



Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

Sligo.

Sligo Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability (2021-2025)



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Fr O'Flanagan Terrace, Sligo – SCC mixed housing type

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We are also grateful to the partner organisations who are members of the Steering Group for their submissions, comments and feedback which were passed through the representatives on the Steering Group and make this Plan relevant and meaningful to the wider community.



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Sligo County Council
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Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability (2021-2025)

Chapter 1 Purpose and Goal

The vision of the Co. Sligo Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability (2021-2025) is to facilitate access to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living for people with a disability.

The Strategy envisions that this should be achieved within the mainstream housing environment, while acknowledging the challenges. The core goal of the Strategy is to meet the identified housing needs of people with disabilities locally whether they are currently living in the community and/or in a congregated setting.

The four grounds of disability referred to in the Strategy are:

- (a) sensory
- (b) mental health
- (c) physical
- (d) intellectual – including autism and ASD.

Sligo's renewed Local Strategic Plan will strategically align itself to, and embed within it, relevant policy and legislation. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) recognise that people with disabilities should have equal rights to live in a community and that measures to facilitate their full inclusion should be prioritised, including access to education, health, housing, employment and social protection. UNCRPD Articles 19, *Living Independently and being included in the community*, and 28, *Adequate Standard of Living and Social Protection*, are clear that disabled people have an equal right to access public housing schemes and grants, to live independently in the community, with choices equal to others. People with disabilities have historically experienced extremely high levels of poverty and social exclusion, which often perpetuate or exacerbate the housing problems that they encounter. The aim of this Strategy is to work towards delivering equality of opportunity, choice and the chance to live independently in the community, adopting a rights-based approach to housing, universal access and community inclusion for people with disabilities living in Sligo.

The same fundamental principle of equality of access to housing, employment and training for people living with a mental health difficulty was incorporated into the A Vision for Change policy published in 2006 by the Department of Health and again in Sharing the Vision (2020). Ireland has legislation in the form of the Human Rights and Equality Act (2014) and European Convention of Human Rights Act (2003) which enforces and protects these rights.

Section 42 of the Human Rights and Equality Act (2014) places an obligation upon state agencies in the form of a Public Sector Duty to uphold standards of human rights and equality in their service

provision. This is monitored and enforced by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) which was established in 2014-See www.ihrec.ie

Rebuilding Ireland – the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness was published in July 2016 and commits to delivering supports to homeless people with mental health and addiction issues. The plan recognises there needs to be a “whole of Government” approach to the current homeless crisis due to the complexity of interrelated issues including mental health, addiction, family breakdown, domestic violence, tenancy loss, poverty, anti-social behaviour, criminal justice issues and other factors. This has relevance to the implementation of Sharing the Vision and the National Housing Disability Strategic Plan.

The current National Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities (NSPHPD), published in December 2016 was developed to build upon the progress of national priority actions, incorporate local initiatives and needs identified by the Housing & Disability Steering Groups in each local authority area and is a collation of the local Strategic Plans.

Recently the Sixth Progress Report on the Implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities was published and reports on the progress made during the five year period of the plan and during the period of extension until 2020. Much progress has been reported in achieving the priority actions including a large reduction in the number of people who had left congregated settings and transitioned to community living. By the end of 2019, fewer than 1960 people remained countrywide in congregated settings. Other achievements of this Strategy include improved interagency cooperation; increased allocation of social housing to persons with disability; training for local authority staff in mental health awareness; and piloting a medical /disability form which alongside the social housing application form, is to standardise information gathered from people with disabilities.

The NHSPWD also supports the Government’s de-institutionalisation policy, which is led by the Department of Housing and the HSE. The HSE is dedicating considerable resources to this programme, to help accelerate progress, and the DHPCLG provided ring-fenced funding of €10m in 2016 under the Capital Assistance Scheme, specifically for the provision of accommodation for people with disabilities transitioning from congregated settings.

The households covered by the Strategy have been deemed by Sligo County Council to be eligible and qualified for Social Housing Support as having a basis of need where a member of the household has a disability. This assessment is carried out in accordance with the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 (as amended).

It is intended that the Strategy will form an integral part of the Housing Services Plans and will promote and support the delivery of accommodation for people with disabilities using all appropriate housing supply mechanisms. This Strategy will also support longer term strategic planning.

This Strategy which has been prepared by the Housing and Disability Steering Group aims to provide the local authority, other housing providers and the wider community with information that will help to inform and guide housing provision for people with a disability over the next five years.

Chapter 2 Awareness and Promotion of the Local Strategic Plan for Housing People with a disability

According to the last national census in 2016¹ there are 9,577 people in County Sligo living with one or more disability. This is 15% of the overall population of the County. Engaging with as many of these people as possible is a challenge. For those who avail of disability services or supports through an organisation, engagement may be somewhat easier to achieve. Voluntary disability organisations and public service agencies such as the HSE who work with this target group are also a secure conduit through which to engage people with disabilities in the strategy. To reach out to those individuals in the community who are not engaged requires a range of different approaches.

The HDSG is perfectly placed to raise awareness of housing issues for due to its membership and embeddedness in the service providers and representative organisations of this target group. In order to promote the Strategy to members of these organisations and to the general public at local level, the following measures are proposed:

2.1 Raise Awareness with Public and Disability Community

The entitlements to housing and care for PWD need to be promoted in public information sessions, by social media campaign and by developing posters and easy-to-read leaflets for circulation.

Information will be given to statutory and voluntary agencies to make staff such as GPs, social workers, OTs familiar with all details of the entitlements and schemes available so that they can promote same to their clients – for example, promotion of housing adaptation grants provided by the Council to those living in private homes.

The public libraries and public service buildings will also be used for stands promoting the Strategy and housing services.

It was suggested that families who have a young person with intellectual disability or PWD under 18 years, could be given information about addressing the future housing needs of the young person with a view to submitting housing applications or grant forms so as to inform the Council of their future needs when they are 18 years +. The promotion of this could be through their key workers in disability service organisations. This would enable the Council to link back with the clients to give regular updates on the progress of housing options.

2.2 Raise Stakeholder Awareness

It is proposed to raise awareness of the Strategy within the stakeholder organisations, such as the Council, (Elected Members, Strategic Policy Committee and Disability Consultative Committee), and

¹ Central Statistics Office (CSO) 2016

with management in members' organisations including the HSE and Council. This will be achieved through informational emails and presentations at Committee/staff meetings.

It is also proposed to promote the inclusion of the strategic aims of the NHSPWD within the operations of the Council and its overall Development plan.

Chapter 3 Stakeholder Engagement and HDSG Functionality

The Sligo Housing and Disability Steering Group meets quarterly to bring together key staff in Sligo County Council, HSE, Approved Housing Bodies and disability organisations operating in Sligo County. All four grounds of disability are represented by the membership, and all organisations are tasked with regularly feeding back to their service users and colleagues in wider disability networks and to their own organisations. It is hoped that improvements in the mechanisms for feedback and input into the agenda will continue during the course of the next plan, by enhancing stakeholder engagement and through the proposed actions to raise awareness of the Strategic Plan and HDSG.

