



Housing Alliance

More Social and Affordable Homes

Our inspiring tenants, our innovative homes

More Social and Affordable Homes



housingalliance.ie

info@housingalliance.ie [!\[\]\(529949c2c3dadbaa4e538e8c643454bc_img.jpg\) @HouseAllianceIE](https://twitter.com/HouseAllianceIE)

About the Housing Alliance

The Housing Alliance is a collaboration of six of Ireland's largest Approved Housing Bodies: Clúid Housing, Circle Voluntary Housing, Co-operative Housing Ireland, Oaklee Housing, Respond and Tuath Housing.

Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) are organisations that have been formally approved by government to provide social housing. All six members of the Housing Alliance are classified as Tier 3 AHBs. The Housing Alliance was formed to promote the delivery of social and affordable housing by larger AHBs, to address barriers and challenges to delivery, and to promote strong professional approaches to housing management. Members work collaboratively on a range of issues, while also retaining their independent status.

Most Housing Alliance members are active members and participants in the Irish Council for Social Housing. All exercise good governance and accountability, filing annual audited Financial Statements with the Companies Registration Office, and are regulated by the Housing Regulator and Charities Regulator.

To deliver much-needed social housing, the Housing Alliance works in partnership with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; local authorities; the Housing Agency; the Housing Finance Agency and a range of funding partners; and the private sector.

Collectively, the Alliance is responsible for over 20,000 social homes nationwide, representing two-thirds of the total AHB housing stock in Ireland. Over the last two years, 2017 and 2018, Housing Alliance members delivered more than 3,500 homes across the country. We are currently working across at least 50 schemes with over 2,000 homes in the pipeline, and more to come in 2019, with the support of our partners.

About Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

AHBs are not-for-profit organisations that have a social purpose to provide for people's housing needs by working in close co-operation with the Government, local authorities and relevant agencies. In particular, Housing Alliance members work in partnership with local authorities to support the provision of housing and, in many cases, additional supports. The Government has recognised that AHBs are central to the meeting of Ireland's social and affordable housing needs, with Rebuilding Ireland recognising that AHBs will deliver one-third of the 50,000 additional social homes needed by 2021.



Circle Voluntary Housing Association was set up in 2003 to provide high quality housing to families and individuals in the Dublin area in need of a home. Since then, it has grown to become one of the biggest approved housing bodies in Ireland. It works with local authorities and owner-managed companies across the country, providing 1,700 homes to its tenants. Circle VHA works in partnership with its tenants and with statutory and community-based agencies to enable socially responsible, environmentally-focused, and sustainable communities in all its developments. This focus on community is central to Circle VHA's desire to ensure that tenants feel involved in their local area and that their needs are reflected in their environment.

www.circlevha.ie | [@CircleVHA](https://twitter.com/CircleVHA)

Innovative Project: Peadar Kearney House, Dublin

Peadar Kearney House is a development of 56 apartments and townhouses located in the heart of Dublin's North Inner City. The development was built following a long and successful campaign by local people to renovate their old estate (Liberty House), which had become dilapidated, suffered from severe social problems, and to improve their living conditions and life opportunities.

The partnership between Circle VHA and the tenants group commenced ahead of the opening of the development and Circle VHA staff were immediately impressed



with the tenant's level of organisation, their command of the design and architectural issues involved in the build, and their great commitment to ensuring that the new development became a safe and secure place to live. Circle VHA has worked closely and very responsively with the tenants to ensure that the high standards of the development were maintained. We meet consistently with tenants and respond quickly to issues as they arise. We have a caretaker on site who deals with repairs and maintenance issues quickly and Tenancy Service Officer visits the scheme weekly to see tenants and work with them to resolve any issues.

The scheme is a powerful example of where tenants when provided by the right support can show; capability, self-leadership and self-reliance within their own community. Circle VHA has worked closely in partnership with the tenant's association to develop a safe scheme with great community spirit and signposting and supporting the tenants who live there to manage and overcome many of the social problems in the surrounding area.

