



Saint John of God Community Services CLG

Dublin South East Services

15th September 2017

Dear Family Member,

I hope you had a nice summer and enjoyed some of the occasional good weather!

Here in SJOG Dublin South East as we head back in to the autumn months we have lots of plans, projects and challenges to keep us busy for the coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who responded to the Family Survey which was carried out last year. Your feedback is invaluable and your input ensures that as we plan for the year ahead I can assure you that your suggestions and comments are taken on board. A number of tasks have already been implemented some examples are below;

- I am delighted to announce that our web page for Saint John of God Dublin South East is up and running and can be accessed on www.sjogdublinsoutheastservices.ie.
- In June and July of this year we offered alternative respite options to a number of participants. This included short breaks away with friends to Cork, Kilkenny and Wexford or meeting with friends for an activity at the weekend. We plan to run this pilot again before the end of the year so we can offer more participants the opportunity to avail of a different type of respite.
- Service users and their families asked for increased support for work and employment opportunities. The Day Services have focused strongly in this area over the last year. The result is that Carmona has facilitated 11 new paid employment places and 40 work experiences. STEP has facilitated 35 new paid jobs and 53 new work experiences. Thanks to all the families who have supported this impressive result through sharing their contacts in the open employment market.

In Children's Services, Progressing Disabilities has yet to be rolled out in the Dublin Region and I will keep you informed as developments arise. Staff in Children's Services have completed training in an adapted Parents Plus Programme to meet the requirements of children with special needs. A number of these sessions have taken place already with families with very positive feedback.

Eleven of our thirteen Residential Designated Centres are registered with HIQA (Health Information and Quality Authority). The challenge now is to maintain registration and in so doing ensure that the men and women who reside with us have the best possible outcomes. We have an increasing number of people on a long list for residential placements and as respite places are also limited this poses major challenges for service users and their families. We will continue to advocate and seek resources to expand these services.

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Saint John of God Community Services CLG is a company limited by guarantee.

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Hospitality Respect Justice Compassion Excellence

I wish to extend our sincere thanks to outgoing Chairperson of the Parents, Family and Friends Association, PJ Drudy; who for the past few years has provided invaluable support to Carmona Services and indeed to the wider organisation of Saint John of God. I wish PJ well in his future endeavours and I am delighted to hear that he shall remain a member of the Parents, Family and Friends Association. We welcome David Girvan as the newly appointed Chairperson and look forward to working with David in the months ahead. We will together keep striving for the best possible services for the men, women and children we support.

I am enclosing for your information, a synopsis of the Family Survey feedback plus an updated copy of the Supervisory staff in both Adult Day and Residential Services. Updated staff contacts will be available on our web site every quarter.

I am also enclosing a flyer prepared by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies which sets out 6 key messages to be asked of our politicians to ensure they have the required knowledge to support the Minister of State for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath in his budget proposal seeking additional resources for people with disabilities.

If you have queries re any of the above, I can be contacted here at 01-2353583 or alternatively if you have queries in relation to your family member the contact details of the relevant staff are on the information sheet.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of both the service and staff working with your family members and as always we endeavour to keep all families updated on developments within the organisation as they arise.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pauline Bergin".

Pauline Bergin
Regional Director