3.1 Roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder within the HDSG

Housing Authority – Sligo County Council

Local Authorities acting as Housing Authorities have a key role in the provision of social housing supports for all eligible people with a disability, including people currently living independently, with families or in other arrangements. In many cases the solution for the individual will also require the support of the Health Service Executive (HSE).

Health and Care Services - Health Service Executive (HSE)

In some cases the HSE is the direct service provider to an individual. In addition, the HSE is the current funding agency of support services by disability service providers. The HSE is also one of the main drivers of decongregation of residents from congregated settings into the community.

The HSE will draw up individual support plans and continue to provide funding for residents in their new housing environments. The HSE has the overall statutory responsibility for the management and delivery of healthcare and personal social services. In respect of disability services, the HSE's responsibility is fulfilled by the provision of services directly by the organisation and also, to a very significant extent by the funding of non-statutory organisations to provide such services on its behalf. The HSE aims to support each individual with a disability in living as normal a life as possible, in an environment that provides opportunities for choice, personal development, fulfilling relationships and protection from exploitation and abuse. With regard to individuals currently residing in a congregated setting, the HSE strongly supports their transition to more socially inclusive community integrated services and is fully committed to ensuring that people with disabilities will be

actively and effectively supported to live full inclusive lives at the heart of their family, community and society.

Disability Service Providers

This would include HSE (direct service provision) service providers and the non-statutory service providers. Responsibilities will include the development of an overall project plan to include person centred plans, provision of information with regard to housing options, supporting the individual with regard to application for assessment of housing needs, access to external advocates, support around tenancy arrangements, care support needs identified, assistance with the development of circle of supports etc. Service providers must also participate in the HDSG to identify any obstacles or challenges to transition into independent living etc.

Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Bodies is another housing provider under the initiatives set out in the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability, whether it is through Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS), leasing or purchase models.

Voices of Lived Experience of Disability

Article 4.3 of the UN CRPD focuses on the requirement to consult and actively involve disabled people in the implementation of strategic policy and planning that affects people with disabilities. This is crucial when the most common concerns for disabled people seeking the independent support of the National Advocacy Service (NAS) in 2018 and 2019 were issues related to housing and accommodation.²

There is need for the voices of persons with lived experience to be heard via the disability networks and on the HDSG. It could be possible to provide testimonials from service users and maybe serve as a way to promote take up of the Schemes and housing services where good practice can be illustrated.

For example, Oaklee Housing Association in Northern Ireland got testimonials for good practice and made videos and background text to detail the resolution of a housing issue. This served as visual story-telling and was influential in highlighting good practice in an accessible and interesting way.

This, it was suggested, should be an Action in the HD Strategic Plan.

² National Advocacy Service *Annual Report* 2019

Chapter 4 Local Action Plan

Action number	Action	Link to other relevant strategies	Responsible Partner
1	<p>Develop a Communications Strategy to promote the work of the HDSG, housing and support services for PWD and to raise awareness of the Sligo Strategic Plan 2021-25;</p> <p>Include: Websites, social media, service user testimony, information sessions and webinars, radio, print media, leaflets in public offices and libraries; Irish sign language videos and easy to read formats.</p>	<p>National Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disabilities</p> <p>DFI Submission to Sligo Disability Housing Steering Group</p> <p>IWA Submission to Sligo Housing Disability Steering Group</p> <p>Independent Living Movement Ireland – submission to Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government</p>	All
2	<p>Develop strong relationships and linkages between partners involved in Strategic Policy Committee for Housing and Corporate Services, Local Community Development Committee, Disability Consultative Committee, PPN and HDSG so that there is increased awareness of the role of each and to make these forums accessible for people with a disability and their advocates.</p>	<p>National Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disabilities</p> <p>DFI Submission to Sligo Disability Housing Steering Group</p> <p>Irish Wheelchair Assoc Submission to Sligo Housing Disability Steering Group</p>	All
3	<p>Ensure that the voices of Lived Experience of disability are heard in the work of the Steering Group by updating membership and using disability networks to ensure inclusion and access.</p>	<p>As called for in Article 3.4 of the UNCRPD</p>	All
4	<p>Review of the HD Strategy 2016-19 - Commission a series of video testimonials to promote and highlight good practice & collaborative work undertaken by partners in the HDSG – e.g. The benefits of the SCC housing adaptation grants, group homes for</p>		All

decongregation.

5	Review the Sligo Housing and Disability Strategic Plan 2021-25 and assess progress after 12 months and thereafter annually. Incorporate any additional actions as necessary.	National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities	All
6	Ensure that disability implementation targets are met for capital developments, acquisitions of social housing, leasing, HAP, Part V, allocation of stock vacancies, Housing First programme. Incorporate the use of Offer Zone so as to match need and property for new capital developments and put in place care and support plans for people with a disability in advance of the property being completed. Identify a point of contact or case co-ordinator in SCC to link with people with a disability on the housing list so as to ensure progress and good communication on applications. Review applications that are currently held and match with opportunities in the pipeline.	Sligo & Environs Development Plan	SCC SCC, HSE SCC
7	Provision of Disability Awareness Training and/or Accessible Design Training for staff working in the area of disability housing – SCC and AHB admin, technical and design staff, management. This training should be co-facilitated and designed by persons with lived experience of disability.	National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities	SCC AHB
8	An audit of Approved Housing Body properties is to be completed and logged to include funding source, type of property and any adaptations for people with a disability.		Sligo Co Co and AHBs
9	Encourage people on the housing list to apply to the HSE for the personal supports to meet their needs to live independently.		HSE and SCC Disability organisations
10	Incorporate the need for wheelchair accessible/universal design housing in all housing developments in Co. Sligo by seeking to have		HDSG

same incorporated into the new Development Plans for Sligo County.

Actions to be submitted for the National Strategic Plan:

1. A formal process for the HDSG to escalate issues to be dealt with nationally needs to be established by the national Housing Sub-Group.
2. The HSE National Ability Support Systems NASS database complete medical assessments of need and data are used to plan for the medical need in the health sector³. There is an evident gap here in that there is no request to discern a person / family's current or future housing needs and associated independent living supports. This should be highlighted to the Housing Sub-Group.
3. Sligo disability organisations have called for a review of the Housing Adaptation Grant upper limit of €30,000 which is out of touch with current building prices. Also they have called for a review of the household income criteria for housing grants which currently includes all persons residing in the home as opposed to the person to whom the grant applies and benefits and does not factor in the extra costs of living with a disability.
4. The LA HDSG supports Irish Wheelchair Association's national campaign for a review of Part M of the Building Regulations (2010) to provide for regulations for liveable wheelchair accessible housing. (Due to commence in Q. 2 2021). While Local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies are complying with building regulations, these are not suitable for wheelchair users. There is a difference between houses being "visitable" and "liveable". See Chapter 10, Irish Wheelchair Association Best Practice Access Guidelines Edition 4.
5. Seek to review the Housing Acquisition Cost Guidelines for Social Housing pertaining to County Sligo, recently issued by Department of Housing and which places an upper limit of €75,000 on one bedroom properties purchased in the private market for social housing use. This threshold is too low for purchases of this size of property, which is the most in demand by people with a disability on the Sligo housing list (see Section 5.4 pp 13).

