# Briefing Note for Board Directors and Senior Managers

## What is the Time to Move On From Congregated Settings policy?

In 2011 the report *Time to Move on from Congregated Settings - A Strategy for Community Inclusion* was published and adopted as national policy. This report identified that over 4,000 people with disabilities in Ireland were living in congregated type settings, defined as where ten or more people reside in a single living unit or are campus based.

The report found that many people were experiencing institutional living conditions where they lacked basic privacy and dignity and lived their lives apart from any community and family.

In line with the international evidence, new models of residential services are now being developed to support people with disabilities to live *"ordinary lives in ordinary places".* This means people with a disability will choose where and with whom they live and they will be supported to lead the life of their choice and to take part in activities in their local community.

All new residential services being developed will be in line with the policy and it is a Government and HSE priority to ensure all residents in existing congregated settings are actively supported to move. The Government's commitment to implementing the policy was reinforced in the 2016 Programme for Partnership Government:

> *"We will move people with disabilities out of congregated settings to enable them live independently and be included in the community. Currently 2,725 (2016 data) people live in congregated settings and our objective is to reduce this figure by at least one-third by 2021 and to ultimately eliminate all congregated settings. The movement of those with high dependency needs will start in parallel with that of others and will not wait until higher function people have been moved. This will be done in full consultation with families to ensure all moves are appropriate."*

**In 2012, there were 3,391 people living in congregated settings**

**By the end of 2017, this had fallen to 2,370 people**

*...change has happened ...it's going to continue, it will be the new way we do our business...*

**View of Service Provider Senior Manager**

## What does the policy mean for Board Directors and Senior Managers?

All disability service providers are required to implement the policy. Board Directors and Senior Managers have an important role in ensuring that their organisation addresses and prioritises the planning and delivery of the Time to Move On policy in order to bring about a reform across the service. It is essential that policy implementation is led and supported from the top of each organisation.

### Key Considerations:

- The Board of Directors and Senior Managers should be knowledgeable about the content of the policy.
- The organisation's strategic plan needs to support and drive the implementation of the policy.
- Consideration should be given to drafting a multi-annual plan that identifies how the service will implement the policy over the next 3-5 years.
- Dedicated staff resources and time will be needed to support the implementation of the project.

Implementing the Time to Move On policy will involve a significant change in the way some providers deliver residential services going forward. This transformation change must be carefully planned and implemented.

### Project Action Plan toolkit

Revised and updated in 2018, this toolkit is available to guide and support providers to develop their plans to decongregate. The toolkit is comprised of a suite of pre-populated and formatted documents that can be adapted and amended to create a service-specific plan.

### Other Available Supports:

As there are a range of issues that need to be addressed when implementing the Time to Move On policy, a range of resources which can be utilised to support all providers to develop their plans have been developed. These include:

- Communication Plan  - Key Messages Document
- Communication Plan  - Stakeholders Mapping Tool
- Guidance for Community Transition Planning
- Housing Options Guidance document for Service Providers

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### Key Success Factors

*What is creating solutions and driving policy implementation in sites where good progress has been made?*

**LEADERSHIP:**
Clear, supportive and driven leadership

**KEEPING IT LOCAL:**
Supporting local decision making and local responses

**COMMUNICATION:**
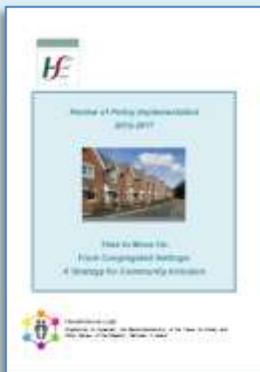Prioritising & supporting meaningful engagement and communication

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## How is the policy being supported?

The Department of Health has allocated €100 million over 6 years (2016 - 2021) for the provision of new homes to support people to move from congregated settings into the community.

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has committed funding under the Capital Assistance Scheme for those moving from congregated settings. An allocation of €10 million was ring-fenced in 2016 and 2017 to support this.  A rolling "CAS call" is now in place to facilitate approved housing bodies to apply for funding on an ongoing basis.

A Service Reform Fund (SRF) has been agreed between Atlantic Philanthropies, the Department of Health, the HSE and Genio Trust. Funding has been allocated towards innovative projects in 10 priority congregated sites that support the transition of people from traditional to person-centred models of service.

### What are the Priority Sites?
A number of settings have been identified as a priority for accelerated closure. These are locations where there are serious concerns about the quality and safety of the services.  These locations have been prioritised for capital funding, revenue funding and transitional revenue funding through the SRF, to support them to make progress in transitioning people to the community.

## Leadership & Oversight

There is a national Time to Move On group in place that is tasked with the oversight of the implementation of the policy.  This group is chaired by the HSE and includes representation from the National Disability Authority, Department of Health, Department of Housing Planning & Local Government, Inclusion Ireland, Disability Federation of Ireland, Not for Profit Business Association and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies.   This group provides support, oversight and guidance to ensure that the Time to Move On policy is being implemented effectively.

Further information on the work of the group, progress reports and access to the resources that have been developed to support policy implementation can be found on the dedicated Time to Move On webpage  www.hse.ie/timetomoveon

**Video stories capturing the experience of staff, families and the residents that have moved to the community are available to view on our webpage** www.hse.ie/timetomoveon **and on the Genio Trust website** www.genio.ie

## Other relevant documents and useful links

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006 https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html

- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities – Human Rights Council 27th February-24th March 2017 https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/436/64/PDF/G1643664.pdf?OpenElement

- National Housing Strategy for people with Disabilities 2011-2016 https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/migrated-files/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Housing/FileDownLoad%2C30737%2Cen.pdf

- Social Housing Strategy 2020 (DELG) https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/social_strategy_document_20141126.pdf

- National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2019 http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/WP17000244

- Inclusion Ireland   www.inclusionireland.ie

- Federation of Voluntary Bodies www.fedvol.ie

- Disability Federation of Ireland www.disability-federation.ie

- National Disability Authority www.nda.ie