

Homelessness in Wexford

Wexford People Helping People

A report by Ciara O'Farrell

Hi, my name is Ciara O'Farrell and something I am passionate about is homelessness, especially in Wexford as it is what I know the most about.

The current homelessness situation in Wexford is horrendous and it often takes organisations such as the County Council too long to respond to emergency circumstances. Even when they do answer, our previous concerns and preferred options are overlooked with little to no consideration, resulting in the bare minimum being done.

I believe that everyone deserves a roof over their head. While some have made past mistakes that lead to their current position, they are trying to better themselves and nothing can be changed about their earlier actions so we can only move forward.

At this moment in time, there is no excuse for anyone to be left out in those harsh weather conditions as the outcome could be fatal. The County Council are supposed to have a Winter Bed Initiative launched for these types of conditions, however, when asked the other day, it was revealed that nothing had been activated. After several public inquiries and a public statement released by Wexford People Helping People (WPHP), it was activated and The Council announced there was always a plan.

The problem with this statement is that WPHP had to send a list of their rough sleepers to the County Council, as their list only includes those who have presented themselves and been confirmed as homeless. The Winter Bed Initiative can be accessed by anyone even if you don't qualify as homeless, meaning no one can be turned away and must be provided with a warm location to stay until the weather passes. However, we still have cases who haven't been assisted and offered proper accommodation. How can this be right?



We have even had issues with those who currently reside on the street being afraid to sleep in their tent. This is because when they return to their tent later in the day all they are greeted with is scorched material, but still nothing is done!



I plan to try and improve the situation as I already volunteer with the non - profit organisation known as Wexford People Helping People. The team is full of committed and passionate people who strive to improve the current problem and spend their time answering emails, calls and messages, while having to look after a family and maintain a job. They have never given up on anyone or anything, no matter the obstacles they faced.

I am currently helping by getting to hear about our cases, research ways I can assist them, listen to suggestions and even give my own opinions. We have multiple successful cases who have been rehabilitated and found accommodation. In my opinion this proves that this group is greatly helping the community.

If you would like to learn more about this group, you can visit their Facebook page, Wexford People Helping People.

