

Minutes of In Committee Strategic Policy Committee 4 – Housing Meeting

Held on 07th June, 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in John’s Green House

Present: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Cllr, Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Melissa O’Neill, Yvonne Moriarty, Declan Murphy, Noel Sherry.

In Attendance: Mary Mulholland, Martina Comerford, David Shortall, Tom King, Mary Cashin, KCC
Aisling Caniffe, Respond Support.

Apologies: Brian Dunlop., Mary Egan, Martin Mullally, Margaret Newport, Joseph Scully

Chairperson Cllr. Andrew McGuinness welcomed Noel Sherry, Good Shepherd Centre as newest member of SPC 4 representing the social inclusion pillar of the PPN. He also welcomed speaker Aisling Canniffe, Repond Support Worker.

Item 1 Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 25th January, 2018

Proposed by: Cllr. Maurice Shortall

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Malone

Minutes of meeting of 29th March, 2018

Proposed by: Cllr. Joe Malone

Seconded by: Cllr. Maurice Shortall

Item 2 Kilkenny Refugee Resettlement Programme

Aisling Canniffe, Respond Support Worker, provided background to the Refugee Resettlement Programme in Ireland and the supports in place in Kilkenny for families who have re-located to Kilkenny and who have been provided with social housing by Kilkenny County Council. She also provided an up to date position vis-a-vis families settled in Piltown, Urlingford and Ferrybank and the supports provided to date.

It was noted that families, while dispersed across the county, have been brought together to meet the Inter-Agency Group who provide and co-ordinate supports.

Mary Mulholland advised that there needs to be proximity for resettlement to work and as it is difficult to purchase properties on the private market Kilkenny County Council will take the option to purchase properties together should the opportunity arise. She advised that

Kilkenny County Council has resettled 53 persons to date and commended Aisling's work in assisting the families in their resettlement.

Contributions: Y. Moriarty, Cllr. Shortall, Cllr. O'Neill.

Item 3 Homeless Update

a. Policy

Homeless Services Draft Policy Document

Mary Mulholland advised that the primary role of the local authority is the provision of accommodation and the prevention of homelessness. The purpose of the homeless policy, prepared by Margaret Newport, Senior Social Worker, was read and discussed and the recommendation of SPC 4 was sought to formally adopt and refer to plenary council for adoption. Mary Mulholland read through the draft policy with the committee members and the following areas were highlighted:-

Eligibility Criteria

- Martina Comerford clarified that if a presenter meets one of the eligibility criteria they can be assessed for service provision.
- Addition to wording of point 7 under eligibility criteria to read:

They have been resident in Kilkenny for more than 12 months prior to presentation ***OR demonstrate a local connection to the area.***

Emergency Accommodation Options

- Addition to wording under Emergency Accommodation Options to include:-

Emergency accommodation for woman and families will be provided at the Lodge ***and at transitional units of accommodation at Greensbridge House.*** In the event that the Lodge is occupied accommodation will be provided at Hotel/B&B.

This accommodation will be offered for ***as short a period as possible*** and priority for available rooms will be given to parent with child/children.

- Clarification provided re accommodation sourced outside of county – where no vacancy exists in Good Shepherd Centre every effort will be made to source alternative accommodation outside of the County. The service user will be provided with accommodation at the Good Shepherd Centre once a vacancy arises in line with waiting list should one exist.

Exit from Homeless Services

- Addition to wording of Exit from Homeless Services to include:-

Access to private rented accommodation via HAP ***Placefinder*** scheme

Housing First Services to be included as an exit source

Code of Conduct for Emergency Accommodation

Mary Mulholland read through the Code of Conduct and the following areas were highlighted:-

- No food to be taken from restaurant to bedroom – matter to be revisited with service provider.
- Breach of Code of Conduct – request that consideration for continuation of service is given to a chaotic service user in an unstructured and unsupervised environment should they breach the code of conduct.

Contributions:Noel Sherry, Cllr. O'Neill, Cllr. Shortall, Y. Moriarty, Cllr. McGuinness, Cllr. Malone

Action: The above changes to be made to the Draft Homeless Policy Document and Code of Conduct for Emergency Accommodation.
Re-draft to be e-mailed to members for consideration and further comment, if necessary.
Agreed re-draft to be forwarded for inclusion on next Council agenda.
Liaison with emergency accommodation service provider re taking food from restaurant to bedroom.

b. Monthly Statistics

Homeless Presentations

Mary Mulholland provided an overview of homeless presentations. Martina Comerford highlighted typographical error in relation to number of children accommodated in handout provided.

Contributions:Noel Sherry

Action: List of presentations in 2018, by reason for presentation, to be provided to members

Hard copy of Homeless Services Draft Policy Document, Homeless Service Policy purpose, Code of Conduct Emergency Accommodation, Notice of Motion & Homeless Statistics provided to committee members.

Item 4 Anti Social Behaviour

a. Policy Update

Tom King, Tenant Liaison Officer, advised that the last policy document was adopted in 2010. The updated document has been amended to reflect the legislative changes in the

Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2014 and Tom highlighted the impact of the changes on anti social behaviour policy.

Proposed: Cllr. Shortall

Seconded: Cllr. O'Neill

And agreed to:-

update the current policy to correct legislative changes.

Action: Policy Update to be included on next SPC 4 agenda due to time constraints.

Hard copy of 2010 Anti Social Behaviour Policy, Updated Anti Social Behaviour Policy provided to committee members.

b. Statistics

Tom King provided overview of anti social behaviour statistics and advised that rubbish/maintenance continued to be the main form of complaint.

Hard copy of statistics provided to committee members.

The committee commended Tom King for his work in dealing with anti social behaviour.

Item 5 Housing Needs Assessment

Mary Mulholland advised that the closing date for receipt of housing needs assessment forms was the 11/06/2018. Staff have written and phoned applicants to clarify details on returned forms and also to encourage applicants to engage. Details will be returned to the Department on the 29th June, 2018 and those who fail to engage will be removed from the list. Removal from the list can be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Item 6 Rent Review

Mary Mulholland advised that all tenants had been written to and differential rent form and up to date income details must be returned by 15/06/2018. Tenants who fail to engage will be placed on maximum rent until such time as their differential rent form and up to date income details are provided to Kilkenny County Council.

Item 7 Housing Capital Update

Mary Mulholland provided an overview of Capital Programme for 2018 and advised that the target is 133 units. The programme currently has 226 units for 2018. She advised that there were other options in the pipeline that show potential but have to clear obstacles such as planning, finance, etc in order to progress. It was noted that voluntary bodies are very active in Kilkenny.

Contributions: Cllr. O'Neill, Cllr. Malone, Cllr. Shortall, D. Murphy, Y. Moriarty.

Hard copy of Housing Capital Update provided to committee members.

Item 8 Date of Next Meeting

Date of meeting changed from 6/9/18 to 14/9/18.

Item 9 AOB

Cllr. Shortall queried the criteria for succession in respect of a local authority tenancy and was advised by David Shortall that the person wishing to avail of succession must be resident in the property for a period of 2 years and declared on the rent account for the same period of time.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

**Chairperson
SPC 4**