

Interim SHS Family and Friends Group Newsletter 9th June 2023

Hello everyone,

The Interim SHS Family and Friends Group has had a busy few months since our last newsletter update.

Bereavement Counselling

We recently requested better support for clients who have been bereaved. We are pleased that SHS have now arranged Bereavement counselling for staff of relevant clients. There are a small number of spaces available to family members, if you would like to avail of them, please let us know by email to families@sunbeam.ie by Tue 13th June.

Facilitation for Family Support Groups

We were disappointed to lose the support of Omra and we have secured agreement from the acting Chair of the SHS Board that they will provide an alternative means of facilitation for family group meetings. These support groups are open to anyone who has a family member attending Sunbeam, and are a great way to keep up to date with what's happening. Simply let us know if you would like to link in or if you have any queries.

HSE Meeting

We have established a tripartite forum with SHS Management and HSE Disability Service. Our most recent meeting was this week, we maintained our focus on working together, in a collaborative manner. Our agenda included the issue of unacceptably long waiting lists for residential services, the need for future planning of residential and respite needs for Sunbeam clients, the need for a new transport policy and employment opportunities. We also spoke at length about the need to urgently re-open respite facilities for clients with profound needs. These are key areas affecting many families and clients, requiring better future planning, increased funding, and service delivery. Having the key players HSE and Sunbeam senior managers at the same table with the Interim SHS Families and Friends Group is vital to achieving positive outcomes.

Other Activities

We are building positive working relationships with County Council officials, SHS management at all levels, SHS Board and others. We are working on formalising our position within SHS, as well as a structure and Constitution for a collaborative and inclusive families association. You'll hear all about that when we hold our first AGM.

We want to ensure that families and their loved ones have full access to services provided by SHS and that their experience is positive and happy, now and into the future. Everyone is different and families are encouraged to communicate their experience (good or bad), either at the support groups or via families@sunbeam.ie, so that we can help to highlight and resolve common issues at our various meetings with the HSE and Sunbeam House Services.

As always, if you have any queries, simply contact us.

Best wishes,

From Gerard O'Neill (Acting Chair), Shirley O'Dwyer (Acting Secretary), Irene Langrell, Mary Stacey, Michael Redmond and Julie Bond.

families@sunbeam.ie