Chapter 5 Current need for disability housing and sources of potential emerging need for housing for people with a disability

Local Authorities have recently been issued with a new social housing application form which includes questions for applicants on their need for wheelchair accessible housing, other mobility and disability needs. This information will assist Sligo County Council in the future planning for wheelchair and other disability housing. However, current data held by SCC on applicants' needs requires review and further probing so as to exactly plan for the most appropriate disability pipeline for the next 5 years and so that vacancies in stock can be appropriately re-let.

³ https://www.hrb.ie/fileadmin/2. Plugin_related_files/Publications/2020_publication-related_files/2020_HIE/NASS/NASS_2019_Supplementary_Physical_Sensory.pdf

In the 2016 Census, the levels of disability that were expressed by people themselves in County Sligo were: 14.6% for the general population and 14.2% of males and 14.9% of females⁴. This is higher than the national average of 13.5%.

5.1 Intellectual Disability

There were 28,388 people registered on the National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD)⁵ at the end of December 2017. Based on 2016 Census of Population figures, this represents a prevalence rate of 5.96 per 1,000 population. The prevalence rate for mild intellectual disability (which traditionally has been under-reported) was 1.92 per 1,000, and the rate for moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability was 3.49 per 1,000. In the comparison of the number of registrations by county of residence, Sligo (10.3/1,000) had the highest prevalence rate in the country while Leitrim (4.3/1,000) had the lowest.

The majority of adults with intellectual disability continue to live with their families with the aid of additional support services. As their caregivers age, a wide range of additional services such as respite are required for people who wish to continue to live as independently as possible.

5.2 Mental Health

In a 2020 national survey which asked people to disclose if they had ever been treated for a mental illness, 35% of adults answered in the affirmative. This was significantly higher than preceding years with 25% and 26% in 2019 and 2018 respectively. Those in Connaught/Ulster in 2020 were higher than the national average at 36%.⁶

More detailed and specific information was not available on the prevalence of mental health disability in Sligo at the time of compiling this Plan but it can be seen by the basis of need on the Housing List that mental health is one of the main grounds of disability mentioned by those applying for social housing (See Section 5.4).

5.3 Physical and Sensory Disability

In 2019, 20.7% of those registered on the National Ability Supports System (NASS) in CHO1 (Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal, Monaghan, West Cavan) as having a disability, stated they had a physical/sensory disability. This was a total of 568 people in this group and indicated that CHO1 had the highest rate of physical/sensory disability in the country.

⁴ [www.cso.ie](https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cp9hdc/p8hdc/p9d) 2016 Census of Ireland at <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cp9hdc/p8hdc/p9d>

⁵ Annual Report of the National Intellectual Disability Database Committee 2017 at www.hrb.ie

⁶ St.Patrick's.ie Survey of Mental Health Services at www.stpatrick's.ie/media/2941/aatitute-to-mental-health-survey-findings-2020-st-patricks-mental-health-services.pdf.

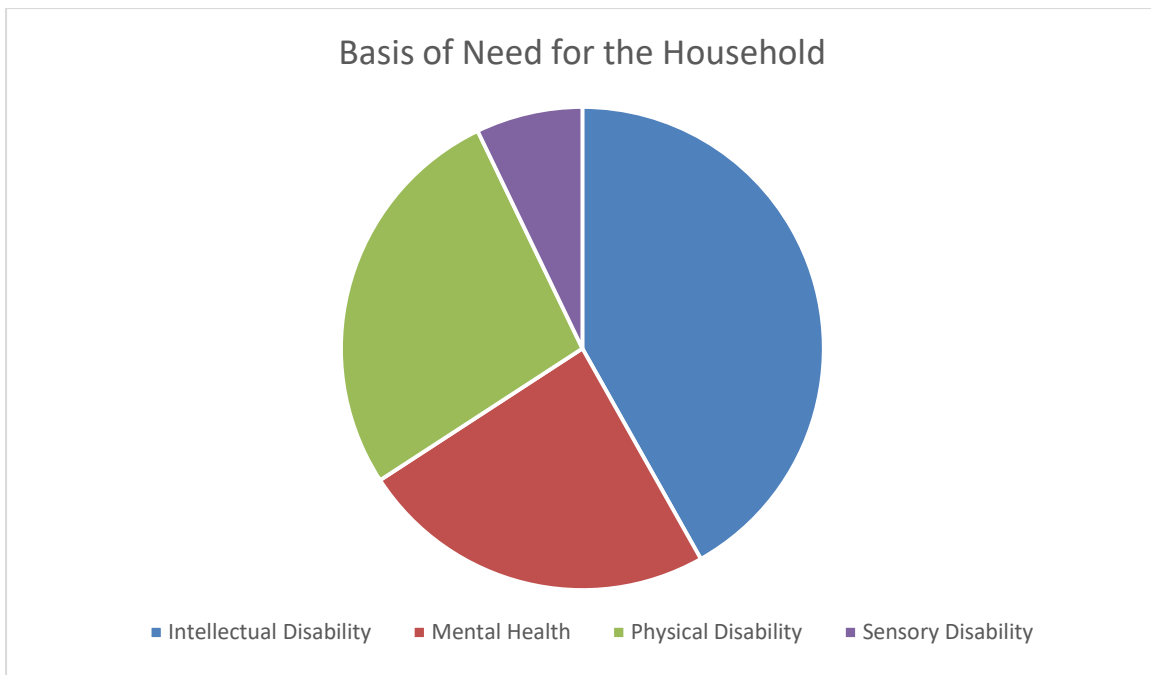
5.4 Sligo County Council Housing Need

The below tables indicate the numbers of households on the current housing waiting list in Sligo County as at May 2021. The Local Authorities can only deal with Housing Applicants and households already identified to them through the Social Housing Support Application Process. However, it is accepted that there will always be an emerging need in this area.

Households on SCC Housing List arranged by Basis of Need as Disability and Location

Location	Intellectual Disability	Mental Health	Physical Disability	Sensory Disability	Total
Sligo Town	64	29	40	9	142
Sligo County	18	18	13	5	54
Total	82	47	53	14	196

Figures from full SCC housing list, including transfers.