Peadar Kearney House is urban regeneration at its best. Circle VHA have been innovative in our approach and as a result have developed a partnership with the tenants' association that has inspired a dedication to delivering measurable benefits for the community as a whole. Circle VHA received the 'More than Bricks and Mortar' Award at the Chartered Institute of Housing Awards 2018 in recognition of its work with the residents of Peadar Kearney house in Dublin. 'More than Bricks and Mortar' recognises a demonstrated commitment to tenant empowerment and to improving opportunities for delivering real change within a community.

One innovative feature of the development is the inclusion of old-style balconies in the new scheme so that older tenants could talk to neighbours outside and therefore reducing the risk of isolation with our older tenants.

Tenants run summer play camps and other social activities for young people, and Circle VHA has worked with the residents to set up a tenant's forum and meets with members of that forum and other local representatives. This supports tenant autonomy and integration within the wider community in Dublin 1.



Tenant Story: Elaine, Peadar Kearney House

I was on the housing list for as long as I can remember. I had been living in a two-bedroom duplex with my mother, sharing a room with my 13-year-old son. The only way I can explain getting the apartment is that it was like I won the lotto. My bedroom here is bigger than my mam's house where I used to live. It means a lot for my son to have his own space too.

I love the sense of community. I was worried as I wasn't from here but people have been great. You can knock in to each other. If someone runs out of milk. If someone has leftover curry, we drop it into each other. It's like was it was years ago. We all look after each other. We do a summer project too.

Tenant Story: Mary, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown

Mary is a single parent with three children.

Before I was offered accommodation from DLRCC with Circle Housing in 2017, I was a private tenant from 2006 to 2016. I was on the housing list since 1999. We were excellent tenants and paid between €1350 to €1650 rent per calendar month on one wage. Due to spiralling rents and no security of tenure, we had to leave each property once the landlords gave notice to quit.

2016 was a catalyst for me as I could not live with the pressure anymore. The pressure of choosing a roof over your family's head or a weekly shop, while holding down a full-time job felt unsurmountable. I was so lucky to have my brother who offered a room to me and my children for a year.

When we were offered the house by Circle my initial reaction was shock. I wasn't clear if the property was under a private landlord as I had never heard of ABH's before. I was afraid we could be moved on again but once all the details were made clear to me my shock and fear turned to exaltation.

I thank God every day for the roof my children and I have over our heads. I say roof, but it is a 'home', our forever home.



Clúid Housing is an independent, not-for-profit charity, and is the largest approved housing body (AHB) in Ireland. Established in 1994, Clúid leads the way in providing high quality, affordable rented homes to people in housing need. We work in partnership with local authorities to provide housing to those on social housing waiting lists. Our team of over 170 highly qualified professional staff are committed to providing quality housing and services that enable people to create homes and thriving communities. We aim to deliver 2,500 new social housing units over a three-year period.

www.cluid.ie | [@CluidHousing](https://twitter.com/CluidHousing)

Innovative Project: St Mary's Mansions, Dublin

The regeneration of St. Mary's Mansions is the first major redevelopment in the area following the publication of the Mulvey report in 2016 which highlighted the need for action to make the North East inner-city area a safe, attractive and vibrant living and working environment for the community and its families with opportunities for all to lead full lives.

The flat complex was built by Dublin Corporation nearly 70 years ago and needs total refurbishment to bring it up to current standards. The regeneration works are scheduled for completion in mid-2019 and, when complete, will provide high quality social housing to 80 local families and single people. The works will include the addition of two new floors and will be laid out as one, two, three and four bedroom apartments and duplexes.



Building on the strong sense of community spirit in the area, the redesign of St. Mary's Mansions focused on the input of existing and new residents and key features were specifically included to enhance overall quality of life. These include communal social and play areas, a community room and socially aware landscaping. At the heart of the regenerated St. Mary's Mansions will be a central courtyard designed to support community activities.

Clúid is working in partnership with Dublin City Council to ensure the redevelopment makes full use of local employment and training initiatives, particularly during the construction phase. Upon completion, the scheme will be accessed by a newly created entrance on Gloucester Place Lower. It is envisioned this will improve security and reanimate the existing underused space. There will be increased car and bike parking facilities and a secure, easily maintained bin store. New lift and stair cores will improve access for all residents.

