



National Housing Training
and Development Programme

NHTDP 2016 / 2017



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Acknowledging the fundamental importance of housing for the national economy and for society, the new Government's remit is to design effective public policies and to create a supportive regulatory environment - to meet the housing objectives set out in the Programme for Government. The key requirement for implementing these policies is for a well-resourced corpus of housing professionals, working in local government and the voluntary sector.

The purpose of the newly-launched **National Housing Training and Development Programme [NHTDP]** is to coordinate the actions of the main bodies responsible for the development and implementation of housing policy in Ireland. The **NHTDP** will provide the framework for an integrated programme of measures to increase the number of, and to deliver quality educational, training and support services for those working in the social and affordable housing sector.

The NHTDP has four primary components

1

Training and Networks: courses; seminars; workshops; conferences and network structures for housing practitioners

2

Education and Development: degrees; diplomas and certificates with a focus on social / affordable housing and accredited by the National Framework of Qualifications [NFQ]

3

Support Services: online learning and support for personnel in housing authorities and Approved Housing Bodies [AHBs]

4

Research and Publications: a forum for policy makers, researchers and practitioners to access and publish academic and research material.

Who will benefit from the NHTDP?

- 5000 persons working in Housing and Planning Sections of Local Authorities [LAs]
- 2000 persons providing housing and support services in Approved Housing Bodies [AHBs]
- Employees in central government, public agencies and representative bodies engaged in housing policy, advice, support and services.

Moreover, the **NHTDP**'s intent is to deliver courses of interest to landlords, tenants and other key public and private stakeholders.

Training and Networks

An extended range of training courses, seminars and workshops will be provided, with up-to-date documentation; an independently-monitored process for obtaining feedback from participants; and an assessment component. The one- and two-day courses, available from September 2016, are listed on the back page. Existing housing networks will play an important role in disseminating information and in monitoring the Programme. The Annual Housing Practitioners' Conference will continue as an integral part of the **NHTDP**.

Education and Development

There is an increased interest in taking accredited courses reflecting the broad scope of housing and planning functions. Accordingly, the **NHTDP** will provide a comprehensive suite of courses [listed on the back page], to meet the needs of those seeking to further their career. In addition, it is proposed that a Postgraduate Housing Programme will commence in 2017.

Continuous Professional Development [CPD] is an important - and almost expected - component for career development based around core skill sets. Alongside the expansion in the number of educational and training courses within the housing area, CPD will strengthen the commitment to a career path for housing professionals.

Support Services

The **NHTDP** will develop an online platform providing housing personnel with training and support services. Furthermore, the Housing Agency's [HA's] website, is a vital source of information pertaining to changes in legislation or policy. This can be expanded to include the experience and inputs of housing practitioners themselves. The platform will serve also as an online portal through which training courses can be identified and applications processed.

Research and Publications

Clearly, more research is needed to inform housing policy in Ireland, and particularly relating to social housing policy and practice. A number of state bodies - the Housing Agency [HA] in the main, but also the Residential Tenancies Board [RTB], the Dublin Region Homeless Executive and the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee - undertake and commission relevant research, as do the Irish Council for Social Housing [ICSH] and individual AHBs. However, there is no forum to bring this work together - to make it accessible to those involved in the policy process - whether in the initiation of policy or its implementation. The **NHTDP** will address this gap.

Training Courses

| Title | Who Should Attend | Delivered by |
|---|--|--------------|
| Social Housing Fundamentals [2 Day] | Housing Personnel in Local Government | IPA |
| Social Housing Fundamentals [2 Day] | Housing Personnel in AHBs | IPA |
| Dealing with ASB [1 Day] | Housing Personnel in HAs and AHBs | IPA |
| Housing Policy Seminar Series [4 Day] | Middle management in Local Authorities [LAs] | IPA |
| Mortgage and Rent Arrears [1 Day] | Housing Personnel in Local Authorities | IPA |
| Planning for Housing Practitioners [1 Day] | Housing and Planning Personnel in LAs | IPA |
| Regulation of Private Rented Sector [1 Day] | Admin. and Technical Personnel in LAs | IPA/RTB |
| Prevention and Management of Aggression [1 Day] | Personnel dealing with clients and public | IPA |
| Financial modelling for CALF | Financial management within AHBs | ICSH |
| Risk Management for Board Members | Board members of AHBs | ICSH |
| Supported Housing: Dealing with Stress | Personnel providing support services in AHBs | ICSH |
| Training for Councillors working with AHBs | Councillors | ICSH |

Further details on the dates of these courses and on how to apply are available online, on the websites of the course deliverers - and later this year, on the **NHTDP** Housing Portal.

| Accredited Educational Courses | NFQ/Accredited | From | Delivered by |
|---|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Professional Diploma in Housing Studies | 8/UCD | Autumn 2016 | IPA |
| Certificate in Housing Studies | 6/UCD | Autumn 2016 | IPA |
| Certificate in Housing | CIH | Autumn 2016 | ICSH/CIH |