

Public Consultation

Chronic Homelessness Action Plan

Please use this consultation template for submitting your responses and comments.

Alternatively, the online consultation can be downloaded at <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations> where you can also view the full consultation report and the associated screening documents.

If you are completing an electronic version of this form, it should be emailed to: homelessness.strategy@nihe.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can return hard copies of the completed form to:

Helen Hicks, (Homelessness Policy & Strategy)

1st Floor South,

9 Lanyon Place,

Belfast,

BT1 3LZ

The Housing Executive welcomes any comments you wish to make on all of the proposals or just on those issues that are of particular interest to you in the consultation.

All responses should be received by 5pm on Friday 2nd August 2019 to ensure they can be fully considered.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Confidentiality of Consultations

The Housing Executive will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Housing Executive can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely the Housing Executive in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or treated as confidential.

The means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Housing Executive should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Housing Executive's functions and it would not otherwise be provided.
- The Housing Executive should not agree to hold information received from third parties 'in confidence' which is not confidential in nature.
- Acceptance by the Housing Executive of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see the website at:

<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>)

YOUR DETAILS

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Criteria for Chronic Homelessness

The Housing Executive has provided criteria to identify the number of individuals/households experiencing chronic homelessness. Do you agree with these criteria? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below. In particular we are keen for the consultation to explore whether there are too many or too few criteria and whether the criteria need to be further defined and we would welcome any comments relevant to these points

Many of our service users are impacted by some or all of the criteria provided in the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan to identify the number of individuals/households experiencing chronic homelessness. PBNI would suggest that the wording of Criteria 7 'An individual who has encountered the criminal justice system' could be considered for revision to indicate a higher threshold of engagement with the criminal justice system such as 'an individual who has been discharged from custody'.

Objective One

Do you agree with objective one which is to 'Design specific criteria for measuring chronic homelessness and implement data collection arrangements'? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Do you agree with the actions in objective one? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Are there any further actions you feel should be considered as part of this objective? If so, please provide details below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Objective Two

Do you agree with objective two which is to 'Introduce mechanisms to monitor and report on chronic homelessness trends'? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Do you agree with the actions in objective two? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Are there any further actions you feel should be considered as part of this objective? If so, please provide details below:

PBNI would submit that it is important to have an accurate way for NIHE to count those who would meet the criteria for chronic homelessness and that it is also important that all agencies are familiar with the correct terminology and that a common language is used to describe these individuals across involved agencies.

Objective Three

Do you agree with objective three which is to 'Utilise chronic homeless data and trend information to identify existing and emerging needs to address chronic homelessness in the context of legislation, policy and service provision'? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Do you agree with the actions in objective three? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Are there any further actions you feel should be considered as part of this objective? If so, please provide details below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Objective Four

Do you agree with objective four which is to 'Develop mechanisms across agencies for early identification of those who are at risk of homelessness or chronic homelessness'? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

PBNI will review its own processes for early identification of those who are at risk of homelessness or chronic homelessness.

Do you agree with the actions in objective four? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Are there any further actions you feel should be considered as part of this objective? If so, please provide details below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Objective Five

Do you agree with objective five which is to 'Implement a range of support services to help people sustain their accommodation including floating support and tenancy sustainment'? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

It would be useful for the Housing Executive to share information on what support services are available and also to look at extending good practice across NI.

Do you agree with the actions in objective five? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

PBNI will consider establishing the views of service users and will look at including the issue on the agenda of their Service User Forum.

Are there any further actions you feel should be considered as part of this objective? If so, please provide details below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Objective Six

Do you agree with objective six which is to 'Implement arrangements to ensure services engage with people at risk of chronic homelessness as quickly as possible'? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

PBNI would place an emphasis on making sure that all protocols are followed by prisons when an individual is released from custody. Consideration will be given in PBNI to issuing a Practice Note to staff who assess service users to establish if they meet the criteria for chronic homelessness during their assessments in PBNI.

Do you agree with the actions in objective six? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Are there any further actions you feel should be considered as part of this objective? If so, please provide details below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Objective Seven

Do you agree with objective seven which is to 'Make the stay in temporary accommodation as short as possible'? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

This is an important issue for PBNI and we acknowledge the need for solutions and wish to work with NIHE and approved providers in this area. We welcome current good practice in this area such as dedicated Housing Advisors and organisations like SmartMove but would submit that more providers are needed in order to achieve this objective as well as identifying landlords who will be willing to accommodate an individual who has just left custody or has complex needs.

Do you agree with the actions in objective seven? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Are there any further actions you feel should be considered as part of this objective? If so, please provide details below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Objective Eight

Do you agree with objective eight which is to 'Consider a range of housing options for the chronic homeless including Housing First and ensure they are supported into permanent accommodation as soon as possible'? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

PBNI will continue to develop links with those providers delivering the Housing First model and sharing information where appropriate about risk management.

Do you agree with the actions in objective eight? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

PBNI welcome any alternatives to supported accommodation.

Are there any further actions you feel should be considered as part of this objective? If so, please provide details below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Objective Nine

Do you agree with objective one which is to 'Promote interagency issues and actions required to address chronic homelessness'? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

PBNI wrk with a range of agencies in relation to the supervision of people in the community and we agree that it is important to promote interagency issues and actions to address chorinic homelessness. For example through the Public Prtoection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI); Reducing Offending in Partnership (ROP) and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). It would be useful if all agencies were working from the same definition of what constitutes chronic homelessness.

Do you agree with the actions in objective nine? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Are there any further actions you feel should be considered as part of this objective? If so, please provide details below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Objective Ten

Do you agree with objective one which is to 'Ensure mechanisms in place to implement and oversee the implementation of the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan'? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

PBNI would submit that all mechanisms should include highlighting the impact and difference made by the implementation of the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan.

Do you agree with the actions in objective ten? Please choose yes or no below.

Yes

Please provide any supporting comments below:

We would like to express our commitment to contribute where we can to the implementation of the Action Plan.

Are there any further actions you feel should be considered as part of this objective? If so, please provide details below:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Please provide any further comments you may have on the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan below:

The direct link between homelessness and offending/reoffending has been evidenced by research. Homeless ex-offenders are twice as likely to be reconvicted as those with stable accommodation, and ex-prisoners are one fifth less likely to re-offend if they have stable accommodation. We know that those offenders in the community who are subject to community based programmes are significantly more likely to complete their programme of supervision if they live in stable accommodation

Therefore this is an issue of importance to PBNI.

Over the course of the next year the Probation Board intends holding a conference on homelessness and the impact on offending and reoffending.