

St. Michael's House Group

Services for people with intellectual disabilities

Ballymun Road, Dublin 9.

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25th September 2012,

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: The Implications of the Budgetary Cuts for St. Michael's House Services

I am writing to invite you to attend a meeting with John Birthistle, Regional Director and myself so that you are fully informed of the worsening financial situation and the implications for services in St. Michael's House and intellectual disability services nationally. I believe that families should have the opportunity to suggest ways they might support St. Michael's House to manage in these times of unprecedented difficulty.

As the year progresses, the overall financial situation in the HSE has deteriorated and we now have indications that further budgetary cuts may be imposed on St. Michael's House.

These cuts will be in addition to the existing budgetary cut of €2.6million in 2012 which when added to the cost of providing for an additional 27 school and training centre leavers brings our budgetary cut in 2012 to €3million.

The budgetary cut in 2012 follows three previous years of consecutive cuts:

- 2009 - €2.7million
- 2010 - €3.8million
- 2011 - €2.1million

In all a total of €11.5million has been taken from our budget to date. As you will understand this is enormously challenging for the organisation and with each consecutive cut achieving these savings has become increasingly difficult.

We are deeply committed to protecting services to existing service users and continuing to expand services for the many people on our residential waiting list so as to ensure that people with intellectual disabilities and their families do not suffer in this very difficult period of national austerity.

We are proud that we have significantly more people in day and residential services today than we had in 2008, which is a huge tribute to the commitment and dedication of staff and management throughout the organisation.

We will continue to work relentlessly to protect all services, however at this point we are concerned that decisions taken by the Government, the Department of Health, and the HSE could undermine our capacity in this respect.

Chairperson: John Leonard

Board of Directors: Maurice Bracken, Larry Kane, David Hughes, Breda Dunne, Bernadette Perry, Jim Cuddy, Mairide Woods, John Leonard, Eamon Hurley, Raymond Brett, David Fanagan, John Larney

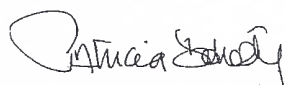
Chief Executive: Patricia Doherty B.A., M.Sc., O.B., C.Q.S.W., C.A.S.S.

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The meeting I am inviting you to is part of an agreed national campaign which involves all families with a member in intellectual disability services being invited by their service provider to information meetings in early October.

I strongly encourage you to attend the meeting which will be held in **St. Michael's House Special National School, Ballymun Road, Dublin 9 on Thursday the 11th of October 2012 at 7.00pm.** St. Michael's House are organising large parent meetings in each of the Regions and if, for any reason, it is impossible for you to attend the meeting in your Region, if you contact Sonya O'Flaherty at ph: (01) 8840204 we can arrange for you to attend one of the other Regional meetings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Doherty', written over a horizontal line.

PATRICIA DOHERTY
CEO