



The 2008 European Network for Housing Research Conference will be held in Dublin from July 9th—11th and will take place in University College Dublin. The theme of the conference is **Shrinking Cities, Sprawling Suburbs, Changing Countrysides.**

The conference will address various issues relevant to this theme in both urban and rural locations. Plenary sessions will address current debates on topics such as balancing regional development, urban and rural development, socio-spatial segregation, new suburban communities, the role of immigration and tourism, developments in post socialist societies as well as issues that are specific to rural areas.

There will also be a range of workshops, field trips and social events held during the conference.

If you would like to register your interest or would like further information please log on to [www.enhr2008.com](http://www.enhr2008.com)



Centre for Housing Research



Search on-line at [www.homelessdublin.org](http://www.homelessdublin.org) for information on services for people who are homeless

The Homeless Agency,  
Parkgate Hall, 6-9 Conyngham Road, Dublin 8  
Phone: (01) 703 6100 Fax: 01 703 6170  
Email: [homeless@dublincity.ie](mailto:homeless@dublincity.ie)

If you would like to submit NEWS to the next issue of UPDATE please email [homeless@dublincity.ie](mailto:homeless@dublincity.ie)



## The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Homeless Agency

### Counted In 2008

The Homeless Agency will be conducting a weeklong survey of people experiencing homelessness in Dublin during the week of **Monday 10th March to Sunday 16th March 2008.**

The survey will be conducted in all homeless accommodation, homeless day services and other places where people who are homeless are likely to be in contact with (e.g. hospital A&E Departments). The results from this survey will provide vital information for the future planning of responses to the needs of people who are homeless in Dublin. It is also an essential tool for achieving the Homeless Agency Partnership Vision of eliminating long-term homelessness and the need for people to sleep rough.

Separate counts of the numbers of people sleeping rough will be carried out across all four local authority areas in Dublin during April 2008.

The national **Housing Needs Assessment** will also take place in March, with all Housing Authorities across Ireland required to make an assessment of need to provide housing for persons who cannot provide their own accommodation. This year, the Homeless Agency will be carrying out the section in relation to homelessness on behalf of the four Dublin local authorities as part of Counted In, 2008.

The Homeless Agency will be contacting all of homeless services to brief them on Counted In 2008 over the forthcoming weeks.

If you would like further information please contact Tadhg Kenehan at (01) 703 6190 or email [tadhg.kenehan@dublincity.ie](mailto:tadhg.kenehan@dublincity.ie)

### Inside this Issue:

Counted In 2008	1
Street League Launches in Limerick	2
Service Evaluations 2008	2
Service User Participation	3
DePaul Trust—Ukraine	3
ENHR Conference Dublin	4

## Street League Launches in Limerick

Street League launched the first homeless soccer league outside Dublin in Limerick last month.

Nine teams were assembled from around the city along with the help of several homeless hostels, community gardai, Limerick Youth Service, Moyross Youth Outreach and Southside Sports Academy. Each of the players taking part will have the opportunity to claim a place on the Irish team that will travel to Melbourne this year for the **Homeless World Cup**.

For further information please contact Brian White (St Patrick's Hostel), Co-ordinator of the Limerick Street League on 061 413183.



(From L-R—Sean Kavanagh, founder Street League, Jan O'Sullivan TD, Brian White Co-ordinator, Mayor Ger Fahey, Denis Hynes FAI, Dan Carey Street League, Eamon Moffat Street League)

## Homeless Agency Service Evaluations 2008

The Homeless Agency will be conducting a range of evaluations in 2008 which will include the following service types; Private Emergency Accommodation, Street Outreach Services, The Homeless Persons Unit, The Homeless Persons Freephone, Dublin City Council Night Bus, Food, Information and Advice Services, Settlement Services, Tenancy Sustainment Services, Supported Housing and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (homeless pilots)

The evaluation process will help advance the work to be achieved under the following core actions within **The Homeless Agency Action Plan A Key to the Door**:

**Core action 1:** Identify people and households at risk of homelessness and intervene appropriately with a co-ordinated multi-agency approach.

**Core Action 4:** Implement the Holistic Needs Assessment and the Care and Case Management approach across the homeless services sector.

**Core Action 7:** Local authorities and housing associations to provide social rented housing;

**Core Action 10:** Evaluate and review existing models of long-term housing supports and seek appropriate revenue funding streams for the implementation of best practice in this area for people who have been homeless.

The principal objective for the evaluation process is to examine evidence of practices that (a) provide for and support service users on a pathway away from the need to sleep rough, out of long-term homelessness and closer/into independent living; and (b) work to prevent the incidence of episodic and repeat experiences of homelessness. The evaluations will take place over the course of 2008 and we will keep you updated with our progress.

## Dublin Simon aim to increase service user participation



In 2007 Dublin Simon Community (DSC) developed a strong partnership with Groundswell, the leading service user involvement and self-help organisation working in the field of homelessness in the UK. Groundswell was invited over to Ireland to assist Dublin Simon in identifying how to involve service users in meaningful decision-making on both the operational and strategic planning of the organisation.

The nine aims that were agreed include the following;

1. Create volunteering opportunities for service users
2. Increase housing options through lobbying private landlords
3. Review referral policy to include service users and ensure transparency
4. DSC Day Centre/one stop shop for service users run by service users
5. Develop clear communication between staff, service users and other agencies
6. Build confidence and self respect in service users
7. Create opportunities to share service user's experiences with young people to help prevent homelessness
8. More open disciplinary procedures in all Dublin Simon projects
9. Establish service users groups in projects that can represent and advocate

A Service User Support Service (SUSS) Committee has been established to oversee the implementation of these 9 aims. The SUSS Committee run by service users, meets fortnightly. Issues affecting service users are debated, discussed and highlighted at the forum which is also attended by DSC staff.

The first issue of the SUSS newsletter, written and produced for the service user by the service user, was published in December and includes essential information, life skills, event listings, personal stories and much more. It aims to be both informative and entertaining. You can download it on the Dublin Simon website ([www.dubsimon.ie](http://www.dubsimon.ie)) under publications.

Research is ongoing as to the nature and range of volunteering opportunities that service users could avail of. Volunteering Ireland is also involved, assisting Dublin Simon with Best Practice Models.

Numerous questionnaires assessing the need and viability of a one-stop information centre for service users run by service users.

For more information on Dublin Simon contact Lorna Cronnelly, Communications Manager: Tel: 671 5551; Email: [lornacronnelly@dubsimon.ie](mailto:lornacronnelly@dubsimon.ie)

## Depaul Trust Foundation Ukraine

Pat Doherty has moved on from Depaul Trust Ireland to work for the Depaul Foundation as programmes Director for the work in Ukraine and Slovakia. Pat was previously the CEO of Depaul Trust Ireland and had moved on a secondment for six months to the Foundation, but has decided that this is a move he would like to make more permanent and has been successfully recruited to this on a full time basis. If people would like to make contact with Pat his details can be provided by Depaul Trust Ireland office. We wish Pat all the very best for his new role.