

## Submission for Kerry County Development plan 2022-2028

From

**Majella Daly, Head of Disability Services, HSE Cork Kerry Community Healthcare.**

I welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the county plan on behalf of the HSE Disability services.

### **Housing.**

The Government's Philosophy is '*Housing for All*' which means that our housing provision must be inclusive of people with disabilities. Good housing is a key determinant of health and wellbeing: people with disabilities - physical, sensory and intellectual - have the same entitlements as all other citizens to ensure they have the necessary housing to enable them to live full and meaningful lives as part of the local community of their choice.

In Section 2.4.2 (pg. 67) of *Housing for All*, the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People is referred to as being:

'a roadmap to facilitate access, for people with a disability, to a range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, and promoting equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living.'

The plan goes on to say:

'Under the guiding principle of *Housing for All* and underpinned by the new Strategy, we must work to deliver appropriately designed and specified housing for people with a disability, in line with the vision and principles of universal design'

Key deliverables under the *Housing for All* Strategy for people with disabilities are:

- 7.1** Deliver a new National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (2022 – 2027) following stakeholder and public consultation and with a range of actions which will detail co-ordination and alignment of housing, health and community supports
- 7.2** Local Authority Housing Delivery Action Plans will set out how dedicated social housing provision appropriate to the needs of people with a disability will be delivered, matching the scale and extent of housing need identified for people with a disability.
- 7.3** Local authorities will consider the housing needs of people with a disability through the Housing Need and Demand Assessment Framework and feed that into their Housing Strategies as part of their Development Plan process
- 7.4** Review the range of housing grants available to assist with meeting specific housing needs, including the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, and implement relevant changes.
- 7.5** Nominate Disability Friendly Housing Technical Advisors in each local authority
- 7.6** Housing and Disability Steering Groups will report quarterly on the implementation of their local strategic plans regarding housing for people with a disability to the Chief Executive and the Strategic Policy Committee' ( P.22 *Housing for All* actions)

The HSE Disability Team in Kerry and I are available to work with Kerry Co Co on the delivery of these actions.

### **National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 - 2027.**

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD; the Minister of State for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD; and Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Anne Rabbitte TD, recently launched the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 - 2027. The Strategy sets out the Government's vision for delivering housing and related supports for disabled people and has been

developed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. It replaces the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011 – 2016 (extended to 2021).

A central tenet of this Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities is to coordinate and align housing provision with the delivery of health and social care supports.

Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Minister Rabbitte, stated that “The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a key framework for how we support disabled people in Ireland and is central to how government has approached this Strategy. I believe this Strategy helps progress our commitment under the UNCRPD to facilitate disabled people to live independently and as part of the community.”

I include the link to the strategy <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/60d76-national-housing-strategy-for-disabled-people-2022-2027/>

Local Authority Housing Delivery Action Plans will set out how dedicated social housing provision appropriate to the needs of people with a disability will be delivered matching the scale and extent of housing need identified for people with a disability.

**Kerry CSO data 2016**

2016 CSO data for Kerry indicates 19, 965 people with Disabilities or 13.5% of the population and is slightly higher than the national percentages, it indicates the extent of need in the county.

Relative Proportions:	Health	Area		Area Change		National		National Change	
<b>Persons with a disability by sex:</b>									
Female		49,075	7.1%	n/a	n/a	331,551	7.0%	n/a	n/a
Male		46,271	6.7%	n/a	n/a	311,580	6.5%	n/a	n/a
Total:		95,346	13.8%	n/a	n/a	643,131	13.5%	n/a	n/a

**Time to move on from Congregated settings- A strategy for Community Inclusion, HSE 2011**

We are responsible for the implementation of government policy ‘Time to move on from Congregated settings- A strategy for Community Inclusion’ HSE 2011.

The policy recommends from a housing perspective that people live in housing that is dispersed throughout ordinary communities, avoiding clusters of properties. The policy recommends that housing should be provided by Local Authorities and Approved Housing bodies. The HSE and providers of Disability services are available to engage with the County Council to ensure that unmet housing needs are identified and planned for. Our primary residential centre in Kerry to decongregate is St Mary’s of the Angels, Beaufort, and is

managed by St. John of Gods which has another 60 residents yet to decongregate. Individuals will and preference for alternative housing locations are a key part of planning their moves.

### **Department of Health's July 2021 Disability Capacity Review to 2032.**

As the draft development plan notes, this report gives the projections of residents with Disabilities and the needs for service provision to be planned in line with those changes over the coming decade.

### **Residential care**

A significant increase in the number of people in disability residential care/supported housing would be required to deal with the impact of demographic change, and to address a substantial backlog of need.

### **Conclusion**

It is essential that the housing needs of persons with disabilities are met in the same way as all other citizens in the county.

The housing support can be provided in a number of ways:

- Rented tenancies in LA owned properties. We aim to ensure people with Disabilities where appropriate are advised to ensure they are on the list for access to such properties
- Sourcing properties from the private sector by the LA or by households themselves through schemes such as the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), the leasing initiative and the housing assistance payment (HAP) scheme
- Allocations to accommodation provided by the Approved Housing Bodies
- Provision of specific accommodation for homeless people, older people and travellers
- Facilitating extensions to existing LA homes to meet specific household needs
- Provision of certain grants to increase accessibility in the home for people with disabilities, acquired brain injuries and special needs.

I look forward to working with you to ensure capacity is planned to meet the demand both now and for the next six years of this planning cycle.



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**Majella Daly**  
**Head of Disability Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**