



Briefing Note re Ferryhouse

Background

St. Joseph's Ferryhouse has operated since 1884 originally founded as an Industrial School by the Rosminian Order.

- The service transferred to the Department of Education in 2002;
- In 2007 the residential component of the service transferred to the HSE and the school transferred to the VEC;
- In 2013 the residential component transferred to Tusla and the school transferred to ETB.

Service capacity on the day of transfer to HSE on March 1st, 2007 was 36 with occupancy of 23. The plan for the service at this point saw the service capacity being capped at 24.

Budget

The budget transferred was 6.952 million. This budget covered all pay and non-pay costs associated with the residential services and non-pay costs only for the school.

Pay

From the establishment of the school the pay costs of teaching staff were paid directly by the Department of Education and were not factored into the service budget. By 2013 service capacity was for 20 young people cared for in 4 residential centres. Scope existed for an additional 3 day placements, resulting in a potential capacity for the school of 23.

Use of School

The designation of this service has changed from Industrial School to Special School, Detention School to its current designation of mainstream Children's Residential Centre. By 2017 the agreed service capacity was for 15 young people cared for in 3 residential centres and 3 day placements.

Current Developments and Activities

The residential service was closed to admission in September 2017 to allow for the completion of actions identified as necessary in order to meet requirements for registration by HIQA, which is pending in 2018. At this time occupancy for the school stood at 10.

Tusla developed a plan for the reconfiguration of this service and this was presented to the Chief Operations Officer in June 2017 and approved for implementation. The planned reconfiguration of services will take between 2-3 years to complete.

Tusla has actively engaged with staff, young people, families, social workers, the school, and external stakeholders including: the ETB, An Garda Síochána, local representatives, and community groups.