

## Child and Family Agency Responds to HIQA Report Thursday, 9 January 2014

The Child and Family Agency notes the findings of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Inspection Report of a High Support Unit (HSU) in Dublin North East. The report found that although there continued to be a good standard of care by a committed management team and motivated staff group, some of the children required Special Care over and above what is sustainable within a HSU setting.

Commenting on the report, Gordon Jeyes, Chief Executive of the Child and Family Agency said:

*“Inspections by authorities such as Health Information and Quality Authority, are an integral part of the child care system. However, such inspections do not mitigate against a lack of places available for the growing number of young people requiring accommodation in more secure Special Care placements. I am pleased to report that there is a capital development programme underway which will double our capacity to 34 beds in Special Care by 2016.*

This Inspection Report of a High Support Unit (HSU) emphasises the requirement for the analysis and further development of behaviour management techniques in order to manage the challenging behaviour of young people for whom high support and special care is necessary for their protection and well being. Mr Jeyes said:

*“I am in agreement with HIQA on this matter and my staff are working constantly towards this end. Importantly, the therapeutic needs of young people require to be met. This is currently being addressed by the roll out of service through the ACTS team (Assessment, Consultation and Therapy Service) across the High Support and Special Care Service as resources allow. The ACTS Team work with young people during their period in care and, importantly, support them on return home.”*

In response to recommendations in the HIQA report, the HSU has outlined a comprehensive Action Plan. This plan reflects the ongoing monitoring of areas where practice and systems need further development and where actions are required to enhance compliance with all standards.

These improvements have already commenced or are ongoing with key actions to:

- implement a robust risk management system;
- ensure the priority needs of children requiring special care are responded to.

*“My main priority is that where the Agency takes on the care of a young person in a unit such as Crannog Nua, it ensures the care, protection and education of that young person, as any good parent would,”* adds Mr. Jeyes.

**ENDS**