

29th June, 2022.

Mr Brendan Griffin, TD.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 31536/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the proposals that have been forthcoming from relevant health service providers in relation to the repurposing of a campus (details supplied) for housing solutions for persons with disabilities who require homes in what is considered to be a decongregated community setting; the way that such proposals have been received; if none have been received, if he is open to such proposals; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: St. Mary of the Angels, Beaufort, Co Kerry.

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

You will be aware that the HSE is tasked with 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 and supports the continued progress of St John of Gods in



relation to supporting people with disabilities living on St. Mary of the Angel's (SMOA) Campus, Beaufort to move to living in community based living arrangements, based on their will and preference.

The HSE also recognises improvements with the compliance to HIQA standards for those persons currently living in SMOA Campus, Beaufort. 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 with regular engagement with HSE National Disability Office, St John of Gods and Family representative groups.

HSE Disability Services Kerry will continue to work with St. John of Gods in the implementation of a community living model for St Mary of the Angels for the 61 clients who currently reside there. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare also recognises the value of the current service that is being delivered on the campus and the need to develop long term plans which will include the provision of specialist services for older people with disabilities. The National Disability Authority is conducting research into the most appropriate setting for older people with disabilities and their findings will assist us to support St. John of Gods develop appropriate local plans at St. Mary's to this effect.

If I can be of further assistance please let me know.

Yours sincerely



**Ms. Majella Daly,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare.**

