



An Ghníomhaireacht  
Tithíochta  
The Housing Agency

# HOUSING PRACTITIONERS' CONFERENCE 2024

## WORKSHOP GUIDE

SESSION 1: 11.30 – 12.45PM

SESSION 2: 3.30 – 4.50PM

MULLINGAR PARK HOTEL,  
CO. WESTMEATH

25th April 2024

#HOUSINGCONFERENCE2024



# WORKSHOPS: SESSION 1

11:30am - 12:45pm

TITLE	LOCATION
<b>MULTI-UNIT DEVELOPMENTS: STAKEHOLDER EXPERIENCES AND FEEDBACK</b>	<b>GARDEN SUITE 1 &amp; 2 (GROUND FLOOR)</b>
<b>AFFORDABLE PURCHASE SCHEME: LESSONS AND LEARNINGS FROM PROVIDERS</b>	<b>CONFERENCE ROOM 7 (1ST FLOOR)</b>
<b>TOP TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING IN THE HOUSING SECTOR</b>	<b>AOIFE SUITE 1 (GROUND FLOOR)</b>
<b>TRAVELLER-SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>CONFERENCE ROOM 1 (1ST FLOOR)</b>
<b>CAREERS IN HOUSING</b>	<b>CONFERENCE ROOM 2 (1ST FLOOR)</b>
<b>AGE FRIENDLY HOMES – EXPLORING HOUSING OPTIONS AND SUPPORTS FOR OUR AGEING POPULATION</b>	<b>CONFERENCE ROOM 6 (1ST FLOOR)</b>





# WORKSHOPS: SESSION 2

3:30pm - 4:50pm

TITLE	LOCATION
APARTMENT AND DUPLEX DEFECTS REMEDIATION	GARDEN SUITE 1 & 2 (GROUND FLOOR)
REGULATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE RENTAL SECTOR	CONFERENCE ROOM 1 (1ST FLOOR)
CONNECTING WITH THE HSE COMMUNITY CARE NETWORKS UNDER THE NEW SLÁINTECARE MODEL	CONFERENCE ROOM 2 (1ST FLOOR)
SUPPORTING STAFF WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE FOR HOUSING PROFESSIONALS	AOIFE SUITE 1 (GROUND FLOOR)
ADDRESSING URBAN VACANCY	CONFERENCE ROOM 7 (1ST FLOOR)
COST RENTAL: LESSONS AND LEARNINGS FROM PROVIDERS	CONFERENCE ROOM 6 (1ST FLOOR)



# WORKSHOP LOCATIONS: GROUND FLOOR







# WORKSHOP LOCATIONS: FIRST FLOOR





# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## MULTI-UNIT DEVELOPMENTS: STAKEHOLDER EXPERIENCES & FEEDBACK

This workshop will deliver an update on current issues for MUDs and OMCs, provide a brief on Housing Agency sector actions and supports since the Housing Practitioners Conference in 2023, hear about stakeholders' experiences and share insights and good practice.

**Speakers:** Chair: David Rouse (MUD Advisory, The Housing Agency)

- Kathleen Cottier (CEO, Fold Housing)
- Pat Davitt (CEO, Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers)

## AFFORDABLE PURCHASE SCHEME: LESSONS AND LEARNINGS FROM PROVIDERS

This workshop will include two presentations from current providers of the Affordable Purchase Scheme with a focus on challenges faced, lessons learned and advice for local authorities setting up schemes of their own.

**Speakers:** Chair: Gwen Perry (Head of Affordable Housing, The Housing Agency)

- Niamh Redmond (South Dublin County Council)
- Seamus De Faoite (Cork County Council)

## TOP TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING IN THE HOUSING SECTOR

Join Martina Quinn, Alice Public Relations, and Eileen Dunne, former RTÉ journalist for a masterclass in communications. This workshop will focus on the key tools to effectively communicate your message in the housing sector including communicating with confidence in any setting and preparing for media interviews.

**Speakers:** Eileen Dunne (Alice Public Relations)

Martina Quinn (Alice Public Relations)





# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## TRAVELLER-SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION

The aim of this workshop is to encourage discussion among participants and to exchange good practice in the delivery and provision of Traveller-specific accommodation. The discussion will address issues such as the preparation of new Traveller Accommodation Programmes (2025-2029), delivery of Traveller-specific accommodation and current development programmes.