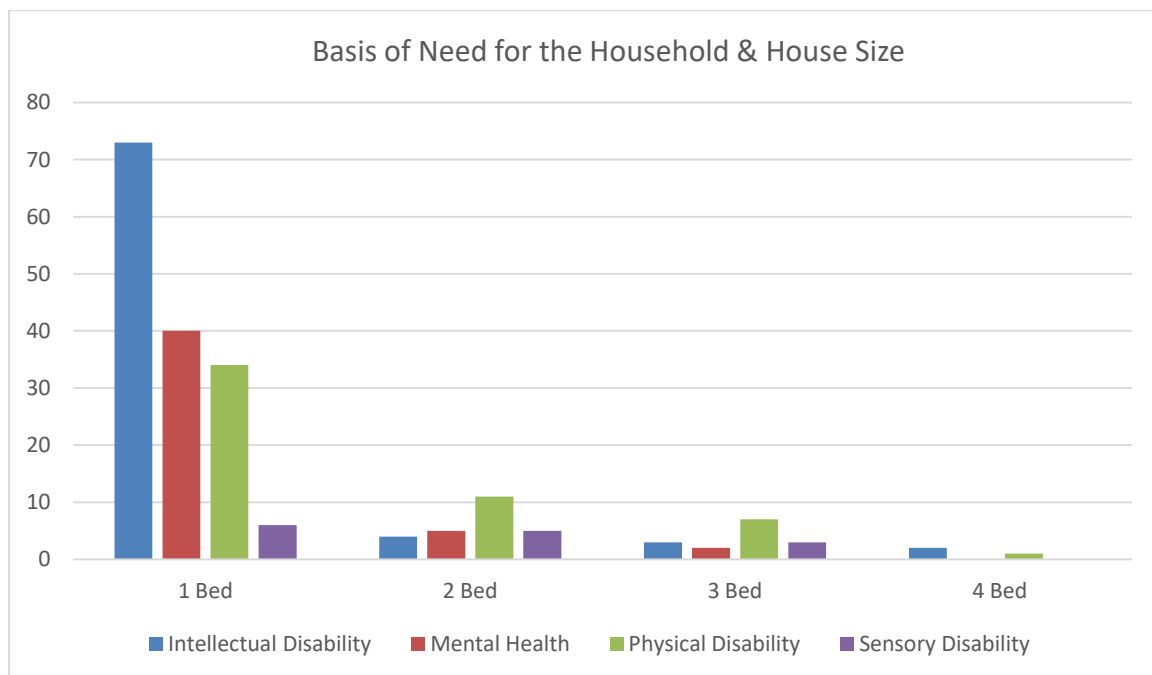


This table and chart shows that intellectual disability represents the type of disability which 41% of disability applicants are citing as their basis of need on the Council's housing list as at May 2021. Most disability applicants indicate Sligo Town as their primary area of choice (72.5%).

Households on SCC Housing List arranged by Basis of Need as Disability and Household Size

Household Size	Intellectual Disability	Mental Health	Physical Disability	Sensory Disability	Total
1 bed	73	40	34	6	153
2 bed	4	5	11	5	25
3 bed	3	2	7	3	15
4 bed	2	-	1	-	3
5 bed	-	-	-	-	-
6 bed	-	-	-	-	-
Total	82	47	53	14	196

Figures from full SCC housing list, including transfers.



This table and chart show that there is an overwhelming need for 1 bedroom disability properties as expressed by 78% of the households whose basis of need is disability. More analysis of the specifics of this data is needed to inform the capital and purchase pipeline for SCC properties and Approved Housing Body properties in the life time of this Plan.

5.5 Register of Properties in Sligo County Council Ownership by Area

Area	SCC Stock held at 30/4/21
Sligo-Strandhill	729
Sligo-Drumcliff	250
Ballymote-Tubbercurry	1286
Total	2265

The above properties include houses, apartments, halting sites bays and demountable dwellings.

SCC properties sorted by type of property April 2021

Property type	Number of properties	Number of bedrooms					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Bungalow with special adaptations	27	2	10	11	4	-	-
Properties with adaptations suitable for ambulant disabled /elderly persons	746	198	363	133	42	8	2
Properties without adaptations suitable for those without physical or sensory disabilities	1467	42	197	1022	188	17	1
Halting site bays	25	18	2	5	-	-	-
Total	2265						

A register of Approved Housing Body properties with adaptations is currently being prepared and will be utilised to meet the needs of people with a disability who are listed on the Council's housing list.

5.6 Housing Transfer Lists

Sligo County Council has an existing housing stock of 2265 properties at 30/4/21. Each year a number of tenants, through new disability or injury, require alternative accommodation due to the inadequate nature of their existing living accommodation. This can be addressed through a transfer arrangement if appropriate accommodation is available. The decision to transfer may be made as a less costly alternative to adaptation works or where necessary adaptation works are not feasible due to the nature of the property.

5.7 Homeless Persons

A number of individuals that are engaged with Homeless Services have a disability. This is particularly the case with persons who have a mental health condition.

The Housing First Programme is operating in the North West including Co. Sligo and involves the provision of one bedroom social housing for single people who have been long term homeless and who have one or more need for intensive supports, for example, mental health, physical disability, addiction or learning disability. Housing and specialist support is provided by Sligo Social Services, who have the contract to deliver the Housing First Programme, in partnership with the local authorities and the HSE. Currently there are 6 Housing First tenancies in County Sligo and there is a target to permanently house a total of 24 people under this programme by early 2023. The housing units are being provided by SCC and AHBs from existing stock, new acquisitions and new builds.

This programme is operated adhering to Housing First principles of client-centred, voluntary engagement and with the pace and type of support driven by the client's readiness for participation. These principles chime perfectly with the ethos of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention for Rights for Persons with Disability.



Harbour View, Sligo Town – SCC development for general needs, disability and Housing First tenants

5.8 Congregated Settings

People with a disability living in congregated settings, decongregation refers to the strategic move away from housing people with intellectual disabilities in residential institutions, where all services were generally provided on site, to supported community-based settings. Large residential institutions, while maximising the pooling of support services, segregate residents from the community and from normal social life. Research has demonstrated that such institutions are not able to deliver the same quality of life for their residents compared to community based alternatives. It is no longer acceptable that individuals with an intellectual disability are accommodated or receive services within congregated settings. These facilities do not support the rights based agenda that we strive to uphold as their advocates. The Report of the Working Group on Congregated Settings: “A Time to Move on from Congregated Settings” calls for these clients to be supported to live with maximum independence and choice, as per the UNCRPD Article 19. There is a need to adopt a different pathway to housing people with a disability that respects their needs and rights. The HSE Learning Disability and Autism Service commenced this process in 2014 with a policy that there have been no new admissions to congregated settings instead, clients are linked to community services. The de-congregation of Cloonamahon and Cregg House was the main aim of the Learning Disability and Autism Service of the HSE in the previous Sligo Housing & Disability Strategic Plan 2016-19. In this time, there has been much progress, as indicated in the following table.

The individuals still residing in congregated settings tend to be people with ageing/mobility/medical or challenging needs. There is a need for purpose built bungalow style accommodation which also has capacity for sleep-over staff.

HSE Congregated setting	No. of residents moved to community based housing from 2016-May 2021	No. of residents remaining in congregated setting and in need of community based housing.
Cregg House	64	14
Cloonamahon	12	34
Others	-	-

HSE Congregated setting	Date	No of individuals	Housing Solution
HSE Cloonamahon/Cregg House	2021-2022	25	7 no 4 bedroom houses in the community – are being made ready
HSE Cloonamahon	2022-23	12	3 no 4 bedroom houses in the community are to be purchased
HSE Cloonamahon	2023-24	13	4 No 4 bedroom bungalows in the community are to be purpose built in partnership with LA.

Covid 19 restrictions severely hampered the efforts to decongregate during 2020-21. The house sizes may vary depending upon availability.



Owenmore Drive, Collooney HSE Group Home – purpose built by Sligo County Council in 2020 and situated in a social housing estate for four former residents of a congregated setting.

5.9 Emerging and Future Disability Need

The Local Authorities can only deal with Housing Applicants and households already identified to them through the Social Housing Support Application Process. However, it is accepted that there will always be an emerging need in this area.

