

# NEWSLETTER

## UPDATE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to our July 2026 edition of the newsletter. I write this brief update amidst some of the hottest temperatures we have seen in some time - I hope you all had an opportunity to make the most of the sunshine!

I recently attended the Graduation Ceremony for St. Catherine's Special School Class of 2026 where 11 students celebrated their graduation in style surrounded by their families, friends and staff across St. Catherine's. It is always such a wonderful evening and a credit to all involved in putting it together.

The last couple of months have been incredibly busy across all areas of service as we strive to maximise service delivery across respite and short-breaks while responding to HSE and family requests for services. The need for more service is clearer than ever, and we are actively engaged with our colleagues in the HSE Disability and Estates teams on this issue with a view to continued development of services into the future. We are also working on recruitment to strengthen our teams from frontline services to senior management.

I made reference to HSE restructuring throughout 2026 in my last update, and there have been many changes since then. We look forward to working with our new colleagues in HSE Disability Services in the months ahead.

*Michael*



## Family/Advocate Satisfaction Survey Feedback

Thank you for your Feedback!

A sincere thank you to all the parents and guardians who took the time to complete our 2025 Respite and Residential Services Family Feedback Survey. For the second consecutive year, the Family Satisfaction Survey was distributed via SurveyMonkey to the representatives of individuals availing of our respite and residential services. We were delighted to achieve a 49% response rate, reflecting the continued engagement and commitment of families and representatives across our services.

This year's survey was once again aligned with St. Catherine's core values of Compassion, Integrity, Innovation, and Dedication. We are delighted to report consistently high levels of satisfaction across all four values.

We also greatly appreciate the thoughtful suggestions shared through the survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us enhance our services. Over the coming weeks, our local centres will be introducing and sharing new initiatives that have been informed by your comments and recommendations.

*Deirdre Keane & Catherine Symes - Service Improvement Leads*



## KILCOOLE UPDATE

On 22nd June last, we celebrated a milestone achievement in the delivery of our new Adult Day Centre in Kilcoole.

We were delighted to welcome Tánaiste Simon Harris and his colleagues, Minister Emer Higgins, Cllr Tom Fortune and Cllr Shane Langrell on site to mark the commencement of construction of this long awaited development. Tánaiste Simon Harris laid the first block with the support of Adam, Eoin, Patrick and Dan. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces on the day and to talk to individuals and their families who look forward to seeing the doors open on this new build in Q4 2027.

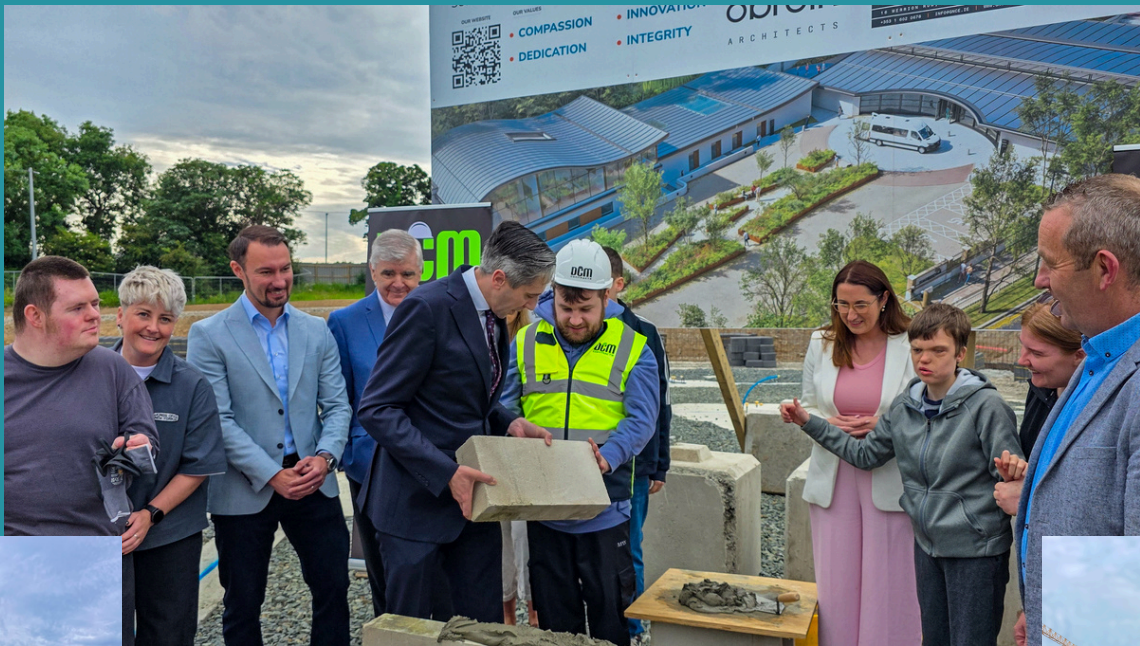
Two days after the block laying ceremony, the steel superstructure arrived on site and is currently being erected as you can see in the associated images.

Turning this vision into a reality could only be achieved through the hard work of many dedicated people including our team in SCA, ADS Management and Team, our Board of Directors led by Brendan Whelan, our Project Manager Ken McAvooy, our Design Team, DCM Contracts, as well as many colleagues across the HSE, Eterna International, local Councillors and elected representatives, the Kilcoole community and of course the continued support of our young adults and their families.