Former St. Mary's Mansions resident Elsie Champion, who lives in Clúid's nearby Killarney Court scheme said: "The whole community is thrilled to see this going ahead! It'll make a huge difference to the area."

Once complete, the BER (Building Energy Rating) of each apartment will be an impressive A3. Combined with an affordable rent, the reduced fuel costs will help to combat fuel poverty among tenants. Solar electricity will supplement demand across the development, further reducing living costs for residents. Each apartment will have flexible, thermostatically controlled heating with easy to operate intelligent controls. Cutting-edge insulation technology will eliminate heat loss to create super-efficient homes. A high efficiency gas fired centralised heating system will provide central heating and hot water on demand via monitored heat-units in each home.



Tenant Story: Mary, White Street

I have a physical disability which means I need to use a wheelchair to get around. I do lead a very active life, but I need help with everyday tasks.

When I was young, people with disabilities didn't have the same opportunities to attend mainstream schools as they do today. I lived in care for 13 years and had no formal experience of education so I felt like I had been thrown in at the deep end when I went to university. But I was out and about and realised that I no longer wanted to live in care.

I spoke to a disability advocate and it went from there. It's a dream come true to have my own apartment. I realised there were a few things I would need if I was to be independent. I spoke to Clúid about this and I got an automatic door and a handsfree intercom installed. Now people can visit, and I can come and go as I please. I'm living in my apartment six years.

Tenant Story: Daniel, Pound Lane

Daniel suffers from schizoaffective disorder and has found a home in Ennis. Since moving in to his home, he has released two books.

Since about the age of 15, I've been in and out of hospital. I'd come to the conclusion that I'd end up my days in institutions or high-support hostels because that's all I'd known for years. There was no bit of freedom and, honestly, there was no real dignity in those places. Luckily my nurse and outreach team suggested going for an interview to see if I could get into the Clúid scheme.

I was made to feel welcome from the very first moment I came to Clúid for an interview. They were so dedicated to what they're doing. They want everyone to be happy and comfortable where they are.

It's the first time in my life that I have my own place to call my own home. It's very reassuring to know I'm being looked after. My self-esteem has also improved because I'm not afraid to bring people into my own home. A friend told me that she thinks my health has also improved so much since I got the flat. I've been written off so many times in my life and I feel like things have really turned around for me. I'm in a really good place – in my life and my home.



Co-operative Housing Ireland is the national organisation representing, promoting and developing co-operative housing in Ireland. Since our foundation in 1973 we have provided over 5,700 homes through home-ownership, shared ownership and social rented co-operatives. With our membership of democratically controlled local co-operatives, we continue to manage over 2,400 homes across Ireland and provide a network of childcare services in our communities.

www.cooperativehousing.ie | [@coophousingie](https://twitter.com/coophousingie)



Innovative Project: Fruithill Manor, Graiguecullen, Carlow

Fruithill Manor was a previously unfinished housing estate in which NAMA (the National Assets Management Agency) held an interest as a secured lender. NAMA was established in 2009 as one of a number of initiatives taken by the Government to address the crisis in Irish banking and had the task of dealing with non-performing property loans acquired from Irish banks. Following significant investment by NAMA on completion and remediation works to the unfinished houses and estate, the houses were made available to Co-operative Housing Ireland in the 2017 on a long-term lease.

Consisting of 74 four, three and two-bed semi-detached family homes with front and back gardens, homes are arranged around communal green spaces, which provide recreational use for the families. The scheme is a distinctive mixed-tenure development with 15 homes provided by the private rental market and the remainder allocated between the Laois and Carlow local authorities.

