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PRESS RELEASE

**Fingal County Council will continue to focus on the homeless crisis in 2019**

Fingal County Council will continue to focus on the homeless crisis in 2019 to ensure that people who do not have a roof over their heads receive the necessary support and assistance.

Director of Housing Margaret Geraghty said there had been a “relentless focus” in 2018 to try to support people entering homelessness and equally to prevent people from going into homeless circumstances in the first place.

Ms Geraghty said that that focus would continue into 2019 and beyond. “The reality is that until there is sufficient housing supply in the system, there is going to be an ongoing challenge in relation to people who find themselves in a situation where they vulnerable to becoming homeless.”

Therefore, she said, it was vital that Fingal County Council continues to provide housing support but equally important that there is a focus on preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place.

Ms Geraghty said that the council was working hard to provide a secure tenancy situation for those in the private rented sector.

“A lot of people have struggled because the private rented housing option didn't sustain them. It is every important to us to work to prevent people from
becoming homeless and to equally work with the private rented sector to bring in a more long-term supply of high quality, sustainable housing. This will give people the confidence that if they are in the private rented sector that there is in a secure tenancy situation.”

Ms Geraghty praised the staff working in the housing offices in Swords, Blanchardstown and Balbriggan who work to help those in need of support.

She said when the Council was dealing an individual, a couple or a family who find themselves at risk of homelessness, or on the housing list for a number of years waiting for an offer of support, it was really important to have up-to-date information.

“It is important that we are familiar with the person’s circumstances, of if there is a medical need or a family member has a disability, we understand the clients’ needs in the greatest detail possible.”

“It is a very personal thing to trying to work through and reach a sustainable housing solution and it important from a customer service perspective that we do our best to support them.”

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For further information contact press@fingal.ie.