



29th October 2025

Deputy Michael Cahill,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ Ref 57092/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality to give a detailed progress report in regard to the urgent provision of respite and additional disability services adjacent to a school (details supplied); if she will outline the progress the working group has made in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. – Michael Cahill TD

Details supplied: St. Francis Special School at St. Mary of the Angels, Beaufort, County Kerry or the many Kerry families that are exhausted from giving 24/7 care for months on end without a break;

Dear Deputy Cahill,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response.

HSE South West Disability Services and St. John of God (SJOG) Services have convened a working group to review and make recommendations on the optimal, compliant, and ethical future uses for the site.

As part of that, representatives from all relevant stakeholder groups, including people supported and / or their families, have been invited to participate in the working group. The voice and views of residents is important as the campus is their home and, with the pace of de-congregation, is likely to be home to some people for a longer period than would be preferred under the 'Time to Move On' policy for de-congregation.

St. Francis Special School, funded by the Department of Education, is located on the campus grounds of St. Mary of the Angels. SJOG and HSE South West



do not have a governance relationship with St. Francis Special School. However, a representative of the parent's council of the school is a valued member of the working group.

The people who require specialist disability services will be at the centre of every discussion and decision in respect of the use of the St Mary of the Angels site.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms Angela O' Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
HSE South West.**