As a co-operative, operating in line with values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity, we are acutely aware of the fact that a house does not make a home – a community does. In that vein, we were very keen to ensure that this new community of 74 households would have access to resources and supports that would facilitate engagement, participation and enrich the neighbourhood as a whole. To that end, we reached out to Carlow Regional Youth Services, and offered them the possibility of leasing a unit in the development. Carlow Regional Youth Services is a local voluntary service affiliated to Youth Work Ireland, that provides direct programmes and services for young people at risk, including community-based youth work programmes, drop-in services, and leadership training. Carlow Regional Youth Services now leases this unit from Co-operative Housing Ireland, from which they run their wide range of youth services.

However, we have brought our collaboration a step further in engaging with Carlow Regional Youth Services to provide access to their space and facilities to our Local Area Board, comprised of co-operative member-tenants in Fruithill Manor and across the South Leinster area. Since the inception of this collaborative project, the Local Area Board have begun holding a range of well-being-oriented activities, including fitness classes, cookery classes and training in a wide variety of areas in the space, for both adults and young people, with advice and support provided by Carlow Regional Youth Services. A recent initiative, run by a member of the local co-operative, focuses on building skills in the use of defibrillators, to allow people to take on the role of community first-responders. These classes and training sessions are not just open to co-operative member-tenants, however – they are open to the entire local community. The Local Area Board have also been active in organising a wide range of events including Christmas parties, Halloween trick or treating and a summer barbeque, further enhancing the positive community spirit in the development.

Tenant Story: Mustafa, Madeira Oaks

I was born in Syria and am married with two beautiful children. I worked as an International taxi driver between Syria and Turkey. Back then, life was calm and simple.

But in 2011, a civil war started and what seemed to be a week- or month-long conflict, turned out to be nine years of bloodshed. We moved within Syrian territory for three years searching for a safe place to live but without any luck of finding it. Our country had become a wasteland. We travelled to Turkey and stayed there for six months. We found safety, but it was clear we weren't welcome. We travelled to Lebanon but again, we weren't welcome.

After two years of discrimination and hardship, we received a notice from the UN that we were chosen to travel to Ireland as refugees. We arrived at Dublin airport in 2017 and felt a warm welcome that we hadn't experienced in over a decade.

We moved into a house in Enniscorthy from Co-operative Housing Ireland. The team were so friendly and provided us with all the services that we needed. We are so thankful to the Co-operative, the kind people of Ireland and their government.



Tenant Story: Svetlana, Weaver's Wood



Svetlana and her family moved from Latvia to Ireland in 2004. Before moving into their Co-operative Housing Ireland home, they had been renting a two-bed home in Clonée for seven years. They had been on the housing waiting list for 10 years.

In June 2018, we got a letter to say we were nominated for this accommodation. I am excited, I am very happy, I couldn't wait for this day to come. My husband has been out of work due to an injury for three years. Because of his condition he is not able to do anything anymore but hopefully it will improve.

People are very kind here. They come to you and want to know your name.



Oaklee Housing is one of Ireland's most ambitious providers of customer-focused housing and support services. Established in 2000, we have rapidly grown our presence across the country delivering high quality modern homes for older people, families, mature singles and people with complex needs. Oaklee Housing is a member of the Choice Housing Group and the Irish Council for Social Housing.

www.oaklee.ie | [@oakleehousing](https://twitter.com/oakleehousing)



Innovative Project: Pairc Na Greine, Tallaght

The accommodation at Pairc Na Greine, Tallaght, Dublin 24 consists of 45 apartments over 2 blocks. The dual aspect apartments have been finished to a high standard with underfloor heating, carpeted internal communal corridors, intercom system, underground parking and on site play grounds.

The development is 100% social housing, with all applicants being eligible for housing through South Dublin County Council. The tenant profile is general needs mix for older, families, mature singles, and people with complex needs.

Due to the housing crisis, 20% of the applicants housed in the development came from emergency accommodation and we worked with a government initiative to support people attempting to make the transition from homelessness to living independently. A number of Supports to Live Independently ('SLI') case workers were assigned to assist in settling tenants into the area and were assigned to the client for up to 6 months. This project was such a success that the SLI case workers were able to finish their engagement with the tenants within the first 2 months.

