



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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15th February 2019

Mr. Mick Wallace TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ ref 5992/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite hours provided for adults with an intellectual disability in County Wexford in each of the years 2010 to 2018, in tabular form

PQ ref 5993/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite hours provided for children and adolescents with an intellectual disability in County Wexford in each of the years 2010 to 2018, in tabular form

PQ ref 5994/19

To ask the Minister for Health if there is a limit to or a maximum amount of respite hours for adults with an intellectual disability available by year for each person that is eligible; and the criteria for eligibility for these respite hours

PQ ref 5970/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting list for residential care for adults with an intellectual disability in County Wexford in each of the years 2012 to 2018, by county in tabular form

PQ ref 5971/19

To ask the Minister for Health the criteria for determining priority and highest need when allocating residential care places for adults with a disability

Dear Deputy Wallace

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 is the current position.

Respite Services

The provision of respite services in the South East Community Healthcare (SECH) has come under further pressure in recent years. 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

As part of the €10m respite allocation in 2018, the SECH submitted proposals for additional funding which was approved and included additional services for both adults and children. Under this new initiative a respite residential house “Windrock” was opened in Murrintown, Co Wexford providing 4 beds. Windrock will initially benefit up to 28 adults with intellectual disabilities and/or autism. This service in time, along with all other adult respite centres, will be accessible to all those living in the SECH area.

Below outlines the number of respite nights provided for adults and children in Co Wexford from 2012-2018. Due to the complexity of clients with disabilities it is not always possible to compare data year on year or to have beds at 100% capacity as some clients will require medium to high levels of support.

Total Number of respite nights in Co. Wexford

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Adults	3245	2266	3161	3168	1922	1822	2333
Children	553	323	516	392	521	758	481

The criteria for a child to be referred for respite is as below

1. Child/Young Person with a moderate to profound ID, ASD or mild ID with diagnosed associated syndrome.
2. Consideration of a menu of services would be more appropriate for the child/young person concerned based on clinical decision making process.
3. Resident in County Wexford.
4. Children/Young Persons under 18 years of age

The children’s respite prioritisation assessment include information on the child’s needs including medical needs, behaviour needs as well as information on alternative supports and family stressors.

All respite support is based on each individual needs. These needs are assessed initially by the liaison public health nurse. Assessment for adults includes information with regard to the client’s social situation, diagnosis, functioning presentation, current supports, behavioural needs and changing needs, impact of family, personal safety, mobility and communication. The Adult Intellectual Disability Allocation Forum review the assessment. While there is no maximum number of respite nights per client the needs of each client and their family are taken into consideration as well as what suitable respite is available. As you are aware this is not a demand led service and there is competing needs for the service.

Residential Services

The provision of residential services has also come under further pressure in recent years with increased numbers of persons (children and adults) seeking access to these services. In addition there are increasing levels of “changing needs” among existing residential service users who require increased supports. The need for increased residential facilities is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various options to respond to this need in line with resources available.

The HSE National Policy on managing residential placement came into effect in 2016 with implementation across south east Community Healthcare (SECH) in early 2018.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure:

- an equitable transparent and consistent practice regarding the prioritisation of need of applicants for residential supports is implemented across and within the SECH area
- Measures are put in place to ensure residential placement and supports are only considered when all other options such as respite and in home supports have been exhausted
- A robust review and regular monitoring of the current configuration or delivery of services takes place

Under the policy an Emergency is defined as follows:

Emergency needs for residential supports may be defined as urgent situations, where current care and /or support arrangement cannot meet the assessed needs of the service user and an alternative residential support or placement must be made available.

Criteria that are applied in these cases are:

- Sudden unavailability of primary carer due to sudden illness or death
- Where clinical assessment determines that there is a high or likely risk of serious harm or fatality associated with a case
- A vulnerable person who is at risk of being abused
- A vulnerable person who is at risk of abusing others

Below outlines the number of adults in the disability services in Wexford awaiting residential placement.

Adults awaiting residential placement on contingency waiting list

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No's on W/L	19	25	28	26	52	57	50	62	64

The disability service is not a demand lead service and must operate within the finite annual resource allocation. 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'PMcEvoy', written in black ink.

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