

CentreCare information inputs 2006

CentreCare is an information and advocacy service with expertise on housing, homeless, social welfare and related matters.

In 2005, CentreCare began offering a short information input 'Accessing accommodation in the private rented sector' on request to organisations in both the voluntary and statutory sectors. Through this work, we learnt that a lot of organisations (not specifically 'homeless' organisations) are working with people for whom homelessness and related matters are arising. To this end, for 2006, we continue to offer the above and further information inputs:

1. Accessing Accommodation in the Private Rented Sector – session 1
2. Accessing Accommodation in the Private Rented Sector – session 2
3. Understanding the Needs of Homeless People
4. Emergency Services and First Steps out of Homelessness (based on CentreCare's 'Map of Homeless Services', see 'Map' on www.centrecare.ie)

1. Accessing Accommodation in the Private Rented Sector – Session 1

This session covers:

- Eligibility for rent supplement
- Registering with the Local Authority as homeless or having a housing need
- Rent allowance rates
- Steps to securing private rented accommodation
- Is private rented an appropriate option?

2. Accessing Accommodation in the Private Rented Sector – Session 2

This session is aimed at those agencies that took up the session 1 (above) in 2005. This session covers:

- Developments in the private rented sector
- Eligibility for rent supplement and rent allowance rates
- Steps to securing private rented accommodation
- Opportunity to discuss cases where difficulties were encountered

3. Understanding the Needs of Homeless People

This session gives an overview of the acute needs of homeless people. It provides a theoretical overview of the needs of homeless people and is aimed at the increasing number of services which are coming into contact with homeless people. This session covers:

- Causes of homelessness
- Barriers to accessing accommodation
- The role of the Health Service Executive, the Local Authority and Department of Social and Family Affairs in the provision of services to homeless people.
- Accommodation and other service options for homeless people
- The role of the Homeless Agency
- Developments in the provision of homeless services

4. Emergency Services and First Steps out of Homelessness

This session is based on CentreCare's 'Map of Homeless Services' and is an overview of the causes of, and practical first steps out of, homelessness. This session covers:

- Causes of homelessness
- Barriers to accessing housing
- Services available to homeless people
- Guide to accessing housing and social welfare payments for homeless people
- Review of CentreCare's 'Map of Homeless Services' and how it can be used on a practical level

All sessions are offered free-of-charge in your workplace, include handouts and will last approximately 1-2 hours. To book a session or for more information please contact Susan Murphy, Information/Outreach Worker, CentreCare, susan@centrecare.ie, tel. 8746915/ 8726775

CentreCare is a project of Crosscare, the Dublin Diocese Social Care Agency.

