

Mental Health Team Housing Need Record

WHAT IS IT AND WHY DO WE NEED ONE?

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Mental Health Team Housing Need Record – what it is & what it is not.....

- ▶ It is extremely important to highlight that the official keeper of housing data is the local authority.
- ▶ The local authority has the statutory responsibility to record and report on housing need and allocations etc.
- ▶ The mental health record fully respects the local authority role and responsibility and does not intend to question, undermine or contradict the local authority figures in any way.
- ▶ Rather this initiative seeks to compliment the official figures and role of the local authority and this can only be achieved in collaboration & partnership between the two agencies.
- ▶ The approach taken here is to utilise the statutory accepted definition of housing need as implemented by the local authorities. To be eligible individuals who attend the mental health service must be on the local authority housing waiting list.

Mental Health Team Housing Need Record – Why?

- ▶ The individual housing information this housing need record seeks to collect is not, & never has been, routinely and systematically collected throughout the Irish public mental health system.
- ▶ Relatively recent policy documents have provided the unprecedented opportunity to create recovery focused systems & effective interagency cooperation.
- ▶ We cannot effectively reflect the level of housing need in mental health without accurate data
- ▶ With Accurate Data we can more effectively collaborate & coordinate with local authorities in relation to meeting housing & support needs
- ▶ Social workers have always had a focus on housing need & many maintain a list of persons on their caseload who have a housing need, the housing record in mental health aims to collate that information in a systematic way across a CHO area, with a consistent approach across all MDT Teams

Origins

- ▶ Clondalkin Housing Need Record Pilot Project Steering Committee CHO7 2019. In CHO7 the Creating Foundations service played a central role in developing it & maintaining it.
- ▶ Must be simple, clear, easily understandable, not too onerous for individuals who have to operate & maintain it, and be sustainable.
- ▶ Key pilot documents were developed:
 - ▶ Housing Need Record Information Sheet Housing Need
 - ▶ Record Request form and guidelines
- ▶ A Housing Needs Record is being operated in CHO2 & CHO5 & commencing in CHO6 in 2023

How does it work?

- ▶ A Record of persons attending the mental health team who have a housing need.
- ▶ Complies with Data Protection Requirements
- ▶ Consent of individual required for inclusion.
- ▶ Must be on a local authority housing waiting list and have a housing reference number to be included
- ▶ Aids collaborative working on housing needs

Mental Health Team Housing Need Record – Why do we need one?

- ▶ Data on housing needs in mental health
- ▶ Dedicated liaison person in MHS.
- ▶ Improved awareness on mental health teams of the importance of assessment of housing need and supporting individuals to apply for social housing
- ▶ Improved representation of housing in need in mental health at a Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG) Level in inform the Local Housing Disability Strategy
- ▶ Improved co-ordination on housing & support needs between mental health & housing
- ▶ Discussion between LA and MHS at point of allocation may be very beneficial to individual; as it provides an opportunity to meet the Service Users' needs based on location & accommodation type
- ▶ Data on the number of secure tenure allocations to persons attending secondary mental health services