



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Social Care
South East Community Healthcare
c/o Community Care Headquarters
James' Green

Kilkenny

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5th June 2018

Mr. Bobby Aylward T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 22361/18

To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding emergency respite services for persons with special needs in counties Carlow and Kilkenny; the position regarding the provision of a facility for the purpose of emergency respite in County Kilkenny, such as one planned for Tullow, County Carlow; if respite services can be extended to the homes of persons with severe disabilities in counties Carlow and Kilkenny that are unable to travel or avail of transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 22363/18

To ask the Minister for Health if the reported inconsistencies in the number of hours of respite care provided to persons with special needs in the different HSE areas across the south east region will be examined; his views on whether every carer should engage in a carer needs assessment to allow a family to plan and support the provision of care safely in their own home; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Aylward

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following composite response outlines the current position.

The matter of providing overnight respite services to families of Carlow and Kilkenny is of importance to the HSE. The provision of respite services in Counties Carlow and Kilkenny (as with other areas) has come under further pressure in recent years. There is an increase in the number of persons (children and adults) that are seeking access to these services. There is currently increasing levels of “changing needs” due to the increase in the age of the disability population. The need for increased respite facilities is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

Respite may occur in a variety of settings for any length of time, depending on the needs of the family and available resources. It is not always centre-based and may be provided in a number of ways, e.g. Out-of-Home; In-Home; Home Support; Family Support et cetera. This is dependent on client need and services available within current resources.

Each client is assessed by either the social worker or the liaison nurse using a prioritisation tool. Respite meetings are held between HSE and service providers to provide a forum whereby those seeking respite are prioritised, discussed and an allocation is provided, in order to meet their needs, as far as possible taking in to account the prioritisation tool and any other information from the members of the respite forum. In addition a respite cancellation list is currently being formulated for the Carlow/Kilkenny area.

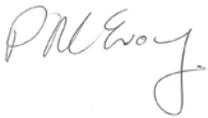
In December 2017 the Minister announced a €10m respite national allocation and a national working group was established to look at how best to deliver respite services in the areas of most need. SECH submitted proposals for additional funding which was approved and included additional services for both adults and children. One of the programmes planned in Carlow for children from Counties Carlow and Kilkenny aged 6 years to 18 years is to provide summer camps.

It is intended that the property in Tullow, Co. Carlow will in the first instance provide respite services to both Carlow and Kilkenny area. Upon completion of renovations to the house it is the intention of SECH to have this respite house completed by the year end 2018. The application for registration process will run in parallel to the building project; however the Independent Regulatory body HIQA will need to inspect the house prior to registration. The facility will be made operational without undue delay for the benefit of service users in both Carlow and Kilkenny.

At all times, service providers and the HSE are balancing the needs of multiple service users and aiming to meet the needs of the maximum number of service users, within the available resources.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Patricia McEvoy
General Manager, Disability Service- South East Community Healthcare