As you know, construction of the ADC is only Phase 1 of our project in Kilcoole. Phases 2 & 3 will see the development of our Operations & Learning Centre and a Respite Centre which will bring much needed capacity to the area.

Our sincere thanks to everyone for the continued support as we strive to develop services for those in our community. We will keep you updated as the construction progresses.

*Michael*





## CORU Registration for Social Care Workers Update

So far 43 staff have been registered as Social Care Workers with CORU. There continues to be delays in processing applications due to the volume of applications. For any updates on your own application please contact CORU directly on **01-2933160** or @ [socialcare.workers@coru.ie](mailto:socialcare.workers@coru.ie)

### Staff News & Updates

#### A warm Welcome

Sarah Jane Havens (RSM Ballylusk), Aine Burke (Brambles), Stacey Kearns (School), Kehinde Lucas (Glenview Heights), Sarah Reid (Fairwinds), Connie Walsh (Potter Club), Kim Carr (Potter Club), Sonia Abraham (Fairwinds)

#### And a fond farewell

Jemima Ramsay (Haughton House), Eimear Jane O'Brien (CDNT), Michael Tyrell (Fairwinds), Sam Noonan (Ballylusk), Zahraa Albayati (Haughton House), Aaron Bennett (Haughton House)

#### Baby News

Congratulations to Alva Bradshaw who welcomed a baby boy named Tyler  
 Congratulations to Rachel Byrne who welcomed a baby girl named Molly  
 Congratulations to Cáemóc O'Neill who welcomed a baby girl named Sadie  
 Congratulations to Derek Guerin who welcomed a baby girl named Mollie

## EASTER FUN



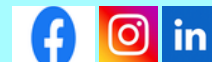
## New Employee Intro - Maeve Murray

Maeve joined the BBS team in October 2025 as a Behaviour Support Specialist, covering a maternity leave position. Originally from Hollywood in West Wicklow, she has worked in behaviour support for the past eight years across a variety of services and is passionate about promoting positive, person-centred supports. Before joining the team, Maeve spent a year living in Hanoi, Vietnam, and returned to Ireland bringing new experiences and perspectives to her work. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, pottery, and making the most of Ireland's beautiful countryside. She is delighted to be part of the team and looks forward to continuing to learn and grow in her role



## Social Media

Please follow SCA on our Socials:  
If there is any content you would like shared on our Social Media please contact Laurissa on [socialmedia@stcatherines.ie](mailto:socialmedia@stcatherines.ie)



## Employee Referral Scheme

Would you like a €500 voucher? Do you have a friend or family member who shares our culture and values and has the right qualifications and skills to apply for any of our exciting opportunities? If you do, then please let HR know and we will be happy to reward you if your referral is successful in joining the SCA team (T's & C's apply).

## Olive Moroney CNM3



Olive Moroney (CNM3) will be taking a career break from SCA for one year. Olive has worked with SCA since 2008 and plays a huge role in providing clinical guidance in both St Catherine's Special School and across our day, residential and respite services. Olive has huge knowledge and expertise in all clinical matters, always happy to help and provide clinical advice. She will be greatly missed by those we support, their families, staff and management across SCA. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Olive all the best during her career break and we look forward to seeing her return in September 2027



## News from Haughton House

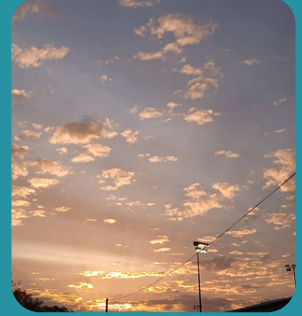
As part of the improvements in Haughton House new fire doors were installed. This upgrade improved both the appearance and safety to ensure compliance with current safety standards. Take a look at the before and after photos below.



# SCA Photo Competition

## Something that makes me smile!

Since joining Bray lakers and taking up bowling on Mondays Thomas has been introduced to a number of new friends and social opportunities. One of these new friends is David who was turning 60 and invited Thomas to celebrate with him. It's great to see how simply joining a bowling group has opened up so many new avenues for Thomas to explore, this will help Thomas build confidence and friendships moving forward in his social journey. I think we can all agree this really is something that makes us all smile!

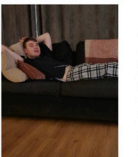


MY NAME IS JC AND SOME THINGS THAT MAKE ME SMILE ARE...



MY IPAD

CHEEKY GOITONS



CHILLING OUT AND WATCHING TV

STRAWBERRIES

**Winner - THOMAS ONOGE**

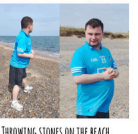


**Staff Winner - ANN DOYLE**

MY NAME IS BRIAN AND SOME THINGS THAT MAKE ME SMILE ARE...

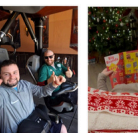


HAVING A BEER AND WATCHING THE MATCH



THROWING STONES ON THE BEACH

NIGHTS AWAY IN HOTELS



ROLLERCOASTERS

MAGAZINES

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY A BOTTLE OF COKE!



Newsletter Editorial Committee members - Siobhán Power, Lorcan Claffey, Linda Minchin, Laurissa O'Toole & Lucia Luka. If you have anything you would like featured in the next edition, please contact:

[newsletter@stcatherines.ie](mailto:newsletter@stcatherines.ie)

