

‘HIDDEN HOMELESS STILL AT RISK’ 18/11/04

Following meetings with both the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social and Family Affairs on Nov. 16th and with Minister Seamus Brennan on Nov. 17th, CentreCare, one of the 14 programmes of Crosscare the Dublin Diocesan Social Care Agency, is concerned that all of the cutbacks in relation to eligibility for rent supplement will not be completely reversed.

‘We are particularly worried about the ‘Hidden Homeless’, (those staying with families and friends on a temporary basis). ‘This group is not acknowledged as homeless because they are not staying in recognised homeless accommodation’, said Bryan Gavin Information Officer with CentreCare. ‘Many choose to couch surf between friends and family rather than access hostels where they feel even more vulnerable’.

The Minister acknowledged that the cuts did put pressure on people that they could have done without and that there were cases where people did not get rent supplement and did find it difficult to get accommodation.

The Minister says the hardships may be ‘perceived’ not ‘real’ – CentreCare disputes this statement citing that their study ‘Creating Crisis’ compiled in collaboration with City Centre (Dublin) Citizens Information Service, highlights the harsh reality people are faced with due to these cutbacks.

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