The Housing Agency state, in *Housing Assessment and Allocations Process for People with a Disability (November 2018)*,⁷ “Local authorities are requested to ensure that their Allocation Schemes allow for the allocation of accommodation to an individual where a housing need arises irrespective of the fact that their current place of residence, whether private or social, may have been adapted for the individual previously.

The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability allows for discretion, on a case by case basis by the local authority, that a person who is currently adequately accommodated could be assessed as having a housing need arising in the future.”

This attaches importance to the changing needs of those persons availing of Housing Adaptation grants from the Local Authority for disability or elderly needs. Adult dependents living at home with ageing parents should be encouraged to apply for social housing supports in a timely manner to prevent crisis situations arising. Nationally, 77% of people with physical and sensory disabilities live with family members, although it is not clear whether this is by choice or due to lack of other options⁸.

As part of a new campaign, the Irish Wheelchair Association is encouraging people with disabilities to apply to their local authority to secure their future housing needs. In the Think Ahead, Think Housing national campaign, members of the IWA will be supported to make social housing applications so as to ensure the Council is aware of the extent and nature of future disability housing needs.

The IWA has also recommended the adoption of IWA Best Practice Guidelines (4th edition)⁹ which can be reviewed at <https://www.IrishWheelchairAssociation.ie/access-guidelines/best-practice-access-guidelines-4/> . IWA Access Guidelines set the standard for accessibility in Ireland across construction, housing, public amenities, retail, tourism, hospitality and sport. IWA is urging those involved in planning, building and design to adopt them so that all people with disabilities can live the life they choose.

5.10 Owner Occupied Housing

Requirements for adaption or alternative accommodation due to disability arise in owner occupied properties. From a housing authority perspective, this can be gauged by the number of applications made annually for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and for People with a Disability. The table below outlines the number of applications made annually under these schemes for the last two years from which it can be predicted how many future applications will be made.

⁷ Housing Agency: *Housing Assessment and Allocations Process for People with a Disability (November 2018)*,⁷

⁸ NASS 2019 https://www.hrb.ie/fileadmin/2_Plugin_related_files/Publications/2020_publication-related_files/2020_HIE/NASS/NASS_2019_Supplementary_Physical_Sensory.pdf

⁹ IWA Best Practice Guidelines (4th edition) <https://www.IrishWheelchairAssociation.ie/access-guidelines/best-practice-access-guidelines-4/> .

Housing Adaptation Grants completed	2019	2020	Estimated number for 2021 and 2022
Combined grant schemes for People with a disability & Older People	549	427	500 each year

These grant schemes provide home owners with up to €30,000 in order to contribute up to 95% towards the cost of upgrades to their properties so that they may remain in this accommodation for longer, in comfort and in safety. The type of works in the three current grant schemes includes:

1. **Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability** – for substantial changes to the home of a person with a sensory, physical or intellectual disability such as ramps, grab rails, accessible showers, stair lifts, extensions for a bedroom/bathroom;
2. **Mobility Aids Grant** – for smaller changes to the homes of older or people with a disability who have mobility issues such as ramps, grab rails, stair lift, and accessible shower.
3. **Housing Aid for Older People** – for essential repairs to the home of an older person in order to continue their independent living. This can include roofing, electrical works, door and window replacement, central heating.

Chapter 6 Housing Delivery Pipeline and Housing for PWD Delivery

6.1 Sligo County Council Housing Construction Projects



Knappagh Beg Court, Sligo Town – SCC project of 28 properties completed.

Sligo County Council is obliged to have regard to the requirements of the Department of Housing when advancing certain projects. The Projects are advanced through a four stage Social Housing Approval Process. Each stage requires approval from the Department.

These are as follows:

- **Stage 1:** Project Feasibility & Capital Appraisal.
- **Stage 2:** Project Design, Costs Planning approval, followed by a Part 8 Planning submission to the Members of the Council.
- **Stage 3:** Project Detail Design Development and Cost Plan for Pre-Tender.
- **Stage 4:** Project & Tender Review of Costs & Tender Submission.

The Stage 4 approval allows the project to proceed to construction and for the Council to appoint a contractor.

The following Construction Schemes have commenced with delivery dates in late 2021- a total of 21 units.

- Connolly Park, Tubbercurry-Phase 1 10 units
- St Farnans, Dromore West 10 units
- Rural at Croagh, Dromore West 1 unit

The following Construction Schemes are currently being advanced through the four stage Social Housing Approval Process referred to above- a total of 117 units.

- Gormley Park Bunninadden-6 units-estimated delivery date 2022 (Stage 3 submitted to the Department in April 2021).
- Connolly Park Tubbercurry-Phase 2- 15 units-estimated delivery date 2023 (Stage 3 to be submitted to the Department in July 2021).
- Coolaney-4 units-estimated delivery date 2023 (Stage 3 submitted to the Department in April 2021).
- Maugheraboy, Sligo -62 units-estimated delivery date 2024(Stage 2 to be submitted to the Department in May 2021).
- Cranmore, Sligo- 30 units-estimated delivery date 2024 (Stage 1 approval has been received)
- Glenview Group Housing Scheme, Sligo – 3 units.

The following Construction Schemes are at pre-planning stage with delivery dates anticipated in 2024/2025 -167 units

- Rathellen, Finisklin 60 units
- Strandhill 42 units
- Carney, Grange and Sligo Town 65 units

Summary

305 units are planned for delivery in the next 5 years. This will vary depending on Department of Housing's new Rebuilding Programme which is to be published later in 2021.

6.2 Acquisitions

The Council will continue to acquire houses on the private market. The number to be acquired each year will be advised to the Council by the Department. There is, however, likely to be an emphasis by the Government in generating additional supply through new build activity rather than acquisitions over the next 5 years. Notwithstanding this, it is anticipated that a small number of strategic acquisitions will be approved by the Department each year. It is proposed to include disability properties in this number.

6.3 Part V Acquisitions

The Council can acquire up to 10% of units in a private housing development. There are two Schemes currently under construction in Sligo town with a potential delivery of 11 units over the next 3 years.

6.4 Leasing

The Council will also seek to lease a number of units over the period of the Plan. The number to be leased each year will be advised to the Council by the Department. Leasing will however depend on the market which in Sligo has not delivered to number of units expected by the Council. This has however potential to deliver up to 50 units over the life time of the Plan.

6.5 Turnkey Developments

The Council is exploring ways for turnkey delivery as a mechanism for additional delivery under the build programme. It has advertised for expressions of interest in Sligo Town and also in 10 named settlements throughout the County. These could lead to the purchase of units for social housing accommodation by way of turnkey developments. The requirement is for high quality accommodation at a good location, capable of early delivery and which offers good value for money. This has the potential to deliver up to 100 units over the period of this Plan.

6.6 Local Authority Housing Policy

- a) The Council's allocation scheme in accordance with the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (2009) and Social Housing Allocation Regulations (2011) will apply to allocations and transfers to people with disabilities under this strategy.
- b) All houses acquired will be assessed for suitability with a view to 15% being utilized for people with a disability.
- c) Council policy provides for a minimum of 15% of all units in developments of ten units or more constructed by the Local Authority are designed specifically for people with a

disability. In developments of less than ten units, consideration will be given to providing one unit in each. The potential delivery under construction is 46 units for the term of the Plan.

