**MINUTES OF CAVAN HOUSING & DISABILITY STEERING GROUP MEETING via Microsoft Teams at 11.00 a.m. on 29 January 2021**

**Present:** Claire Feeney, Housing Agency

Collette Ferguson, Mental Health, HSE

Miffy Hoad, MH Ireland

Jeanette Cummings, Mental Health, HSE

Rosie McCarthy, Mental Health, HSE

Aileen Gallagher, Tuath Housing

Bridget Boyle, CLDC

Bridie McBrearty, Cavan County Council

John Wilson, SE, Cavan County Council

Eoin Doyle, Director of Service

**Apologies:** Denise Downey, Mental Health, HSE

Cathy O’Hanlon, Disability Services, HSE

Padraig O’Beirne, MH Services

ED opened the meeting by welcoming everybody in attendance.

**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting of 3 December 2020 were proposed by BB, seconded by ED.

**2. Disability Strategy and National Update**

CF advised that the targets for the preparation of the new National Strategy for Housing People with a Disability is as follows:

* 1st Draft by end May/early June
* Public Consultation June to October
* Final Draft end November
* Official launch end December

The intention is that the Plan will include both the Strategy and the Framework incorporated into one document. Local Strategic plans will have to be developed alongside the National Strategy.

**3. Template Local Strategic Plan**

The template for the Local Strategic Plan was discussed. The main points centred round the fact that the emphasis should be on ‘local needs’ and trying to achieve a ground up approach to the formulation of the plan. AHBs will be required to target the provision for disability in any new development and will need to identify how many for this category. Need both immediate and over the period of the plan will have to be identified and targets defined which are measurable. The need for input from lived experience is also required and it was considered that surveys could be done through individuals and groups working in this area. It was agreed that given the importance of the strategy that a separate meeting should be organised to facilitate group discussion and identify each representatives’ role in the preparation and implementation of the Plan.

MH advised that training in mental health was available for front line staff, CF confirmed that such training had been provided at national level for all relevant local authority staff titled Early Interventions Process – MH Training for Front Line staff. BMcB confirmed staff had participated in training and found it most useful but that it would not prevent consideration being given to further local training should it be required.

**Allocations 2020**

BMcB advised that there were 254 allocations in total in 2020, 154 of which were HAP allocations. 31 of these were to people with disabilities broken down as: Intellectual 4; Mental Health 13 and Physical 14.

Furthermore 6 houses had been purchased which are currently being made ready for 6 families who have a member with a disability. It is expected that these units will be ready in first six months of 2021.

**4. Accommodation Pipelines**

JW informed the Group that there are 29 units being provided this year which incorporate facilities for disabled people who are ambulant. Together with this, 101 units will be provided in 2022, 19 of which will be fully accessible.

It was noted that the Council are designing a development of 47 units on lands in Bailiborough and 60 units in Cavan Town and that this presents an opportunity to provide specific accommodation for persons with disabilities in each area.

CFerguson advised that in her experience more residential type facilities are needed as so many are not coping with independent living. CF confirmed that the model of funding which is currently available is that which supports individual units as well as shared type of facilities i.e. community group homes type units but that no doubt this would be raised during the consultation phase.

**7. Any other Business**

CF advised that the Tenancy Sustainment Project piloted through AHBs in some counties is now to be rolled out to each local authority area.

BMcB confirmed that she would circulate the current Plan to the Group .

**8. Dates for 2021 Meetings**

Date for local Strategic Plan specific meeting: 19 February at 11 a.m.

Dates agreed for next meetings: 22 April, 30 September and 25 November, all at 11 a.m. January meeting to be on Microsoft Teams and other meetings will be reviewed in due course.

This concluded the business of the meeting.