**MINUTES OF CAVAN HOUSING & DISABILITY STEERING GROUP MEETING IN**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, CAVAN**

 **at 10.00 a.m. on 20th January 2020**

**Present:-** Claire Feeney, Housing Agency

 Collette Ferguson, Mental Health, HSE

 Marion McCormack, Physical & Sensory Disabilities, HSE

 Trish Kane, Housing Co-ordinator Mental Health, HSE

 Cathy O’Hanlon, Sensory Disabilities, HSE

 Jeanette Cummings, HSE

 Rosie McCarthy, MH Services

 Aileen Gallagher, Tuath Housing

 Bridie McBrearty, Cavan County Council

 John Wilson, Senior Engineer

 Eoin Doyle, Director of Service

**Apologies:** Miffy Hoad, MH Ireland

Helena McDonald, NCBI

Denise Downey, HSE

 Padraig O’Beirne, MH Services

 Breige Byrne Disability Services

 Bernard McVeigh, Newgrove Housing Assoc

 Leslie Foxe, St. Killian’s Housing Assoc

**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted.

**2. Terms of Reference**

CF went through the Terms of Reference for the Housing and Disability Steering Group which were circulated bringing to attention the Membership, the Role of the Steering Group, Actions and Meeting requirements. Members of the Steering Group play an active role in the implementation and development of the Strategic Plan and it was the responsibility of each group member to ensure that this happens. The Terms of Reference were agreed and noted by the Steering Group.

**3. National Update**

CF provided an update on the housing of people with disabilities from a national perspective. She advised that work would commence on a new National Strategy this year commencing in March with a consultation process. It is hoped that as many Steering Groups as possible feed into the process. New County Strategy Plans will be commenced when the National Strategy has been finalised.

She informed the group that Mental Health training had been developed for Local Authority and AHB staff in the form of a 3 hour course to provide assist everybody in their day to day work when working with persons with such issues. To date it had been well received and it was intended to continue the roll out to all required staff in coming months.

It was noted that the new application form to apply for social housing support it is currently being checked by the Data Protection Office and it would include a medical form to replace the need for Consultant’s and Doctors letter.

**3. Allocations 2019**

BMcB informed the Group that a total of 46 allocations in 2019 were to people with disabilities as follows:

* 16 Physical, 2 of which were to new housing which was specifically adapted
* 5 Sensory
* 22 Mental Health
* 3 Intellectual

It was also noted that three extensions had been provided at council houses to make the accommodation suitable for persons with disabilities. A total of €1,277162 had been paid to private homeowners in grants of which €769,108 was in respect of people with disabilities.

It was noted that there was a total of 202 persons on the approved social housing waiting list listed as having a disability. However, it was agreed that a meeting should take place with HSE representatives to compile a comprehensive list of the accommodation needs of people with disabilities – HSE reps to contact BMcB to agree date following meeting. This is required to ensure that the needs of all persons with a disability are being consider when the Council is planning its new housing schemes.

**5. Accommodation Pipeline**

JW outlined the Social Housing Investment Programme for the coming year. It was noted that a total of 112 new builds are in the pipeline. The need to move to universal design was considered necessary and it was noted that this was likely something which would be included in the New Strategy.

**6. Future Agendas**

CF confirmed that the Agenda for the meeting today is the template that should be used for future meetings.

**7. Any other Business**

BMcB advised that new private house grants forms had been developed by the Department and were available of the Council’s website in respect of the three existing grant schemes.

**8. Dates for next Meetings**

Dates agreed for next meetings: 21 April, 21 July and 20 October all at 10 a.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.