- d) Where a vacancy arises in an adapted or disability designed dwelling, the priority for a subsequent allocation will be given to an applicant with a disability on the current housing list.
- e) There may be opportunities to provide accommodation for people with disabilities where the Council are in negotiation with developers to secure units under Part V agreements, these should be pursued.
- f) Each design or procurement brief for new housing by the Council will include a section on Accessibility and Universal Design that sets out what the project will deliver i.e. number of adaptable and fully wheelchair accessible units. The future needs of the tenant shall be assessed and considered in the design of their proposed units in consultation with the tenant, their occupational therapist and their advocate.
- g) In line with the Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) Regulations 2015, houses provided for people with disabilities making the transition from congregated settings to community-based living under the National Deinstitutionalisation Programme will be excluded from tenant purchase / incremental purchase schemes.
- h) All options including the transfer of a person with a disability to a more suitable property will be considered in consultation with the tenant before committing to adapting their existing property to address their housing need.
- i) Disability Awareness Training will be provided for front of house Council staff.
- j) Accessible Design training will be provided for Council design and procurement staff.

6.7 Approved Housing Bodies



Cuan Iosa development by St Vincent De Paul in Ballymote, Co.Sligo, July 2020

6.7.1 AHB Housing Construction

Approved Housing Bodies also have a role in Housing delivery. These Bodies are also subject to the requirements of the Department of Housing when advancing certain projects, as referred to above. This is built upon annually through the traditional 'Call for Proposals' from the Department to provide new or renovated units for people with disabilities. Allocation of these units is subject to nominations from the Council.

- The following Construction Scheme has commenced with delivery dates in late 2021- a total of 5 units.

Killeshin	5 units
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- The following Construction Schemes are at pre planning/discussion stage with delivery dates anticipated in 2024/2025-a total of 59 units

Tubbercurry	8 units
Sligo	51 units

6.7.2 Acquisitions

Approved Housing Bodies will continue to acquire houses on the private market. It is anticipated that a small number of strategic acquisitions will be acquired each year.

6.7.3 Sligo County Council's Approved Housing Bodies Policy

- a) A minimum of 15% of all units in developments of ten units or more constructed by the AHB are to be designed specifically for people with a disability. In developments of less

than ten units, consideration will be given to providing one unit in each. The specific need to be determined by the County Council.

- b) Where a vacancy arises in a Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) funded project for people with a disability, the subsequent allocation will be taken from the current housing list for someone with a disability.
- c) Approved Housing Bodies will continue to develop Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) proposals in conjunction with Sligo County Council which will have identified the need.
- d) The principal of Universal Design and accessibility will be incorporated in all new builds; such accommodation will also be designated as units that will always be retained in the stock of the AHB for future use for applicants with specific needs.
- e) All options including transfers to a more suitable property will be considered in consultation with the tenant before committing to adapting their existing property to address their disability.

Chapter 7 Social and Care Supports

7.1 Housing Support Initiatives

As identified in the National Disability Inclusion Strategy and Articles 19 and 26 of the UNCRPD, people with disabilities should have access to a range of in-home support services including personal assistants and assistive technology. This is imperative if people with disabilities are to be afforded the right to live independently.

The HDSG aims to provide appropriate and accessible to people with disabilities in the community which are as close as possible to their services and their circles of support.

The Health Services Executive (HSE) is committed to supporting disabled people in their own home. In the HSE National Service Plan (2021)¹⁰ it is stated: “capacity building in the community is key to realising the vision of Slaintecare... timely access to primary care...and delivering services at home and in the community...., it will deliver what clients and service users want and need”. The HSE support people in their own home by direct provision or through non HSE agencies in the area of disability. Individuals must apply to the HSE for consideration for such supports. The supports for people in their homes are Personal Assistants and Home Support. Other services such as Day Care, Respite Services and full or part time Residential Services are also provided but must also be applied for and applicants will be assessed for suitability for the applied service.

¹⁰ HSE National Service Plan 2021 <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/serviceplans/national-service-plan-2021.pdf>

7.2 Personal Assistance

It is envisaged as far as possible that full inclusion and self-determination for people with disabilities is realised through access to the individual personal social supports and services needed to live a fully included life in the community.

Personal Assistance Services provide people with the opportunity to exercise control and choice in their lives. In so doing it enables disabled people to be active participants within their families, communities and society. Personal assistance supports the disabled person by the provision of direct individual one to one support and range from social/companionship supports to specialised high supports and care. The provision of publically funded personal assistance is based on needs assessment and approval for funding the HSE.

The HSE Learning Disability and Autism Service currently provide individual packages of care to 28 people to access community services and live independently with support. This allows them to access day/educational/recreational/sporting opportunities.

There is a Transition Pathway Plan in place to support people accessing either new services/experiences particularly when there is a move of accommodation. This is based on a person centred care plan and ensures that supports are in place to aid a successful transition.

7.3 Home Support

The Home Support scheme is direct support scheme, operated by the HSE. It aims to help people who need medium to high caring support to continue to live at home independently.

The provision of home support is based on a care needs assessment and approval for funding by the HSE. Services may be provided by the HSE directly, or by non-HSE providers. Applications for home support can be made through the persons supporting disability organisation, public health nursing service or directly to the local HSE.

The HSE Learning Disability and Autism Service currently provide Home Support via Grants to 54 children and 30 adults and their families. These allow families and service users to buy in assistance to support them living in community settings. This will be extended to anyone who is assessed by the HSE Learning Disability and Autism Service referral team as requiring these supports.

The HSE Physical & Sensory Disability Service, in meeting the holistic needs of a person with a Physical and or Sensory Disability, carries out a home support assessment as part of the overall assessment process. This is to identify areas of un-met need or where support may be required. Community Services/Departments work in tandem to meet the overall needs of the person with a disability and if required a Public Health Nurse and Occupational Therapy Assessment may be required to determine the needs of the service user and required supports going forward.

Mental Health Services provide clients with support for day to day living – shopping, cooking, laundry and attending social events.

7.4 Day Services

Day Services provide a range of social and rehabilitative services for disabled people by offering an opportunity to have a meaningful day, develop personal, work and independent living skills and offering occasions to interact with the local community. Day Services are usually operated by voluntary agencies and include purpose-built centres or outreach facilities that provide day activation, such as recreational, sport and leisure facilities, supported work placements and specialized clinic facilities that provide a combination of medical and rehabilitation services.

The provision of day services are based on an individual needs assessment and approval for funding by the HSE. Applications for day services can be made through the person's supporting disability organisation or directly to the local HSE.

7.5 Respite Service

Respite services offers support to disabled people by providing temporary supported accommodation. This supported accommodation offers support to families and to the disabled person. Such support helps to maintain the independence for a person with a disability by encouraging interaction with their peers and offering a transition to independent living.

The provision of respite services is based on a needs assessment and approval for funding by the HSE. Applications for respite services can be made through the persons supporting disability organisation or directly to the local HSE.

