



**An Ghníomhaireacht  
Tithíochta**  
The Housing Agency

# Social Inclusion and Housing

Patrick McCarthy – Head of Local Authority Services

# NHSDP 2022-2027

## The Vision for the Strategy is:

To facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.

To further enable equal access for disabled people to housing with integrated support services.

Overarching principle of living independently and being included in the community



# Strategy and Implementation Plan Development

## Participation

- Participation of disabled people and Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) has resulted in the Strategy reflecting what disabled people themselves said were the issues
- Disabled people involved in groups locally and nationally - Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) - *The Strategy will promote the purposes of Article 4.3 (UNCDPR) through continued consultation and ensuring the effective participation of disabled people in decision-making, through local and national fora.*



*Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance*

*Verna Myers*



## Start your journey towards independent living

This website is a tool for you to find the information on housing and supports you need to access independent living.

# UNCRPD and NHSDP

## Article 19 - Living Independently And Being Included In The Community

States Parties to the present Convention recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that:

- a) Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

## Theme 1 – Accessible Housing and Communities

**Outcome 1.1** There is an increase in the provision of accessible housing for disabled people by the setting of local, need-related<sup>15</sup> targets for all social housing providers using a **universal design** approach, as appropriate.

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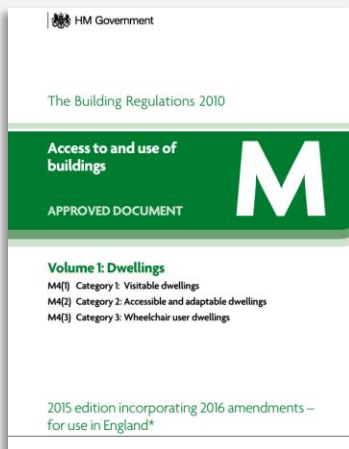
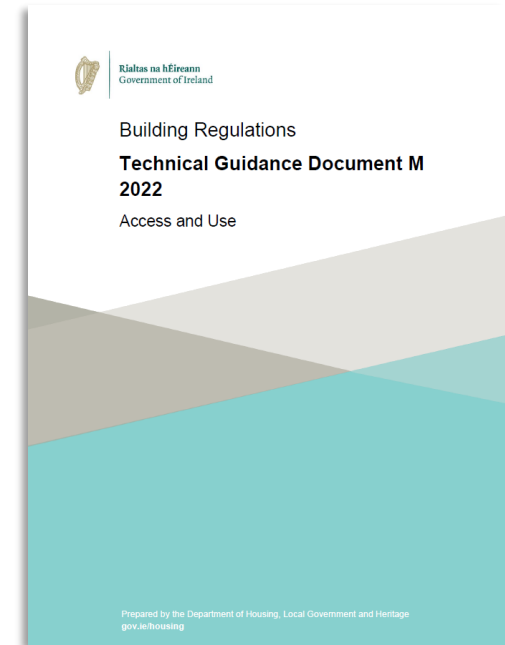
# Irish Building Regulations

All new buildings must comply with the Building Regulations. Technical Guidance Document M 2022 provides information on Access and Use.

Dwellings should be designed and constructed so that:

- a) People can safely and conveniently approach and gain access
- b) People can have access to the main habitable rooms at entry level
- c) A WC is provided at entry level or, where there are no habitable rooms at this level, on the storey containing the main living room

Part M of the Building Regulations only requires housing to be visitable for a wheelchair user but not liveable.



In England, Part M guidance provides for three categories of dwellings:

- a) Visitable dwellings
- b) Accessible and adaptable dwellings\*
- c) Wheelchair user dwellings\*

\* Requirements 2 and 3 are 'optional requirements' ... where a condition... is imposed on new development as part of the process of granting planning permission.





## Universal Design and Inclusion | NSAI

### **Standardisation work 2023**

The development of a National standard on Universal Design Dwellings (I.S. 375) . This document sets out requirements and recommendations for refers to two categories of Universal Design dwellings, described as U.D. dwelling and U.D. Plus dwelling.

The work on this standard commenced in May 2023 and it is expected to be made available for public enquiry / consultation in the summer – autumn of 2025 (<https://www.nsai.ie/standards/your-standards-your-say/>) and published in 2026.

This standard aims to support legislation, government policy and local authority objectives with a clear and consistent approach to the design of Universal Design Dwellings. It sets out requirements and recommendations for new dwellings that are accessible, easily understood, usable, adaptable and suitable for people to live in over their lifetime, following a Universal Design approach.