Tenant Story: John, Hyland Views

All good adventures begin with small steps and, for John Rogers, the 12th May 2017 started like many other days at his residential service in Drumcar, County Louth. A familiar excursion to the day service in Dundalk brought a fun surprise as his sister and niece joined him for afternoon tea and fancy buns. Ordinarily, trips to the day service would conclude with brief goodbyes before a short return drive to Drumcar, but John soon noticed further deviations from normal activities. Being non-verbal, John offers his thoughts via his sister Carmel Daly.

Before my taxi arrived, my sister and niece offered me a lift. There was a lot of tears and hugs with the staff when I was leaving. That never happened before.

The journey was a bit longer than usual and I arrived at a strange new place, but everyone there seemed to know my name and were very friendly.

John's journey had brought him to Hyland View in Monaghan. Operated in partnership with St John of God Community Services Company, this modern Oaklee supported living scheme assists people who need different levels of assistance or who have an intellectual disability.

"I was brought to a lovely big bedroom and I recognised a lot of my stuff, I was wondering where things were gradually going as my bedroom in the unit was looking a bit bare this past day or so. There was my family photos, my chair and my hats. I looked directly at my sister and the penny dropped for both of us: for me that I was to stay here and for her that I knew!"

That day opened a new chapter for John and brought levels of independence, comfort and support that work for him.

"My days here are very different to my previous days. I can do what I want to do, which sometimes is nothing, which is fine also, other days I love to go out on the bus, to feed the ducks. I fit in at Hyland View and on the days I don't, Hyland View adapts to fit me! What more could a man ask for?"



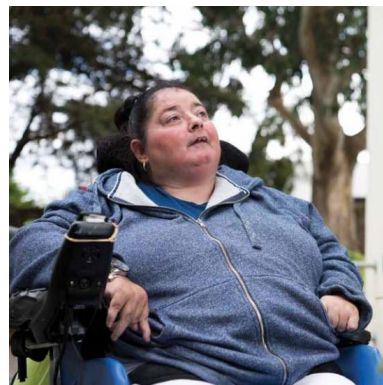
Tenant Story: Maggie

In any home, it's the little things we often take for granted that can make all the difference. For Maggie Grant, the front door of her two-bedroom Oaklee Housing apartment represents her independence.

Maggie, is a wheelchair user and had lived in residential care at Richmond Cheshire House in Monkstown for 20 years until its closure. While it is taking time to adapt to the new surroundings and establish new social links, Maggie says the switch has been positive.

Maggie qualified for social housing with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Housing Authority and was nominated for consideration for the south Dublin property, which Oaklee Housing leased from a private owner for a 20-year term. The association adapted the apartment for wheelchair use and Maggie believes more organisations' should consult end users in the adaption process.

"You have a lot of disabled people in the community, whatever area you live in. Every area is different and every wheelchair is different, every width is different, every size is different and every person is different. So you need to talk to the people with the disability not just the people who look after them." Alongside Oaklee Housing managing the property, Cheshire Ireland provides support and care that enables Maggie to live independently in the community and make new friends.



Respond is a not-for-profit Housing Association working all around Ireland. We are proactively responding to the housing and homelessness crisis in Ireland by providing real on-the-ground solutions, delivering social and affordable homes, addressing family homelessness and supporting people in the homes and accommodation we provide.

www.respond.ie | [@RespondHousing](https://twitter.com/RespondHousing)

Innovative Project: Johns College, Waterford

The development at Johns College consists of two parts, College House which is the existing college building and College Mews which consists of the new apartments adjacent. The development was designed by Respond and completed in 2015. With over 100 years of use as a theological college, John's College has huge historical importance, both culturally and architecturally, and many of the original features have been preserved and protected. The building has now been transformed into a landmark facility for the care of the older persons and people with specific needs and requirements.



This project includes 57 one-bedroom apartments for independent living – 21 in College House and 36 in College Mews, a 10 bed group home, catering for people with specific needs and the Hub Café catering for residents and the wider Waterford community.

The apartments are all designed to meet the needs of the older person. The apartments in College House are a bit larger than standard and contain level access showers and grab rails in the bathrooms.

