



Annual Summary of Social Housing Assessments Work Shop

*Housing Practitioners Conference Cork City
Aidan Sullivan – Social Housing Policy*

Annual SSHA Introduction

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Annual SSHA Outline

- The Now: Where we're at right now
- The What: What are we doing, where is the value in the process?
- The Why: Does this data even matter? What can it achieve?
- The How: To meet the needs of stakeholders that require real time accurate data?

Annual SSHA

The Now: Where we're at right now

- We've moved to annual SSHA from 3 year assessments
- 2016 was the first of the annual process
- It is acknowledged that carrying out the 2016 assessment was burdensome, resource intensive project
- When in the thick of it, you might wonder why? Is it necessary? And the answer is that it is absolutely necessary!
- However, a burdensome, resource intensive exercise carried out at a single point in the year , is it necessary ???
- There could be a better way

Annual SSHA

The What: What we're doing, where is the value in the process

- What are we doing when we go through the SSHA process?
- On a fundamental level, we are analysing data !
- Data that is collected, recorded and stored by local authorities
- Not just SSHA data but any data is valuable because.....

Annual SSHA

The What: What we're doing, where is the value in the process

- Data can:
 - Enable better planning by understanding the changing circumstances of service users
 - Provision of housing is demand led service, need to know where the demand is !
 - KYC – Know Your Customer – identifying the types of family units we serve and their needs, to better match supply with demand
 - Demonstrates year on year progress, shows trends etc

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The Why: Does this data even matter? What can it achieve?

- This data matters and is valuable for a number of reasons
- SSHA allows us to monitor housing need across the country in a consistent and timely manner
- Conducting annual assessments has been committed to in the Social Housing Strategy 2020
 - Action 34 *‘We will increase the regularity of the Housing Needs Assessment by undertaking it on annual basis from 2016 onwards’*. The rationale of annual assessment is to assist in providing a more strategic picture of the numbers applying and trends emerging. The key issues is to ensure that housing needs can be broken down into sub-groups so that social housing support delivered matches the profile of those in need.

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The Why: Does this data even matter? What can it achieve?

- It is essential for the realisation of the ambitious targets set out in Rebuilding Ireland
 - 47,000 social housing units to be provided by 2021 using €5.35 billion in funding
 - Improve use of existing stock

- It is a valuable resource to local authorities in meeting the statutory obligations set out for them in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, specifically.....
 - To make a housing services plan (sections 14-16)
 - Summary of Social Housing Assessments ! (section 21)
 - Allocation of dwellings (section 22)

Annual SSHA

The How: To meet the needs of stakeholders that require real time accurate data?

- Ok so now some context has been provided, we will break into discussion groups
- The objective of the discussion is to provoke some thought into different aspects of the SSHA process
- A set of 5 discussion topics have been agreed upon
- We hope that this exercise will help to identify a set of issues and opportunities !
- The topics for discussion are as follows.....

Annual SSHA Discussion Topics

1. If the SSHA didn't exist how would you go about monitoring and meeting the need for social housing in your area?
2. Are there more efficient ways the data could be collected and recorded?
3. What benefits can you see from this reporting process and what are the drawbacks?
4. How can the data currently generated from the SSHA process be used to assist with the planning and delivery of services?
5. The current SSHA Report. What do you think of it? The format, the tables included? Is there information that should be in it that isn't or information that is that shouldn't be?

Annual SSHA Conclusion

- Response to the housing crisis is a team effort, a collaboration between all of the key stakeholders
- Local Authorities are an integral part of this team
- Rebuilding Ireland and the Social Housing Strategy 2020 laid a path to better use of the nation's housing stock
- SSHA data is a key element in getting to the end of that path
- Like housing, data is a valuable asset, that always has potential to be used better and improved
- Treat your data as an **ASSET!!!**



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