- Speakers:** Chair: Karen Murphy (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)
- Elaine Leech (A/Director of Housing, South Dublin County Council)
  - Gary Kelly (Traveller Liaison Officer, Sligo County Council)
  - Martin Collins (Co-Director, Pavee Point)

## CAREERS IN HOUSING

This workshop will discuss opportunities in housing careers in both local government and the Approved Housing Body (AHB) sector as well as education/training opportunities and current and future developments.

- Speakers:** Chair: Caroline Moloney (Chartered Institute of Housing)
- Lorcan Sirr (Senior Lecturer, Technological University Dublin)
  - Dave O'Neill (Development Officer, North & East Housing Association)
  - Claire Hartley (Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section, Waterford City and County Council)

## AGE FRIENDLY HOMES – EXPLORING HOUSING OPTIONS AND SUPPORTS FOR OUR AGEING POPULATION

Age Friendly Ireland will lead this workshop exploring how these changing expectations require a wider mix of age friendly housing options and healthcare supports to suit diverse lifestyles. These housing options include both building new housing developments, for sale and for rent, that are attractive and appealing to older people, as well as adapting existing homes to better suit peoples' needs as they age.

- Speakers:** Chairs: Mark Harrington & Declan Gaffney (Age Friendly Ireland)
- Olivia Goff (Senior Executive Architect, Dublin City Council)
  - Jessica Lange (Executive Architect, Dublin City Council)
  - Emma Power (Senior Executive Technician, Waterford City and County Council)



# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## APARTMENT AND DUPLEX DEFECTS REMEDIATION

Attendees of the workshop can expect an insightful session covering the Interim Remediation Scheme, showcasing collaborative efforts that have driven its implementation. Furthermore, Omega Surveying Services will provide valuable insights into fire safety defects encountered during Fire Safety Risk Assessments, offering practical lessons learned in the process.

**Speakers:** Chair: Martin J Heron (The Housing Agency)

- Christopher Duffy (Omega Surveying Services)

## REGULATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE RENTAL SECTOR

This workshop will discuss the implementation, enforcement, and effectiveness of regulation of Standards in Rented Houses, short term lets and the broader Residential Tenancies Act. It will ask how can regulation help to build a sustainable rental sector and examine how it impacts on day-to-day work in the sector.

**Speakers:** Chair: Dr. Aideen Hayden (Housing Policy Analyst and former Chair of Threshold)

- Aoife Lawler (Senior Executive Officer, Fingal County Council)
- Ann-Marie O'Reilly (National Advocacy Manager, Threshold)
- Kathleen Cottier (CEO, Fold Housing)
- Lucia Crimin (Deputy Director, RTB)

## CONNECTING WITH THE HSE COMMUNITY CARE NETWORKS UNDER THE NEW SLÁINTECARE MODEL

This workshop will provide an introduction into Population Health and provide an insight into the Irish Healthcare Model and how it has developed into Slaintecare. It will focus on examples that link to housing connections with Primary Care. It will also provide an insight into the Community Care Networks system and who the key people are around the country, looking at ways to forge possible synergies and share examples of positive working models between HSE and Local Authorities.

**Speakers:** Chair: Gráinne Johnston (The Housing Agency)

- Alice McGinley, Head of Service, Community Healthcare Network Implementation Lead, HSE





# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## SUPPORTING STAFF WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE FOR HOUSING PROFESSIONALS

This workshop will discuss how resilience building in the workplace can be beneficial to employees working in a complex housing section. It will provide an insight into the Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) in Focus Ireland and how PIE can improve staff wellbeing and customer understanding in busy housing sections who deal with multiple difficult situations simultaneously each day.

**Speakers:** Chair: Rob Lowth (Head of Housing First, The Housing Agency)

- John Ryan (Healthy Place to Work)
- Gerard Spillane (Focus Ireland)

## ADDRESSING URBAN VACANCY

This workshop will look at how to provide homes in an urban setting while retaining a vibrant town centre and respecting heritage. It will also examine the use of strategies and initiatives to incentivise town centre living.

**Speakers:** Chair: Paul Hogan (Senior Executive Engineer, The Housing Agency)

- Donal O'Murchadha (Project Manager, LGMA)
- Noelle Sweeney (Architect, The Housing Agency)
- Lorraine Middleton (Planner, Westmeath County Council)

## COST RENTAL: LESSONS AND LEARNINGS FROM PROVIDERS

This workshop will include two presentations from current cost rental providers offering an insight into their experience in delivering cost rental units, including their experience of setting up cost rental, managing and maintaining units, some of the challenges encountered, and lessons learned.

**Speakers:** Chair: Robert Murtagh (The Housing Agency)

- Elaine Leech (A/Director of Housing, South Dublin County Council)
- Aileen Gallagher (Tuath Housing)