A number of apartments in both College House & College Mews have been designed with the possibility of accommodating wheelchair users. These apartments have larger corridors and rooms to allow for the manoeuvring of wheelchairs as well as kitchens that have been designed to be more appropriate for use by wheelchair users.

All apartments contain an emergency alert system with a pull cord in the bathroom and a push button beside the bed in the bedroom. At the moment, this system is linked to the Facility Managers' office during business hours, however there is the facility to connect this to a 24 hour call centre in the future if this is required.

As part of this project, Respond have given an historic building that is a protected structure, and was beginning to fall into disrepair, a new purpose in the area of much needed social housing.

This development is an example of Respond's ambition to deliver not just housing, but to also develop integrated and supported communities where residents can take a leading role in the delivery of services for themselves and their neighbours.

The extra support services provided in the development including the Hub Café, Activation Room and Community Education Centre ensure that Older People remain active within their own community which helps to counteract loneliness and social isolation.

The facilities of the Johns College development are available for use by the wider community. The Hub Café is frequented by local residents and employees of nearby businesses. The conference room is rented out for use by a number of community groups and organisations. This helps foster interaction with the wider community and brings additional vibrancy to the development.



Tenant Story: Dolores, Channel Manor

Dolores and her family were living in an over-crowded situation in a Local Authority house in Kilbarrack. Following a nomination from the Local Authority, Respond met with Dolores and subsequently offered her a four bed house in Chanel Manor in Coolock. Dolores and her family moved into her new home just before Christmas December 2017.

Respond's offer of a four-bed house came out of the blue and my life changed. I love it, love this house, I fell in love with it from the outside. Then the day when we got the keys was the best day of my life apart from my children. Life changing for me and family, a new start for all of us.

We lived in a Corporation house down in Kilbarrack and it became overwhelming for us all. We did not have enough space and I was trying to keep it all together. We needed a break, a chance and we got it. I said I would never give out again. This is our chance it's magical.

I love my new home, and the lads love it. It means that the lads can stay, we can stay as a family. They would have had to move out from the old house as there wasn't enough room but now we can stay as a family. It shows how a house can change everything.

Tenant Story: Una, Belmont

When Una's marriage ended, the bank foreclosed on her marital home and she had to leave. Una and her four children were forced to look for private rented accommodation. During this time, she also applied to the Local Authority for housing support.

Through a good friend she managed to secure accommodation. After four years living in this property she got notice to leave as the landlord was selling the property. She sourced another private rental property following a long search but had to leave after 4.5 years. She experienced her time in the private rental sector as filled with uncertainty and stress.

When rent became unaffordable she contacted a local councillor who made representation on her behalf.

In Una's own words – "she is speechless, she thinks she is in a dream" "it's great to have that security at her age" "it's like winning the lottery".



Tuath proudly work in partnership with Local Authorities nationwide to provide and manage in excess of 4,600 social homes with a further 1,000 onsite for delivery by the end of 2020. Our aim is to provide long-term, safe, quality housing at best value whilst locally building sustainable communities. Tuath is primarily a service organisation, housing people in need and managing homes whilst responding to, engaging with and involving people to make social housing work. The Association provides family housing in both urban and rural areas, homeless accommodation, supported housing for the elderly and people with disabilities. Our core business is focused on managing social homes in a sustainable way, which leads people and families to peacefully enjoy, live and settle within communities.

www.tuathhousing.ie | [@tuathhousing](https://twitter.com/tuathhousing)

Innovative Project: Honeypark, Glenageary, Dún Laoghaire

Honeypark is an exceptional example of innovation in construction, sustainable site design and successful, integrated, mixed tenure living. The multi award-winning mixed use / tenure scheme of approximately 1,900 homes contains 206 social homes renting at an average of €67 per week with 124 apartments and duplexes in Abbot Court, Cualanor and 82 in Rochdale.