# Summary of Variation to Meath CDP | Age Friendly

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- **Current Policy** in Meath CDP: All new residential developments of 20 residential units provide a minimum of 5% universally designed units....
- **New Policy:**
  - 15-30% of dwellings/apartments in new residential developments of ten units or more to be Age Friendly Adaptable Lifetime Homes....
  - 30% of social housing fully accessible and built with a universal design approach....
- All new planning applications to provide a universal design statement for residential development of 10 homes or more
- Planning applicants to submit a Community Safety Strategy for new residential developments of 100 units or more





# Youth Homelessness Strategy



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Housing for All

## Youth Homelessness Strategy

2023-2025

A 3-year strategy working towards ending homelessness for young people aged 18-24 through prevention and exits; and improving the experience of young people accessing emergency accommodation

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
[gov.ie/housingforall](https://gov.ie/housingforall)

27 Actions

8 Actions – Single Input

19 Actions – Multiple Inputs

# Youth Homelessness Strategy - Public Engagement



## Advertising campaign 2024

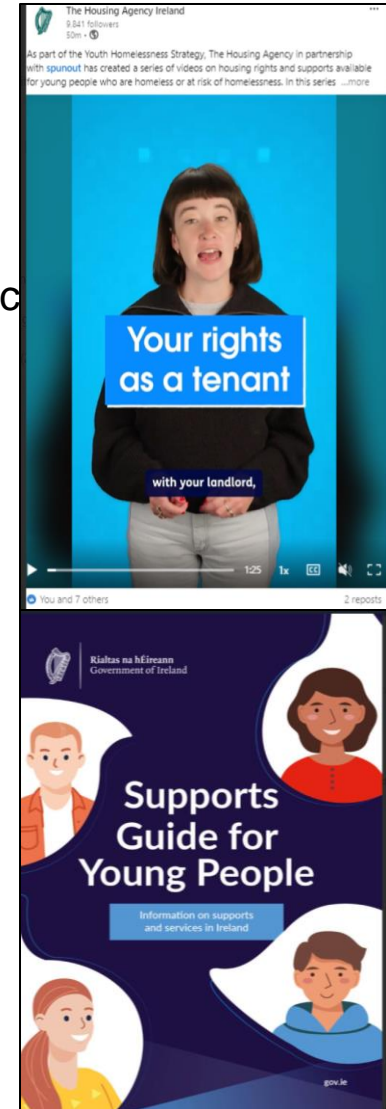
- Partnership with Spunout to create three short videos on tenants' rights when renting accommodation in Ireland. On one video, The Housing Agency and Spunout together reached 202,471 people across TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Meta and LinkedIn. 78,587 of these people were young people according to Spunout's analytics.

## Supports Guide for Young People

- Developed as part of the Youth Homelessness Strategy, the Supports Guide provides an overview of the supports and services available to young people in Ireland. The Guide is hosted on our website on a dedicated page which provides additional information targeted at young people.

## Homeless Prevention Service Directory

- Work is ongoing on a strategy to promote the resource amongst the general public.



# Youth Homelessness Strategy - SHY



Beyond accommodation, they should be offered health and wellbeing supports; access to education and employment; social inclusion supports (to help individuals integrate socially into the community); and complementary supports (for example life skills, advocacy, and legal supports).

## **Supported Housing for Youth (SHY)**

Phase 1 Cluid (Housing) and Focus Ireland (Supports), 13 residents in situ, 1 bed (5) and 2 bed (4) homes. 7 additional residents to be selected. All Dublin Local Authorities have tenants and are tasked with selecting residents

KW Research reviewing the pilot programme's design and progress (including activities, implementation strategy, capacities of implementing bodies and stakeholder engagement, etc.);

# Resources for Homeless Practitioners



## Assertive Street Outreach Guide and Resources

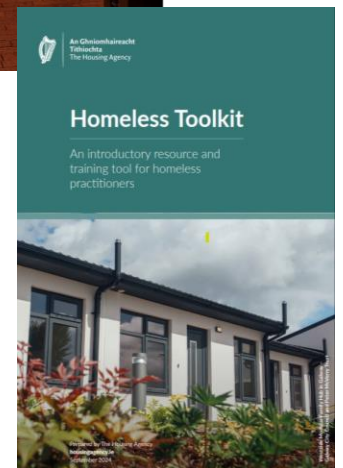
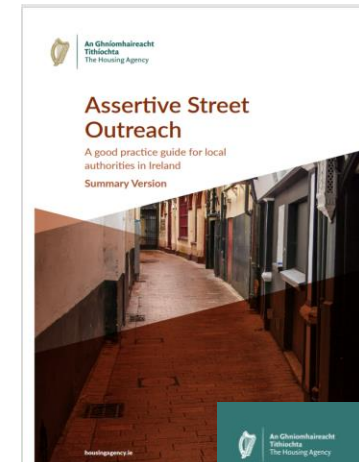
- The Guide was published in 2022 and a full review with key stakeholders was undertaken in 2024.
- Additional resources were created which include a summary version, national and international case studies and an infographic.

## Homeless Toolkit

- The toolkit brings together information on the homeless sector in Ireland into one central resource and is targeted at homeless practitioners.

## Homeless HAP Place Finder Service

- An Induction Pack was developed in 2024 to assist Place Finders that are new to the role.
- Community of Practice



# Interagency Collaboration

A key outcome from the NHSDP is that Disabled people have a clear pathway to accessing housing and support services. Collaboration between housing and health service providers is key to achieving this and The Housing Agency facilitates and encourages this through its involvement in all governing groups and fulfilling an 'honest broker' role and bringing people to the table.

Similarly, YHS relies on multi-stakeholder delivery of actions, e.g. Local Authorities, Tusla, HSE, Government Departments.

**Social Inclusion is never merely bricks and mortar!**





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**Thank you**