

O ST. MICHAEL'S HOUSE ORGANISATION UPDATE

BRINGING OUR #SMHCOMMUNITY TOGETHER

AUGUST 2026 | ISSUE 1



CEO WELCOME

Working in partnership with our #SMHCommunity

Welcome to the first edition of our St. Michael's House Family Update.

As Chief Executive Officer, I am delighted to introduce this new quarterly newsletter, which is designed to keep you informed about what's happening across our organisation. Working in partnership with our #SMHCommunity is central to everything we do, and we hope these updates will help you feel connected to our services, our people and the work taking place throughout St. Michael's House.

✉ communications@smh.ie

☎ (01) 8840200

📍 Ballymun Road
Ballymun
Dublin 9
D09 DX37

Families are at the heart of our community, and your knowledge, experience and commitment are invaluable. We know that the best outcomes for the children and adults we support are achieved when we listen, learn and work together. Each edition will include updates on developments across our services, key projects, achievements and opportunities to get involved, helping to strengthen the partnership between families and St. Michael's House.

I also want you to know that my door is always open. If you would like to meet with me to discuss any aspect of our services, ask questions or share your thoughts, I would be pleased to hear from you. To arrange a meeting, please contact Suzanne at suzanne.doherty@smh.ie.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to working together as we continue to build a stronger, more connected St. Michael's House community.

Tara Molloy | Chief Executive Officer

Celebrating Success..with our Special Olympians

Congratulations to all of our Special Olympians who took part in the Ireland Summer Games. We are incredibly proud of our athletes and the dedication, commitment and determination they showed in preparing for and taking part in the Games. These events provide an opportunity to develop skills, build confidence, make new friendships and represent their teams and St. Michael's House, while enjoying the experience of competing alongside athletes from across Ireland.

We would also like to thank the families, staff, coaches, trainers, volunteers and everyone who supported our athletes along the way. Your encouragement and commitment helped make the Games possible and ensured our athletes had the support they needed to take part and enjoy the experience.

We will be organising a special celebration for our Special Olympians this Autumn, where they will meet with our CEO, Executive Management Team and members of the Board. This will be an opportunity to recognise their achievements, hear about their experiences and celebrate the hard work and commitment of all our athletes.



ORGANISATIONAL UPDATES

Northbrook is Moving

After 30 years in its current location, Northbrook Day Service is moving to a new, modern premises this August, while remaining within the Santry community. The adults who attend the service and staff have many fond memories of the original Northbrook building and the years spent there, while also looking forward to the new space and the opportunities it will bring.

We would like to thank the people we support, their families and staff for their support throughout the transition, and our Estates Team for all their work in preparing the new building. The new premises will provide the essential facilities needed for the service, along with a number of modern additions designed to support the needs, interests and activities of the people who attend Northbrook.

The new service will be formally opened by Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley, in September, and we look forward to sharing this special occasion with you.



Ireland's Best Employers 2026

We are delighted to have been recognised once again in the Sunday Independent and Statista Best Employers Ireland 2026 rankings, achieving 43rd place nationally, up from 85th place in 2025. This recognition reflects our continued commitment to creating a positive and supportive workplace where staff feel valued, respected and empowered to grow. Our people are at the heart of everything we do, and this achievement is a testament to the dedication, professionalism and compassion they bring to supporting children and adults, their families and communities every day. We are proud of this recognition and remain committed to investing in our staff as we continue to strengthen our services for the future.

Minister Foley Visits Ballymun HQ

We were delighted to welcome Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley, and Olive Hanley, HSE Head of Disabilities for Dublin North City, to Ballymun HQ. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing disability services and the importance of continued partnership between government, the HSE and service providers. During the visit, Minister Foley toured our Solas Day Service and Glens residential service, meeting the people we support and the dedicated staff who work across St. Michael's House. We thank Minister Foley for taking the time to visit and look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen services and improve outcomes for people with disabilities and their families.



