

1st December, 2021

Mr Michael Healy-Rae, TD.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref: 55492/21

“To ask the Minister for Health his plans to downgrade or close a facility in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied: “Minister a decision was made in 2011 with regard to decongregation of facilities with mental and intellectual disabilities such as St Mary of the Angels in Beaufort. This is a centre of excellence for taking care of special people. It would be an absolute shame to see this facility been downgraded or closed down”.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The HSE is implementing a fundamental reform of Disability Services in Ireland, known as ‘Transforming Lives’. This reform programme is about moving away from institutional models of care and service delivery to community-based, person centred models of service where people with a disability can live valued and inclusive lives within their own community.

The programme of reform drives the changes needed in services to realise our overarching vision for Disability Services: “To contribute to the realisation of a society where people with disabilities are supported, as far as possible, to participate to their full potential in economic and social life, and have access to a range of quality personal social support and services to enhance their quality of life and well-being”.

The HSE’s policy *A Time to Move on from Congregated Settings – A Strategy for Community Inclusion*, is also based on a model of support where people with disabilities are supported to move from large institutions (congregated settings) to their own homes in the community with the supports they need. It is about supporting people to ‘live ordinary lives in ordinary places’.

The HSE recognises the continued progress of St John of Gods in relation to improvements with the compliance to HIQA standards. The position of the HSE is that it wishes to see all individuals supported to have the option of living in the community with appropriate supports, provided this is in their best interests and in partnership with their families. It is recognised

that this will take time to put in place and it is being planned in a phased manner.

HSE Disability Services Kerry will continue to work with St John of God's in the implementation of a community living model for St Mary of the Angels. Based on their will and preference, residents who wish to move out of the Campus to community houses will be supported to do so in a planned way in consultation with their families.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely,



Majella Daly
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

