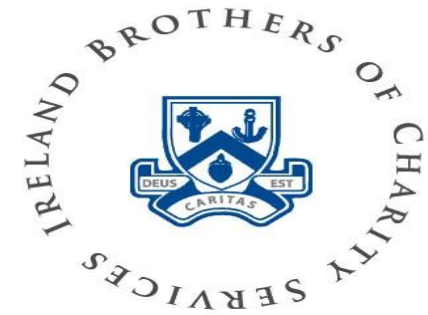# Creating Inclusive Communities Appropriate Accommodation Factors for Consideration

Brothers of Charity Services Ireland Preliminary Feedback

4 December 2023

# Our Vision

**Working together we seek to create supports and to shape communities where the people we support are valued and equal citizens**

**Strategy 2023-2027**
Strategic Objective 2 Deliver Community Based Person Centred Services

# Goal 2  Deliver community based person centered services

## Our Commitment

**We will develop community based services and community alliances to maximise the opportunities for people we support to exercise their rights and responsibilities in society**

## How we will deliver this:

2(a). In line with National Strategy we will decongregate existing settings and seek to have these repurposed to appropriate uses that align to our ethos

2(b). We will continue to develop all new services in community locations unless the specific specialist needs of a person we support dictates otherwise and we will locate day services in shared community spaces where possible

2(c). We will enhance links with local sporting, cultural, educational, artistic, statutory and community organisations

2(d). We will implement campaigns to raise our profile in the communities we operate to facilitate the people we support in building their community connections

2(e). We will provide supports in smaller settings to allow for the most tailored services possible personalised to the needs of the people we support

2(f). We will support people in work placements and facilitate involvement in social enterprises

2(g). We will work to engage with statutory authorities on the benefits of smaller service settings

# Creating Inclusive Communities- Key Discussion Points

## Time to Move on From Congregated Settings

1. Proactive in Decongregation– combination of Congregation Funds, Donations, CAS and DOH/HSE Funding used

2. Good quality accommodation on campus settings – low on priority list for HSE Support to decongregate

## Community Housing Key Issues

3. Suitable housing stock difficult to source

4. Lack of Capital Funding Stream for Specialist facilities required to complete decongregation and to support individuals on waitlists– need joined up approach to Site identification, Design, Planning and Funding

5. Types of Housing Required

6. Other Barriers

# Creating Inclusive Communities – Time to Move on From Congregated Settings  Issues

**1.Proactive Work in Decongregation Snap-shot**

- **West** – One Centre Closed in 2015 - One remaining Centre 15 residents (with 2 emergency admissions on the past year due to lack of alternative accommodation)

- **Mid-West** Reduced from 140 to 54 residents residing on one campus - Plans to reduce to 34 by Q1 2026

- **South** –  One Centre has 33 residents ( 4 people to relocate Dec 23). Another Centre has 24 residents

- **South East**  – One Centre has 11 residents

Majority of Residents require bespoke environmental supports in community

# Creating Inclusive Communities – Time to Move on From Congregated Settings  Issues

**2. Good quality accommodation on most campus settings – low on priority list for HSE Support to de-congregate**

- Major upgrades to houses to meet HIQA standards pending funding of decongregation plan
- Difficult to say 'no' to emergency admissions in interim –capital planning for community developments
- Need to supplement the revenue budget when a service moves to the Community as the economies of scale/support network in a congregated setting are not replicated in their new home location.
- Lack of clarity on policy for specialist services model
- Lack of clarity on reduce numbers to below 10 v's total closure of congregated settings
- Lack of clarity on future use of vacated assets – *sale and reinvest* or *repurpose* decision where properties owned by state?

# Creating Inclusive Communities

**3. Suitable housing stock difficult to source**

- Need for bridging funding to ensure we can finalise purchases on timely basis
- Suitable sites in community settings difficult to identify – Part V arrangement with building contractors not easily accessible
- Persons with complex support needs require quiet environment - some need distance for immediate neighbours
- LA's do not recognise need for staff facility in apartment type settings to support complex needs (e.g. 2 bedroom apartment 1 person off housing list + 1 staff )
- Some HSE Areas insist that one house one site rule should apply – need on-site support when supporting complex need
- Difficulties in engagement with some AHB's especially if number of residents is low

# Creating Inclusive Communities

**4. Lack of Capital Funding Stream for Specialist facilities**

*Specialist facilities are needed to support individuals with complex support needs including eldercare, complex sensory support needs etc.*

- Specialist Facilities need large site and capital investment.
- Design to support both residents and staff
- Large footprint - often purpose built

Need:

- cooperation of local authorities in sourcing sites, design teams and granting planning permission
- Identified funding stream as CAS funding not sufficient

# Creating Inclusive Communities

**5. Types of Housing Required**

1. Community Houses in ordinary communities but designed to facilitate future changing needs

2. Designs to support Complex Sensory Needs

3. Designs to support Complex medical support needs

4. Eldercare

# Creating Inclusive Communities

**5. Types of Housing Required – Universal Design**

1. Core design and land package required to support each model could be standardised

2. Must be some variation allowed for in design to support unique needs of residents

3. Realistic budget must be identified – previous estimates not realistic

# Creating Inclusive Communities
# 6. Other Barriers (1)

- Lack of Interdepartmental Planning to deliver on new development requirements is major obstacle

- Providers know support needs of individuals and need to be part of the planning process.

- Lack of consistency in approach to ensuring people with an intellectual disability are on the housing list – some LA do not encourage this or application process too cumbersome for families

- Some LA's will only process 1 CAS application at a time – slow process

- Some local authorities do not support disability organisations who apply for CALF funding

# Creating Inclusive Communities
# 6.  Other Barriers (2)

- Environment and support networks on campus settings vital to supporting individuals with complex needs - difficult to replicate in community without significant resources

- CAS funding needs to be 'bespoke' to support needs of persons with disability

- Lack of Capital Funding has led to Providers to spend significant amount on rent and renovating rented properties to no long term gain and no security of tenure

- Specific Planning & Funding Stream for Respite Houses needs to be identified

- Continue to seek opportunities to respect UNCRPD and our Ethos & Vision

- Continue to work with NFVSP Housing Sub-committee to share learnings