Homesharing with St. Michael's House MAKE A DIFFERENCE

St. Michael's House is looking for caring individuals, couples and families to become Home Sharing Families. Home Sharing gives children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy short breaks in a welcoming family home, while providing families and carers with valuable support. Whether it's for a few hours, a day or an overnight stay, Home Sharing helps build meaningful relationships, promotes inclusion and creates positive experiences for everyone involved.

No previous experience is needed – just a caring nature and a willingness to make a difference. Full training, ongoing guidance and 24/7 support are provided by the St. Michael's House Home Sharing Team.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a Home Sharing Family, visit the Home Sharing section on our website or contact the team at homesharing@smh.ie for more information.



FEATURE PIECE

Residential Services

St. Michael's House is committed to supporting people to live the life they choose in their local communities.

We provide a range of community-based housing and residential supports across Dublin, including nurse-led and social care-led homes that are tailored to individual needs. Our Community Supports Team works alongside adults living in their own homes, while our Horizons Programme helps people build the skills and confidence to live more independently, whether in their own home, shared accommodation or with their family.

Across all of our services, we are committed to helping people achieve greater independence and choice, while making the best use of the resources available to us.

We continue to work proactively to respond to changing housing needs. Our Residential Committee, Housing Team and Social Work Team support people as they plan for the future, including identifying the needs of our ageing population, assisting with applications for social housing through Approved Housing Bodies, and managing the residential waiting list as vacancies become available.

To help people and their families navigate the housing application process, we have developed a range of resources on our website, including step-by-step guidance, information videos, Easy Read materials and useful links.

We understand that securing suitable housing and the process involved can be challenging, but St. Michael's House is committed to working in partnership with individuals, families and housing providers to achieve the best possible outcomes and to support people to live fulfilling lives in their communities.

Scan the QR code for more information



How to scan a QR code

- Open the Camera on your mobile phone.
- Point your camera at the QR code.
- A link or message will appear on your screen.
- Tap the link to open the information.
- No photo is needed – just point your camera at the QR code.

Join #TeamSMH

We are always looking for people to join our teams across St. Michael's House. We have a wide range of opportunities across Social Care, Nursing, Clinical Services, Administration, HR, Finance and other areas. Whether you are an experienced professional, a recent graduate or returning to work, there may be a role to suit your skills, experience and lifestyle, with a range of hours available. Visit www.smh.ie/careers to view all current vacancies and find out more about joining #TeamSMH.





Spotlight on.....Fast Friends

Since it began in 2018, Fast Friends has become one of St. Michael's House's most popular social initiatives, creating opportunities for adults with disabilities to meet new people, build friendships and enjoy shared social experiences. What started as a St. Michael's House initiative has grown to include disability service providers from across the greater Dublin area, bringing hundreds of people together throughout the year.

A key part of Fast Friends' success is that it is co-designed with the people we support. Members help shape the events, themes and activities, ensuring they reflect what people want and enjoy. In 2026, Fast Friends has continued to go from strength to strength, with highlights including the Black Tie Ball and the hugely successful Summer Music Festival, alongside favourite annual events such as Valentine's celebrations, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween and Christmas parties. More than just social events, Fast Friends creates opportunities for people to build confidence, develop lasting friendships and strengthen connections within their communities.

To find out about upcoming Fast Friends events, keep an eye on our social media channels or contact the committee at fastfriends@smh.ie for more information. We would love to welcome you to a future event.

Children & Young Persons Services

We are preparing to launch a dedicated Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) section on the St. Michael's House website, bringing together useful information to help families navigate their journey with our CDNT services. The new section will include a range of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) covering referrals, waiting lists, preparation and transition supports, and other information to help families understand and access our services.

Keep an eye on www.smh.ie and our social media channels for details of the launch.

Our CDNTs also share regular updates and information directly with families. If you are currently receiving support from a CDNT and are not receiving these updates, please contact your CDNT team to make sure you are included on their mailing list.

As many young children start or return to school over the coming weeks, our Early Intervention Team has also developed a video resource to support children and families as they prepare for this exciting next step.



Scan the QR code for more information



Stay Connected

We value your feedback and want to hear from you.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about this newsletter or our services, please get in touch. Your feedback helps us to continue improving how we communicate and work in partnership with families.



www.smh.ie