice. This will identify the demand for the various funding mechanisms and the likely timescale of proposed projects. The data will be shared to inform discussions with DHPCLG and the HDSGs, particularly in terms of the viability and demand for social leasing options, CAS funding and other funding mechanisms.
- The HSE will allocate a further €20 million from the multi-annual *Capital Programme for Disabilities* to support the delivery of appropriate housing for people moving from congregated settings. The allocation of the remaining Capital Disability Funding for 2018-2021 will be agreed during 2017, which will ensure the HSE and service providers can forward plan effectively to deliver quality housing solutions for this cohort of people.
- The accelerated implementation of *Transforming Lives*, the programme to implement the recommendations of a number of policy documents relating to people with disabilities in Ireland, will continue. This will see more moves from institutional models of care to a community based person-centred model,



enabling and supporting meaningful lives as chosen by people living with a disability.

- The Laois/Offaly mental health pilot is expected to be completed and evaluated in 2017 and this will determine if the Mental Health Tenancy Sustainment programme will be rolled out nationally.
- The issue of supply of appropriate housing will be kept under review in the context of ensuring that all mainstream housing options are available to, and suitable for, people with disabilities.

**Membership of the Implementation Monitoring Group**

Bairbre Nic Aongusa (Chair)	DHPCLG
Derek Rafferty	DHPCLG
Patricia Curran	DHPCLG
Claire Collins	DoH
Brendan Tuohy	DoH
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Paul Braham	HSE
Claire Feeney	Housing Agency
David Silke	Housing Agency
Fiona O'Donovan	Disability Federation of Ireland
John Hannigan	National Federation of Voluntary Bodies
Edward Crean	NDA
Shari McDaid	Mental Health Reform
Keelin McCarthy	Irish Council for Social Housing
Dolores Murphy	Disability Federation of Ireland and Irish Wheelchair Association
Alison Connolly	Focus Ireland
David Girvan	Inclusion Ireland
Billy Coman	CCMA

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**Membership of the Housing Subgroup**

John O'Connor	Chair (CEO Housing Agency)
Claire Feeney	HA
David Silke	HA
Fionnughla McLoughlin	HA
Margaret Ralph	HA
Billy McCarthy	DoH
Claire Collins	DoH
Paul Braham	HSE
Suzanne Moloney	HSE
John Browner	HSE (Estates)
Keelin McCarthy	Irish Council for Social Housing
Alison Harnett	National Federation of Voluntary Bodies
Catherine Keenan	Dun Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council
Patricia Cleary	Housing Association for Integrated Living
Joe McGuinness	Louth County Council
Dolores Murphy	Disability Federation of Ireland
Edward Crean	NDA
Kate Mitchell	Mental Health Reform
Derek Rafferty	DHPCLG
Patricia Curran	DHPCLG