

9th July 2019

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 26233/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite hours provided for adults with an intellectual disability in County Cork in each of the years 2008 to 2018, in tabular form."

PQ ref 26234/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite hours provided for children with an intellectual disability in County Cork each of the years 2008 to 2018, in tabular form."

PQ ref 26235/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite hours provided for adolescents with an intellectual disability in County Cork in each of the years 2008 to 2018, in tabular form."

Dear Deputy O'Brien,

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

The information you have requested is captured through the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) process which has changed in recent years. Disability Services Cork Kerry Community Healthcare currently tracks persons in receipt of respite services and does not differentiate between Child, Adolescent or Adult. Please see below the figures for the years 2017 and 2018 respectively.

The number of people with an ID/ Autism in receipt of respite services - 2017 in County Cork	The number of people with an ID/ Autism in receipt of respite services – 2018 in County Cork
486	557

In respect of the years 2008 – 2016, there is further data available, however it will require a significant piece of work to collate the records as they were previously recorded in different formats owing to different healthcare structures. If you wish to contact this office I will be happy to explain the information that is available and how this might best be presented to meet your request.

In 2018, the HSE received funding of €10 million to support respite services across Ireland. This funding was subsequently allocated to each Community Health Organisation in the form of Provisional Respite Services and Alternative Respite Services.

The funding allocated to Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has been utilised as follows:

Respite House:

Funding was provided for a new respite house in Kerry. This service is provided through Kerry Parents and Friends and is open to the entire County Kerry catchment area. The house opened on March 30th 2018.

In addition to the house in Kerry, a Regional Respite Service commenced in West Cork in December 2018. It currently provides respite at weekends and is open to referrals for respite from across County Cork.

Home Based Respite:

In relation to alternative respite, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare received €220,000 for full year services in 2018, which will continue into 2019. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Disability Services communicated with all organisations, in relation to priorities for their area. A number of proposals were approved for Alternative Respite Programmes at Cope Foundation, Brothers of Charity, St Joseph's Foundation and Co-Action including one programme for children and the remainder for adults. The programmes included:

- Saturday activities
- Social Clubs including outings, shopping etc.
- After work programmes

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has acknowledged that the current level of provision does not adequately meet the identified needs in this area. 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.

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. 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. 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.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



Ger Reaney
Chief Officer
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare