



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL
CORCAIGH CIARRAÍ
CORK KERRY
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

Seirbhísí Míchumais, Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte an Deiscirt
Cúil na nGarrán, An Sciobairín, Co. Chorcaí, P81 HC43
Disability Services, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

Health Service Executive,
| Coolnagarrane / Skibbereen / Co. Cork. P81 HC43
T: 028-40404 E: Jackie.daly@hse.ie

16th April 2019

Minister Brendan Griffin, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 15225/19

“To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the need for respite services for adults with intellectual disability (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: Cunamh Iveragh Caherciveen, Co. Kerry

PQ ref 15433/19

“To ask the Minister for Health if respite care services will be provided in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: Cunamh Caherciveen, Co. Kerry

Dear Minister Griffin,

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

Disability Services Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has experienced difficulty in meeting increased levels of need in the past number of years in relation to the requirement for residential respite services for adults with intellectual disabilities in County Kerry. The expansion of respite services for people with disabilities is recognised as essential to enable families to continue to care for individuals with disabilities and in particular those with significant disabilities. In 2016 Cork Kerry Community Healthcare supported Kerry Parents and Friends Association by providing funding to purchase a house in Listowel. In May 2017 management of Cork Kerry Community Healthcare provided funding to adapt the house so as to ensure the premises is accessible for individual needs and in line with HIQA regulation.

In 2018 the Government provided €10m in additional funding for a Respite Development Programme. The portion of this funding allocated to Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was used to open the respite facility in Kilmorna on a full time basis. Kerry parents and Friends opened the Kilmorna house on a phased basis from the end of March 2018 and is operating at full capacity since the beginning of July 2018 which gives 1460 bed nights per year.

A referral committee was established with representatives from two of the key providers, one additional provider and the HSE. There are clear policies and guideline in place to ensure equity of access to this service. Adults may be referred to the service through self-referral, family representatives, general practitioners, health and social care professionals, hospitals, or case managers. All referrals are to be made through the agency currently providing a service to the applicant. In situations where there is no service provider involved the referral will be made through the relevant case manager for the HSE disability service. This has been a very positive addition to meet the needs of adults in Kerry.



Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was approached by a group of families in the South Kerry Area encompassing the Iveragh peninsula. The Disability Service in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare requested Kerry Parents and Friends Association (KPFA) to liaise with this group of parents and prepare a proposal for respite. This proposal will be considered in the context of:

- the facility in Kilmorna that opened in 2018 and the total level of respite available in Kerry;
- the needs in the Iveragh peninsula *vis a vis* other parts of Kerry and Cork;
- the potential to secure funding for additional respite services in Kerry.

It is important to note that Cork Kerry Community Healthcare continues to receive a large volume of applications for funding of supports on an on-going basis. The known level of need currently exceeds the funding available, hence, every application is considered in the context of the limited resources available, the large volume of emergency cases availing of our services and the complexities of the cases being addressed at present.

In 2018 an allocation of €2.2m was received for the management of emergency cases in the region. This allocation was utilised to meet urgent crisis needs for residential care, for additional home supports as an alternative to residential care, or to provide additional supports where people in residential care have increased needs and cannot continue to be supported within that setting with the current level of supports. Unfortunately this level of funding did not enable service providers to meet all of the needs presenting in 2018. This deficit reflects the growing population of people with disabilities, longer life expectancy and more complex needs presenting, along with the lack of structured investment in residential and home supports over a number of years.

All requests for emergency funding are recorded and managed through a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool, which serves to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent. The process that follows involves a prioritisation by of the applications for approval based on the funding available and the complexity of the cases presenting, within the resources available.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are acutely aware of the pressure experienced by many families and we are working with service providers and with the HSE at national level to ensure that the needs in this area continue to be highlighted in the Estimates and budget planning process.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has established a Residential Placement Committee since April 2017 and this committee has representatives from Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and voluntary organisations. At a meeting of the Residential Services Placement Management Committee earlier this year, all service providers were requested to submit their priority cases for populating onto the DSAMT system. This work is being done in order to gain a greater understanding of the level of need that exists. This information will be used to plan collaboratively with the service providers for the future.

A sub-group of this committee has been established, with a primary focus on planning for the future in respect of both residential and respite services. This group will solely focus on reviewing existing services and the level of need in order to use this information to plan locally for the future. The process of establishing the sub-group to work on a Multi Annual Plan for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is well underway. While funding is not available at this time to implement this plan, this work will ensure that Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are prepared to respond to any additional funding that becomes available in 2019 and subsequent years.

Some additional funding is being made available in 2019, however, this figure needs to cover:

- The full year costs of emergency cases which were put in place in 2018 where costs were incurred for less than the full year
- The cost of pay rises to staff
- The cost of additional places for school leaves and those leaving training
- Some (limited) provision of emergency residential places

The budget for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare for 2019 has identified that we will receive €1.67m for management of emergency residential cases in 2019, again we know this will not meet the known level of need. It is clear at this stage that sufficient funding has not been provided to the HSE at National Level to meet the level of needs that exist among people with disabilities for residential care. Information on the numbers who needs has been given to the Department of Health and the Department of Expenditure and Public Reform in recent years.



Our Disability Services staff fully appreciate the level of stress that families are experiencing due to the lack of full time residential provision. I can assure you that we will continue to identify and highlight the needs for residential and respite services in this area. I regret that I cannot give you a more positive answer at this stage.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jackie Daly", enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

**General Manager
Disability Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

