

6 Key Asks Programme for Government 2020

HAIL (Housing Association for Integrated Living) is calling on our political parties to make housing and mental health a priority in the next Programme for Government. We look forward to continuing to work with the Government and all our statutory partners and funders in delivering housing and mental health tenancy sustainment support services to those who need it. These are our six key asks:

1. Increase the provision of one-bedroom properties

for people on social housing waiting lists or in homelessness. There is a huge need for more single unit properties. Single person households are the biggest cohort on the social housing waiting and this type of home is often most suited to those with mental health difficulties. The under supply of one-bedroom homes increases waiting times on housing lists and makes it harder to source suitable accommodation.



4. Increase the funding for tenancy sustainment services so as to continue the integration of people with mental health difficulties into the community.

Tenancy sustainment services involve working with people on their personal recovery plan and providing support such as help with budgeting, managing a home or accessing social, educational or work opportunities. The provision of suitable housing with tenancy support can reduce the risk of relapse or homelessness for people with mental health difficulties and must be prioritised.



2. Ensure the continued supply of social housing

by using suitable state land for the delivery of social and affordable rental housing in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs). Also increase the funding of the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) allocation and the associated Payment and Availability (P&A) allocation. These are key to AHBs acquiring and building social housing.



5. Ensure adequate finance and resources are available to continue to move those living in congregated settings to independent living.

A multi-agency approach is key to successfully sourcing community accommodation with adequate support for this group of people. Moreover, the experience of the COVID-19 public health emergency has highlighted the importance of having a home in providing safety, security and protecting our health.



3. Ensure adequate funding of the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

to help meet the demand for supported social housing. This scheme allows specialist AHBs, such as HAIL, to build or acquire social housing stock. It funds housing projects designed to meet the special needs of persons with disabilities including mental health difficulties as well as those of older people or people who are homeless.



6. Immediate publication of Ireland's recently approved new mental health policy for 2020-2030, 'Sharing the Vision – a Mental Health Policy for Everyone'.

This document must be published as soon as possible so as to inform Programme for Government talks, allow planning for post COVID-19 and to improve mental health services in Ireland. Mental health must be prioritised and fully resourced by any future Government.



HAIL is an Approved Housing Body whose mission is to provide quality housing and individually tailored services to support tenants and clients, primarily those with mental health difficulties, to integrate and live independent lives in the community.