



# Briefing Note for Members of the Oireachtais

## What is the Time to Move on from Congregated Settings policy?



The report *Time to Move on from Congregated Settings - A Strategy for Community Inclusion*, was published and adopted as national policy in 2012.

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.

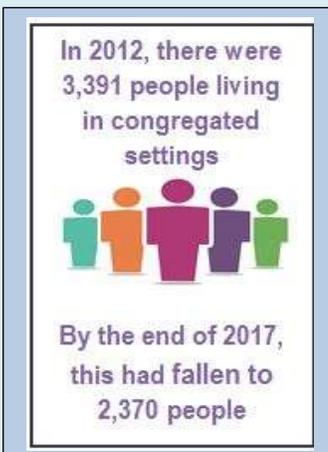
It is a Government and HSE priority to ensure all residents in congregated settings are actively supported to move. Work is on-going to implement a new person-centred model of residential support where people with a disability are supported to live “ordinary lives in ordinary places”, with no more than 4 people with a disability living together in houses that are dispersed throughout the local community. All new residential services that are developed will be in line with the policy.

\* Meeting the target of a one-third reduction will bring the population remaining in congregated settings down to 1,816 by 2021

## A Programme for a Partnership Government

The 2016 Programme for a Partnership Government reinforces the commitment to the Time to Move on from Congregated Settings policy:

*‘As part of our commitment to equality of opportunity, we will support people with disabilities in maximising their potential, by removing barriers which impact on access to services, education, work or healthcare. We will move people with disabilities out of congregated settings to enable them live independently and be included in the community. Currently 2,725 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\*.*



## 28 Years:

Average length of time the people that have now transitioned spent living in congregated settings

*It's lovely to have your own home, your own place ...without some telling you do this or do that ... it was never my home and this is my home, ... I decide, like what to eat, when to get up; yes I decide who comes in my front door... I can come and go as I please, go to bed when I like and my visitors can come and I can make tea.*

Rosaleen: who moved to her new home after 50 years in a congregated setting



A New Home

HSE Disability Capital Programme 2016-2021:  
€100 million



There are currently 92 homes for 327 people being progressed with this funding

## What progress has been made to date?

In the last six years over 660 people have moved from congregated settings into the community. This includes people who had lived in institutions since childhood. These people are all now living in their new homes, participating in the local community, enjoying ordinary lives in ordinary places.

## Why do people benefit from moving to their own home?

In the past the institutionalisation of people with disabilities was normal. As a result some people have spent all their lives in congregated care settings. Living in a congregated setting people can dramatically effect each person's quality of life. People may have to sleep in a dormitory or shared rooms with little privacy, often with people they have not chosen to live with. They may have very little personal space or room for personal belongings. They may be unable to come and go or move around freely.

As a result, people do not experience ordinary lives and participate in the daily activities of daily living. In many congregated settings, for example, food is routinely prepared in a central location which excludes the residents from experiencing the everyday task of meal preparation, restricts them to set meal times and limits the menu available to them.

## Where will people live and who will decide?

Service providers are now supporting those still living in congregated settings to decide where they want to live and who they want to live. Decisions on the arrangement for each person will be made in consultation with the person and their families, once this is in line with the person's wishes.

The service provider will take responsibility for sourcing a person's new home. It may be a house that is purchased, rented, leased or it may be a purpose built home or may be owned by a Voluntary Housing Agency, a city or county council or the HSE. People will be supported to understand what is involved and to hold a tenancy agreement in their new home, where this is possible.

## Funding for Houses

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.



Transforming Lives

Programme to implement the Recommendations of the "Value for Money and Policy Review of the Disability Services in Ireland" report

*Our inspectors have seen many positive examples where such a transition has resulted in significant improvements in people's lived experience in residential care."*

Overview of HIQA's regulation of social care and healthcare services in 2017



In line with Government's *National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities and Rebuilding Ireland*, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government support the funding of houses for those moving from congregated settings through the Capital Assistance Scheme.

## Who will support people who move to community homes?

Supporting people to move from a congregated setting is not something that can happen overnight. The process takes time to ensure each person is supported to make decisions so their wishes and preferences are at the centre of the plan.

Each service provider will engage with the person and their family, where this is in line with their wishes, to determine what arrangements will be put in place. Some staff from the current residential setting may continue working with people as they move into the community and in some cases there will be new support staff.

People moving to their own home will continue to receive the support they require to ensure they are safe and living the life of their choice. The service provider will continue to regularly review the support arrangements for each person to ensure that they are meeting the person's needs.

Over time, each person will be supported to explore their own interests and choices and will be supported to live, to connect and to actively participate in their local community. People will also be supported to access community health services i.e. their own GP, the local pharmacy, public health nurse.

## Leadership & Oversight

There is a national 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.



### What are the Priority Sites?

There are 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.



More information about the policy is available on our webpage [www.hse.ie/timetomoveon](http://www.hse.ie/timetomoveon) or you can contact us directly by email at [timetomoveon@hse.ie](mailto:timetomoveon@hse.ie)

## How is this policy being implemented?

The HSE National Annual Service Plan outlines the activity and targets that will be progressed in implementing the policy. This ensures there is a focus on achieving the targets of people to move and that the necessary actions to build the momentum for change and sustain the new models of service across the sector are being taken.

A Service Reform Fund established from a partnership between the Atlantic Philanthropies, Department of Health, HSE and Genio Trust is in place and supporting innovative projects in 10 priority congregated sites. These projects are supporting the transition of people from traditional to person-centred models of service.

## Other relevant documents and useful links

Videos featuring residents that have moved from congregated settings and capturing the views of family members and staff that have been involved can be viewed on the Genio website [www.genio.ie](http://www.genio.ie) or the Time to Move on webpage [www.hse.ie/timetomoveon](http://www.hse.ie/timetomoveon)

### Other 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-ddsny.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](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](http://www.inclusionireland.ie)
- Federation of Voluntary Bodies [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie)
- Disability Federation of Ireland [www.disability-federation.ie](http://www.disability-federation.ie)
- National Disability Authority [www.nda.ie](http://www.nda.ie)

