



Leas Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta: Pleanáil Athraithe agus Seachadadh
Seirbhísí Míchumais agus Meabhairshláinte

Assistant National Director: Change Planning and Delivery
Disability and Mental Health Services

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9th August 2023

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: michael.healyrae@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 35705/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will reconsider the closing down of congregated settings (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied: Minister I wish to once again make a humble request, one size does not fit all. When it comes to people with intellectual or physical disabilities is there any possibility that the Government would review the policy of closing down congregated settings e.g St Mary's of the Angels in Beaufort, Co Kerry.

HSE Response

The HSE Time To Move On policy is supporting people to progress from campus based/ institutional settings to community based homes with support. The on-going commitment of the HSE to the vision of "Time to Move on" has been fundamental in bringing about meaningful and sustainable change for approximately 2,400 individuals since the programme began and is enabling these individuals to live ordinary lives in ordinary places in the community.

This proposed model of support envisages that people living in congregated settings will be moved to dispersed housing in ordinary communities and will have the same entitlement as any other citizen, such as GP services, home help, public health nursing services and access to primary care teams. This process has shown that families initially had concerns about their family member moving to the community however, meaningful engagement with families and individuals before during and after the transition led to successful transitions for all those who have moved to date.

Initial feedback shows that the lives of many individuals have been enhanced and they are enjoying a far greater quality of life than when living in a congregated setting.



The HSE is committed to ensuring that planned transitions meet the individual's specific needs and take full consideration of the individuals expressed will and preference. The HSE will ensure meaningful engagement takes place with family members and other key people who have a relationship with the individual in line with the Assisted Decision Making Capacity Act.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian J Higgins', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Mr Brian J Higgins,
Assistant National Director,
Change Planning and Delivery,
Disability and Mental Health Services**

