



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais,
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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**Sean Crowe TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
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Ref: PQ 20/24832

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the difficulties and cuts in supports for the disability care sector due to Covid-19 and the resulting social distance guidelines, particularly but not exclusively, in the south-west Dublin area; his plans to support these vulnerable citizens; the contact his Department has had with various support organisations; if plans are being rolled out to move from part-time to full-time supports; if respite supports are being discussed or planned; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Seán Crowe TD

Dear Deputy

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE Disability Services has been working to develop national guidance to direct on how day services can be delivered safely. The new directions sub group prepared a framework to support service providers as they resume services. This group was representative of service users and families, service providers and the HSE. The aim of this framework is to ensure the safety of people both service users and our staff. The service providers must strictly adhere to the public health guidance. The Guidance to support the Framework for the Resumption of Adult Disability Day Services was published by the HSE on 8th July 2020.

The resumption of day services for adults with disabilities recommenced in August 2020. The HSE published an online portal to provide up-to-date information regarding the status of each day service location in the context of opening dates for each location and details of the capacity relevant to each location. (Link to portal below)

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/newdirections/resumption-of-adult-day-services-for-adults-with-disabilities.html>

With regard to respite services, the HSE's "A Safe Return to Health Services" outlines a three phased approach to the return of health and social care services. This plan states that short-stay residential and emergency/residential respite will begin to re-open from July to August with activity increasing in the next two phases September – November and December 2020 to February 2021.

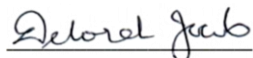
Whilst the services have to deal with the reality of COVID-19, the quantum and type of service supports will undergo a significant change. The new ways of working defined in the New Directions and other policy framework documents will provide many challenges when dealing with the expectation of service users and their families that are used to the traditional model of delivery which is centred on day service locations.

The HSE has collated information from all service providers in respect of the additional resources required to provide a greater quantum of service to service users and families than that which can be delivered within existing resources. This request for additional resources has been escalated to Senior Management of the HSE and will form part of the Winter Planning process that the HSE is currently engaged in. We await the outcome of that process and will engage with the provider sector when any additional resource is agreed. This funding bid is to enhance the amount of service that people are currently receiving but it is not to fully restore a 30 hour per week day service. In regard to the resumption of full time services - we will have to act in accordance with public health advice at all times so it is not possible to predict when services can be restored to pre COVID levels.

I trust the above information is of use to you and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Jacob



Head of Service for Disabilities

Dublin South West, Kildare & West Wicklow