The HSE Learning Disability and Autism Service in the past operated 6 centre based respite facilities, 3 for children and 3 for adults. While the children's services remain, The HSE Learning Disability and Autism Service are moving to a new model of Home to Home scheme respite. This ensures that if needed, people receive a break within the family structure rather than within a care facility. In the case of emergency respite or where a medical model is needed, this is still provided through Solas in Sligo.

Mental Health Services provide Respite Beds within the existing Supervised Residential Units and Group Homes.

7.6 Residential Services

The HSE Learning Disability and Autism Service is in the process of de-congregation of the Centres in Cregg House and at Cloonamahon, Sligo. It is planned that these centres will close and all persons living there will be more appropriately housed in communities either with their families or in locations they choose. It is normal practice that, during the transition from Congregated Setting Care to Independent/Supported Care, HSE nurses and care staff who have worked with such persons in the Congregated Setting will re-locate with the persons concerned. This provides a continuity of care. This practice will continue in the future. A plan for the relocation of service users is in place and is reviewed on a year to year basis.

Mental Health Services have closed an 18 bed Supervised Residential Unit in Co. Sligo and with the provision of care moving to community based Community Mental Health Teams, clients will increasingly be looked after within their own homes.

The HSE intends to extend our relationship with Sligo County Council and the AHB sector to source future appropriate housing for people with a disability who are exiting residential services. The new initiative to provide tenancy support services funded by the HSE and delivered by HAIL is now operating for mental health service users with housing issues who are at risk of homelessness.

7.7 Assistive Technology

The Assistive Technology Unit based in Sligo will work with people with disabilities, their family, carers and professionals to ensure they get full benefit from their computerised technology aids. The Unit provides training on the use of computer or related devices. The training may be made available to the client, their carers and health professionals. The Unit will provide ongoing support to client users of computerised technology and their health professionals. It will act as a helpdesk service for these clients in resolving problems/questions.



7.8 The Need for Synergy between Care and Housing Services

Taking into account all four grounds of disability and considering the target groups and communities that are represented by all stakeholders, it was noted that there are often deficiencies in the delivery and availability of care services. Personal Assistance (PA) services are core to housing being offered and acceptance of the offer of housing may be contingent upon the care package being agreed. PA services can mean the service user can transition to semi- or fully independent living in their new home.

The right care package and the right home can bring meaningful purpose to their day. This is the desired result from a partnership approach which has been planned, discussed and agreed in advance and continued care will hopefully help to sustain the tenancy. It was noted that there is often need for a long term “maintenance piece” from care givers to sustain tenancies.

There are many contributors to a care package and it is best tailored for the service user and with their involvement in putting the support or care plan together. It can include tenancy support, care workers, nurse, OT, medical professionals and the role of each need to be clearly laid out and agreed in advance of the tenancy starting so as to ensure success.

Some issues were identified – supports are withdrawn early, supports do not materialise maybe due to miscommunication or resource issues; service users refuse supports; supports are not available. Sometimes tenancies cannot start due to a combination or one of these issues. When this happens, this fails the service user and their family since they remain in inadequate housing and have not achieved their full potential to live more independently.

The timing of housing being identified and support plan being developed, funded and agreed remains the most difficult part of this process. It was stated by members that the discussion about matching housing with possible applicants needs to begin at an early stage so that all of the pieces can be aligned. Having all appropriate partners around the table, establishing buy in to the process and considering the potential tenants for housing or solutions to adapt properties to suit applicants takes a long time and needs to be commenced early. There is commitment by partners in the HDSG to improve on this.

Having an identified officer in the Council to be case co-ordinator for each PWD who needs improved housing, would help improve communication. There have been delays caused when applications are not progressed, have been closed or not matched with suitable properties due to miscommunication or missing items of information or medical evidence. [Note: The larger LAs have specific staff for this role but as a smaller LA, Sligo would have to designate someone of the existing staff to track cases]. A Key worker to deal with housing adaptation grants would also be useful to align the care and accommodation needs. It would be best if these personnel had a background in social care/social work so as to understand the nuances of disability needs.

It was thought that the HDSG was the best table around which to discuss the matching of PWD and accommodation. It is the best forum to join the dots between application/needs, accommodation and care.

It was agreed that there are deficits in the funding of care services /PA and that clear communication between agencies, NGOs etc on the needs of service users is important to quantify the care that is needed or maybe to lobby for additional resources.

7.9 Good practice models and approaches from the previous Strategic Plan or other areas:

- **Housing First Programme** – where homeless service users are allocated properties as well as being offered a tailored support plan which they can design. This ensures a high level of success in sustaining tenancies, improved personal well-being and integration into the community.
- **Survey and research data** is important to depict the exact position for people with disabilities. DFI is currently surveying their members in other regions on housing, entitlements and awareness of same and this could also be done in Sligo.
- **Northern Ireland** – in comparison to the Republic of Ireland, there is a closer connection between care and housing for people with a disability. A specific person is designated in NI Housing Executive to deal with cases of disability housing – the Complex Needs Officer.

Oaklee Housing Association feeds into a register of specialist accommodation in NI and there is a match made between service user and property.

- **HSE and SCC partnership** in design and building the Group home in Collooney and to resettle four residents of Cloonamahon in the integrated community setting of the new social housing estate. This can be seen as an example of inter-agency collaboration looking at the needs and mechanisms by which to address decongregation.



HSE Group Home, Owenmore Drive, Collooney, Co. Sligo.

- **During the period of the last Strategic Plan, HSE and SCC** resettled two service users in Sligo Town who had been in a physical and sensory disability residential setting and chose to live together in a shared HAP tenancy. They share a support worker, have independence and companionship in an affordable property and have both sustained their tenancy.
- **Sophia Housing Association, Tubbercurry** – the resettlement of service users of mental health services was arranged in independent apartments and it is noted that supports have tapered off over the years as the service users have settled in, adapted and sustained their tenancies. The support was available to them as a safety net until they were further into recovery and can be reactivated if they relapse.
- **Oaklee Housing Association** – Have adopted a “do with” rather than “do for” approach to ensure recognition of recovery and settlement rather than the sustained need for intensive support services across time. This is now written into the tenancy agreements so that tenants can aim towards not requiring supported accommodation forever and this specialised accommodation can be retained for those who really need it. The realistic expectation that accommodation will be transitional and depends upon recovery or the development of independent living skills could be resisted by some tenants but since it is written in the Tenancy Agreement from the outset, it is clearly laid out to them. It was suggested that this would be beneficial for the tenants of existing Sligo supported accommodation and it would have to be accompanied by an agreed priority transfer route

to SCC accommodation if someone feels ready to move on from supported housing, thus freeing up a property for another person in need.

