



# Topical Digest

## Homelessness in Northern Ireland

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Service



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**This first Topical Digest covers the issue of homelessness in Northern Ireland. Homelessness is a complex issue that requires a cross-departmental, multi-agency response. The full extent of the longer-term impact of the pandemic on homelessness in Northern Ireland remains to be seen. However, the Housing Executive expects that these impacts will be significant and long-lasting. This digest brings together a snapshot of some of the most recent publications and articles on homelessness with a particular focus on Northern Ireland.**

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## 1 Strategies, action plans and programmes

- [Ending Homelessness Together: Homelessness Strategy 2022–27](#) – Housing Executive, March 2022. This new five-year homelessness strategy has three central objectives focusing on the prioritisation of homelessness prevention; addressing homelessness by providing settled, appropriate accommodation and support; and assisting those transitioning from homelessness into settled accommodation. The Strategy is accompanied by a [Year One Action Plan](#). It builds upon the work of the previous [five-year strategy \(2017–2022\)](#) and [Interdepartmental Homelessness Action Plans](#).
- [Chronic Homelessness Action Plan \(2019–22\)](#) – Housing Executive, January 2020. This plan sets out how the Housing Executive intends to address gaps in service provision. It has seven objectives, including designing criteria for measuring chronic homelessness and developing mechanisms across different bodies for early identification of those at risk.
- [Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation 2022–2027](#) – Housing Executive, November 2022. The strategy explores the different types of temporary accommodation, provides data on the use of temporary accommodation, and examines projected need. It sets out four strategic ambitions including minimising the need for temporary accommodation in Northern Ireland.
- [The Way Home – Homelessness response to COVID-19](#) ('Reset Plan'), Housing Executive, March 2020.
- [Draft Housing Supply Strategy](#), Department for Communities, December 2021.
- [Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use 2021–31](#), Department of Health, September 2021.
- [Supporting People Programme](#), Department for Communities website.
- [Poverty Policy](#), Department for Communities website.

## 2 Research reports

- [Staffing Challenges within the Northern Ireland Homelessness Sector](#), Orr & O'Hara, commissioned by Homeless Connect, September 2022.
- [Domestic Abuse and Housing: since the COVID-19 pandemic](#), Hastings et al., August 2022.
- [An examination of the rates and distribution of poverty in Northern Ireland](#), Department for Communities, June 2022.
- ['Hidden' Homelessness in Northern Ireland](#), Simon Community and Ulster University, March 2022.
- [Experiences of Youth Homelessness](#), Fiona Boyle Associates (commissioned by the Housing Executive), October 2021.
- [The Impacts of Chronic Homelessness for Women](#), Fiona Boyle Associates (commissioned by Housing Executive), June 2021.
- [No way out and no way home: Modern slavery and homelessness in England, Wales and Northern Ireland](#), Crisis, May 2021.
- [Homelessness Service User Journeys](#), Fiona Boyle Associates (commissioned by the Housing Executive), March 2021.

- [The role of day services in delivering support to those experiencing chronic homelessness](#), Housing Executive, February 2021.
- [The COVID-19 crisis response to homelessness in Great Britain](#), Fitzpatrick et al., February 2021.
- [Strategic Review of Temporary Accommodation](#), Campbell Tickell (commissioned by the Housing Executive), October 2020.
- [Homeless Mothers: Key Research Findings](#), Bimpson et al., February 2020.
- [Northern Ireland Homelessness Monitor 2020](#), Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), January 2020. See also [here](#) for further JRF publications on poverty and deprivation in Northern Ireland.
- [Pathways to Youth Homelessness](#), Simon Community, July 2019.
- [Homelessness Prevention in the UK: Lessons for policy](#), Fitzpatrick et al., July 2019.

### 3 Statistical sources

- [Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January–June 2022](#), (next bulletin due for release on 15 December 2022).
- [Quarterly Housing Bulletins 2018–2022](#), Department for Communities.
- [Annual Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2017–2021](#), Department for Communities.

### 4 Selection of departmental news releases

- [Ministers commit to addressing chronic homelessness](#), Department for Communities, 27 October 2022.
- [Minister Hargey officially launches £29m shared housing scheme](#), Department for Communities, 21 October 2022.
- [Hargey announces wider support for Co-Ownership housing](#), Department for Communities, 21 September 2022.
- [Ministers Hargey and O'Dowd host workshop to overcome challenges to delivering more homes](#), Department for Communities, 6 September 2022.
- [‘Hargey comments on closure of Regina Coeli House’](#), Department for Communities, 14 January 2022.
- [‘Prevention to remain focus in addressing homelessness – Hargey’](#), Department for Communities, 2 November 2021.
- [‘Minister Ní Chuilín committed to improving our response to homelessness’](#), Department for Communities, 8 December 2020.
- [‘Housing Statement from Communities Minister’](#), Department for Communities, 3 November 2020.
- [‘Hargey pays tribute to the homelessness sector’](#), Department for Communities, 6 April 2020.

## 5 Selection of media and other articles

- [Figures reveal 15,500 households sought help from Housing Executive in last year due to homelessness](#), Irish News, 29 November 2022.
- [Hope Street's Niamh McGrady among those lending support to annual Sleep Out as thousands raised for homeless youths](#), Sunday Life, 28 November 2022.
- [Drug deaths: There's not enough help and support out there, says family of young man who died on streets](#), Belfast Telegraph, 24 November 2022.
- [Cases of housing threats and racist attacks greater in areas under influence of loyalist paramilitaries – report](#), Belfast Telegraph, 23 November 2022.
- [Over half of NI women workers worried about keeping roof over head this Christmas](#), Newsletter, 26 October 2022.
- [Elderly resident's fears as her tower block home is set to be demolished](#), Northern Ireland World, 25 October 2022.
- [The cross-community beacons of hope helping people living on the street](#), Sunday Life, 9 October 2022.
- [Homeless presentations in NI continue to rise, new figures show](#), Belfast Telegraph, 5 October 2022.
- [Why Belfast's housing crisis won't improve any time soon](#), Belfast Telegraph, 1 October 2022.
- ['It's 2022...women are lying on the streets because they have nowhere else to go'](#), The Detail, 13 October 2022.
- [Call for greater resources to tackle drug-related deaths on Belfast Streets](#), Homeless Connect, 8 August 2022.
- [Belfast City Centre 'the worst it has ever been' as overdoses become common occurrence](#), Belfast Live, 6 August, 2022.
- [More resources demanded to fight city's homelessness and addiction](#), Irish News, 2 August 2022.

## 6 Useful Links

Assembly Questions on the topic of homelessness can be accessed via [this link](#), or by navigating to the AIMS Portal on the Assembly website.

- [All Party Group on Homelessness](#)
- [RaISe e-library resources \[internal link only\]](#)
- [NI Direct pages on homelessness](#)
- [Housing Rights advice on homelessness](#)
- [Homeless Connect](#)

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