Honeypark has a village feel, set in 6.5 acres of park land with a lake, playgrounds, putting green and multi-sports court amongst its many recreational features. It contains a thriving neighbourhood

centre incorporating a Tesco and other major retail outlets with comprehensive public transport links. Honeypark was an early provider of electric car charging points and is on the roster of Go Car pick up points, further helping to reduce the dependence on car ownership. It is a green scheme with Cosgraves named winners of the prestigious Building Award at the sustainable energy awards. Cualanor won the overall award for Community Benefit Project in 2016, overall winner of the SEAI Environment Award for sustainability and Energy Efficiency Project Award in 2017. The A-rated homes have heating costs at a fraction of those homes built 10 or more years ago. The social homes offer a greener, sustainable way of living with low energy bills.

Tuath residents living in Cualanor are delighted with their homes, one tenant describes her new home as “a dream location and a very quiet and secure development with the most beautiful park area for walks. I used to live in private rented accommodation with little or no heat and now I can enjoy the warmth and comfort of my new home at affordable costs”. Rochdale and Abbot Court are seamlessly integrated into the site and are indistinguishable from the other apartments fostering an inclusive atmosphere. In 2013 Rochdale won the Irish Council for Social Housing Awards, in the “Mixed Communities” category. The Judging Panel highlighted the project as being “an effective example of achieving the right balance of mixed community occupancy in harmony with the surrounding developments with excellent holistic design for environmental sustainability..”.

The social homes were acquired under Part V legislation and are a combined mix of owned and long-term leases of up to thirty years including the first ground breaking Part V NAMA / NARPS initiative at Abbot Court, Cualanor. The scheme was delivered via a partnership model with Dún Laoghaire County Council, Cosgraves as developer and NAMA as project sponsor and funder.



Tenant Story: Abdesselem and Rima, Kildare Town

Abdesselem moved to Ireland from Algeria 23 years ago. He came to Ireland in search of work and a better quality of life. His wife Rima gave birth to their first child in 2014. Their daughter Mayar was diagnosed with both Dandy Walker Syndrome and Joubert syndrome soon after being born. Their rented property was not suitable for Mayar's wheelchair or walker.

In 2015 the family applied for social housing through Kildare County council and in August 2018 the family were nominated for a bungalow in Oaktree in Kildare Town. It was clear from the first day that housing officer met the family at the property it would be perfectly suited to their needs and that the accommodation, all on one level would enhance family life and aid in Mayar's development.

The family are now well settled in their home which is nestled away in this quiet cul-de-sac. Abdesselem says "the house is perfect for our needs and has made life easier for the whole family. We feel safe a secure and are looking forward to working with the Kildare Occupational Therapy team to further aid with Mayars development. Her brother Wassim who was born in 2017 and is also loving his new surroundings".

Tenant Story: Carmel and Dale, Ffrenchmullen House, Dublin 2

Ffrenchmullen House on Charlemont Street is one of Dublin's oldest communities. The residents of the old flats, on Charlemont Street, moved into their new homes in 2017, more than 20 years after the regeneration began. The Charlemont Street scheme is a public-private-partnership initiative completed by Dublin City Council. The multi award winning scheme when completed will contain over 500 apartments. Dublin City Council acquired the 79 social homes which Tuath now manage on their behalf. 49 of the 79 social units were allocated back to families who lived in the old apartments.

This regeneration project was a unique opportunity in the heart of the city to create a high-quality mixed use neighbourhood. Dublin City Council has always ensured that the existing tenants were kept informed and many of the tenants noted, upon move in, that they always felt it would happen.

Carmel had "lived on Charlemont Street for 44 years between Charlemont Gardens and Tom Kelly Road. The Tom Kelly Road flats were a great place to grow up as a child and then to have reared two children there. There was always talk of the flats being regenerated. We never thought it would happen but eventually it did".

"In November 2017, we got our keys from Tuath Housing. I moved in straight away. I absolutely love my new home. It's so big, warm, cosy with state-of-the-art heating, instant hot water, triple glazed windows with lifts in each block - no more struggling myself upstairs with groceries, and all of this still in my own community".

housingalliance.ie

info@housingalliance.ie

 @HouseAllianceIE

