

14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Deputy James O'Connor,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ Ref Number: 39769/20**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the progress of the development of respite care facilities (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details Supplied: We have received correspondence regarding the development of respite care facilities for people with disabilities in Youghal Co Cork under the form of Respite House and Alternative Respite Provision. The allocation refers to two properties 1. Seaview Cottage House at St Raphael's Centre, Youghal, 2. Bayview Cottage House in the ownership of Cork Mental located in Youghal.**

Dear Deputy O'Connor,

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

In recent years a significant amount of work has been undertaken by the management and staff of St. Raphael's Campus on the implementation of the Transforming Lives programme (VFM Policy Review) and “A Time to Move on From Congregated Settings”. In 2015 there were 121 residents living across the service, 54 of whom lived in the Ground Floor on St. Raphael's Centre. The centre (Ground Floor) was configured across three units and residents slept in wards. In addition to the Ground Floor there were also another four designated centres: Oakvale, Youghal Community Hostels, and Youghal Community Houses. Following a number of inspections by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) which identified substantial non-compliance with residential standards the order was given to close both the Ground Floor and Youghal Community Hostels.

Since February 2016 Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has been working to transition the remaining residents from the Ground Floor in St. Raphael's Centre to a number of community residences. The ground floor unit at St Raphael's Centre closed on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 with the remaining residents having moved to nine houses in the community in the Youghal and West Waterford area. The successful implementation of the above project has resulted in a number of buildings on campus becoming vacant.

The next phase of the Community Living Programme will see residents move from the Community Hostels, Seaview and Bayview. Seaview is on the grounds of St. Raphael's Campus and Bayview is adjacent to Youghal Community Hospital. Work is ongoing on securing appropriate accommodation for these residents in community settings. Regrettably, once the buildings are vacated they are not suitable for the provision of respite as they do not meet the required regulatory standards. Both Seaview and Bayview require significant upgrading due to the location of the majority of the bedrooms on the upper floor which is not a viable option for service users with mobility difficulties. This has resulted in both properties scheduled to close in early 2021 as part of phase 3 of the Decongregation Project.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare in association with the HSE's Estates Department commenced a

review on the future use of the St. Raphael's Campus in 2019. Owing to the circumstances pertaining to the Covid 19 pandemic, this work has not been completed. We are advised that it will recommence in January 2021. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is very aware of the need to further develop respite services for both children and adults with disabilities and these needs will be taken into consideration as part of the review of services needs in the area.

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. 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. Unfortunately the level of funding received in Cork and Kerry has not enabled service providers to meet all of the needs presenting. 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 respite and home supports over a number of years.

Respite services in Cork are currently provided by COPE, the Brothers of Charity, CoAction, St. Joseph's Foundation and Enable Ireland. 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 opened on phased basis in 2019 and accepts referrals for respite across County Cork.

**Alternative 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 with the Service Providers services including one programme for children and the remainder for adults. The programmes included:

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

In 2019 a significant piece of work commenced in collaboration with our voluntary service providers to plan for Residential and Respite Services in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. While this work is not complete and funding is not available at this time, it will ensure that Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are prepared to respond to any additional funding that becomes available in 2021 and subsequent years.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely



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**Ms. Jackie Daly,**  
**Interim Head of Disability Services,**

## Cork Kerry Community Healthcare