



Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1
(An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach)
Áras Isacc Butt, Bealach Féich, Tír Chonaill F93 YV9R
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15th December 2020

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 40729/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the provisions that will be provided to increase capacity in overnight respite care for children with disabilities in the Donegal region; his plans for meeting the needs of the service users and their families; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn

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

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Drumboe Respite Centre, Stranorlar and Riverwalk Respite Centre, Carndonagh are currently providing emergency respite for adults and this has impacted on these services' capacity to provide respite services for children living in these areas.

The Disability Service has completed a prioritisation assessment. In line with the National Framework for the Resumption of Respite Services and children prioritised for respite are being allocated respite in alternative locations, such as Ballymacool Respite Centre, Letterkenny and Seaview Respite Centre, Mountcharles. Coupled with this, home support packages have been offered to families in order to provide respite within their own homes.

Donegal Disability Services have been allocated additional funding for the provision of 20 intensive support packages for children and young adults, as part of national funding of €2.5 million.

The children who are most in need have been identified by multi-disciplinary professionals, in conjunction with families, and these packages are in the process of being set up and will be in place January 2021.

Respite Managers continue to maintain regular contact with families in order to identify those most in need and put alternative arrangements in place. This matter is being kept under constant review.

I trust that this is of assistance but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely



Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CHO1
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