Chapter 8 Challenges, risks and opportunities

8.1 Challenges

- The supply of suitable housing is a common challenge that is faced by all individuals, young and old, trying to source appropriate accommodation whether it is through social housing support, the private rental market or private home ownership. However, for some people with a disability where their income is limited or there is a requirement to have the property adapted, the challenge is even bigger.
- It must also be noted that in a number of cases even if the most appropriate property was identified they would not be able to avail of the opportunity due to the lack of support to live independently. This is the role that personal assistance and other social care supports can play by ensuring there is collaboration in the provision of appropriate supports when people are in the offer zone and in a position to accept an offer of suitable adapted accommodation from SCC or an approved housing body.
- The challenge of relocating a large number of people with an intellectual disability from Cregg House and Cloonamahon was a feature of the previous HDSG Strategic Plan. However, this task is almost complete, with only 48 residents to be resettled in the coming years. However, there are still challenges in locating or acquiring appropriate properties since most of the remaining residents require 5 or 6 bedroom bungalows within reach of local services. It is proposed that the HSE will continue its successful partnership with SCC and approved housing bodies to achieve these targets.

8.2 Challenges to be referred to Housing Sub Group, Department of Housing and Housing Agency

1. A formal process for the HDSG to escalate issues to be dealt with nationally needs to be established by the national Housing Sub-Group.
2. The HSE National Ability Support Systems NASS database complete medical assessments of need and data is used to plan for the medical need in the health sector¹¹. There is an evident gap here in that there is no request to discern a person / family's current or future housing needs and associated independent living supports. This should be highlighted to the Housing Sub-Group.

¹¹ https://www.hrb.ie/fileadmin/2. Plugin_related_files/Publications/2020_publication-related_files/2020_HIE/NASS/NASS_2019_Supplementary_Physical_Sensory.pdf

3. Sligo disability organisations have called for a review of the Housing Adaptation Grant upper limit of €30,000 which is not in line with current building prices. Also they have called for a review of the household income criteria for housing grants which currently includes all persons residing in the home as opposed to the person to whom the grant applies and benefits and does not factor in the extra costs of living with a disability.
4. The LA HDSG supports Irish Wheelchair Association’s national campaign for a review of Part M of the Building Regulations (2010) to provide for regulations for liveable wheelchair accessible housing. (Due to commence in Q. 2 2021). While Local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies are complying with building regulations, these are not suitable for wheelchair users. There is a difference between houses being “visitable” and “liveable”. See Chapter 10, Irish Wheelchair Association Best Practice Access Guidelines Edition 4.
5. Review of the Housing Acquisition Cost Guidelines for Social Housing pertaining to County Sligo, recently issued by Department of Housing and which places an upper limit of €75,000 on one bedroom properties purchased in the private market for social housing use. This threshold is too low for purchases of this size of property, which is the most in demand by people with a disability on the Sligo housing list (see Section 5.4 pages 12-13).

8.3 Solutions and Innovative Practice

- The Sligo HDSG is committed to achieving the targets set in this Plan by collaboration and co-ordination. Members have identified ways to communicate with the public and to encourage engagement of the local disability organisations and their networks so as to ensure that awareness is raised about the services, facilities and entitlements of people with a disability in this county.
- The Voices of Lived Experience will be heard in the Sligo HDSG.
- The Group will encourage the use of Offer Zone so as to match need and property for new capital developments and put in place care and support plans for people with a disability in advance of the property being completed.
- The County Council will identify a point of contact or case co-ordinator to link with people with a disability on the housing list so as to ensure progress and good communication on applications. They will review applications that are currently held and match with opportunities in the pipeline.

Chapter 9 Targets and Deliverables under the Strategy

9.1 Housing Targets Over the 5 Year Term of the Plan

(See Chapter 6 for more details)

Method of Delivery	Total Number of Units	Number of Disability Units	Percentage Disability Units of the Total Number	Comment
SCC Capital Construction	305	46	15%	
Acquisitions	5	1	-	Small number of strategic purchases
Part V Acquisitions	11 in next 3 years	2	15%	
Leasing	50	7	15%	Disability units in private sector are difficult to source
Turnkey	100	15	15%	
Council Vacancies in Existing Stock	300	45	15%	Depends upon the type of property becoming vacant
HAP	1600	240	Unable to set a target	Disability units in private sector are difficult to source
Adaptation Grant Schemes	350	All are elderly or disability	n/a	Home owners
AHB CAS Acquisitions	64	10	15%	
AHB Acquisitions	5	1	15%	Small number of strategic purchases
AHB Vacancies in Stock	x	x	15%	Depends upon the type of property becoming vacant

To ensure that the universal design and wheelchair accessible principle is considered in all new build Council housing.

To draw up local protocols to ensure collaboration between all relevant agencies when a person with disability is allocated /nominated to a Social Housing unit.

The HSE to put in place a package of funding and supports that will ensure that personal supports are available for people with a disability transitioning from congregated settings to independent living for the life time of the tenancy.

HSE to commit to “ring fenced” funding for personal supports (as required) when people with a disability are allocated housing by the Council /AHB.

Existing and new national protocols will be built upon and strengthened at local level through engagement with the HSE and other bodies to ensure a person with disabilities can live independently with appropriate supports.

Develop a Communications Strategy for the HDSG.

Chapter 10 Reporting Targets and Deliverables

Reporting Template of Targets Achieved to be issued to Members in advance of all HDSG meetings;

Reporting to the Housing Sub-Group via Housing Agency annually on Targets Achieved;

Minutes and Agenda of HDSG meetings to be issued to Members one week before the meetings;

Annual Report of the HDSG to issue to the local media and via social media;

Appendices

1. Membership List of the Sligo Housing and Disability Steering Group

Title	Name	Organisation
Local Authority Representatives		
Chair	John Moran	SCC Director of Service
Other LA staff	Joe Murphy	SCC Senior Executive Officer
Other LA staff	Caroline McManus	SCC A/Administrative Officer
Other LA staff	Pamela Andison	SCC Administrative Officer
HSE representatives		
Mental Health	Tom Connell	A/DON Sligo Mental Health Services
Mental Health		
Physical, Sensory & Learning Disabilities	Christina Corrigan	HSE Service Manager
	Joanna Mc Morrow	HSE Service Manager
Generic HSE	Martin Beirne	HSE CHO Estate Manager
Disability sector representatives		
Physical & Sensory	Jillian Marelich	Irish Wheelchair Association
Physical & Sensory	Edel Killarney	Disability Federation of Ireland
Intellectual	Martina Cawley	Family Carers Ireland
Mental Health	vacancy	
Lived Experience Rep	-	To be confirmed
Approved housing Body representatives		
AHB	Carol McLoughlin	Sophia Housing Association
AHB	Grainne Donnelly	Oaklee
AHB	Deirdre Chapman	Cheshire Ireland

2. Achievements of the Sligo Housing and Disability Strategic Plan 2016-19 (as extended to mid 2021)

Number of New Tenancies to People with Disabilities in County Sligo over the last Strategic Plan

Year	Physical	Medical	Sensory	Mental Health	Intellectual Disability	Total Disability Allocations	Notes
2016							
Council	29		1	6	7	43	HAP not in existence
HAP							
AHB							
2017							
Council	11		1	11	9	32	
HAP	10		2	12	5	29	
AHB							
2018							
Council	3	6	2	4	2	17	
HAP	4		2	6	1	13	
AHB						9	
2019							
Council	8		3	10	8	29	
HAP	0		3	2	0	5	
AHB	0		0	3	2	5	
2020							
Council	10		1	15	5	31	
HAP	1		1	5	1	8	
AHB							
Total	76	6	16	74	40	221	

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