

23rd November 2021

Deputy Colm Burke, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 54128/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of healthcare services including adult disability day services and respite services that have resumed at full service levels in the South South West HSE area to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

The following information sets out the position in relation to the various services across the Cork Kerry Community Healthcare region which provide adult day and/or respite services.

Services for Older Persons - Day Services:

The benefit provided by Day Care Centres is of considerable value to our older clients and their families and the resumption of full Day Care services across the region is a service priority for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. The table below lists the Cork and Kerry day care centres across all service providers in receipt of public monies that have resumed services, as well as the centres that have not yet reopened:

Cork Day Care Centres – Status:

Name of Day Care Centre	HSE or S39 Agency Operated	Status - if Closed Reason included
St Luke's Home, Mahon, Cork	S39	Open
Árd na Rí, Farranree, Cork	HSE & S39 (Farranree Sheltered Housing)	Open
Park Road Day Care Centre, Cobh, Cork	HSE	Open
Teach Mhuire DCC Mayfield, Cork	HSE	Open
Br.Jerome Kelly, Shears Street, Cork Day Care Centre	HSE & S39 (Share)	Open
Bessboro Day care, Cork	The Alzheimers Society of Ireland	Open
Mallow Day care, Cork	The Alzheimers Society of Ireland	Closed - New premises has been identified. ASI working with centre management to finalise use.
Conna Day care, Cork	The Alzheimers Society of Ireland	Closed - expected to reopen in November (new Nurse Manager will have completed induction/training)
Mitchelstown day care	The Alzheimers Society of Ireland	Closed - expected to reopen in November (new Nurse Manager will have completed induction/training)
Midleton day care , Cork	The Alzheimers Society of Ireland	Services commenced in Bessboro (1 day per week initially) from 18th October until alternative premises is found
Bandon Day care , Cork	The Alzheimers Society of Ireland	New premises being sought
Skibbereen day care , Cork	The Alzheimers Society of Ireland	Closed
Bantry , Cork	HSE	Open
Castletownbere, Co Cork	HSE	Open
Dunmwanway, Co Cork	HSE	Closed - Staffing related
Skibbereen, Co Cork	HSE	Closed - Staffing related
Clonakilty , Co Cork	HSE	Closed - Staffing related
BALLYPHEHANE, Cork City	HSE	Open
Cluain Dara DCC, Cork	HSE	Open
Kinsale, Cork	HSE	Open
Mallow Day centre , Co Cork	HSE	Closed - Staffing related
McAuley DCC, Midleton, Cork	HSE	Open
Westgate foundation , Cork	S39 (Westgate Foundation)	Open
Carrigaline, Cork	HSE	Closed - Daycare Coordinator appointed and preparatory work underway to reopen
Bandon Daycare , Cork	HSE	Open
Turners Cross Day Centre, Cork	HSE	Closed - Staffing related
Millstreet, Cork	HSE	Opened - 22nd November
St Francis Day Care Centre, Blackpool	S39 (Respond)	Open
Conna Day care, Cork	HSE	Closed - Staffing related
Mitchelstown day care	HSE	Closed - Staffing related

Kerry Day Care Centres - Status:

Name of Day Care Centre	HSE or S39 Agency Operated	Status - if Closed Reason included
St. Patrick's Day Care Centre, Tralee, Co Kerry	HSE	Open
Tralee, Co Kerry	The Alzheimer Society of Ireland	Open
CASTLEISLAND DAY CARE CENTRE CLG, Kerry	NGO/ HSE Funded	Open
KSAG Killorglin Community care centre, Kerry	NGO/ HSE Funded	Open
Ard Chúram Fuchsia Centre (Alzheimer's), Listowel, Kerry	NGO/ HSE Funded	Open
Ard Churam Day Care Centre, Listowel, Kerry	NGO/ HSE Funded	Open
St Joseph's DCC, Co Kerry	NGO/ HSE Funded	Open
Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Service, Kerry	NGO/ HSE Funded	Open
ROCKMOUNT CARE CENTRE, Kerry	HSE Funded	Open
Holy Cross Day Centre Killarney Co Kerry	NGO /HSE Funded	Open
BAILE MHUIRE CLG. Co Kerry	NGO/ HSE Funded	Open

Some centres have not yet reopened due to staffing-related issues, as a number of Day Care Centre staff were redeployed to Covid testing centres while Day Care Centres were closed. The current climate of high demand for testing is presenting a challenge in some areas in returning Day Care Centre staff to their substantive posts but the recruitment process for testing centre staff is ongoing.

Services for Older Persons - Respite Services:

Community Hospitals assess referrals on an individual basis in relation to the provision of respite services. The availability of respite is dependent on bed availability within the limitations of current Infection Prevention and Control measures and the prevailing conditions at any time with regard to positive Covid rates in the community and the hospital itself. Additionally, a number of community hospitals are currently part of a refurbishment programme to meet HIQA Standards (e.g. having single rooms as opposed to multi occupancy rooms) which has seen a reduction of some beds available. Such measures are required to minimise the risk of infection to service users, their families and to healthcare workers. Resumption of full respite services across our area remains a service priority.

I have consulted with my Head of Service colleagues in Mental Health and Disability Services, and the current position within those Care Groups is set out below for your information.

Mental Health - Day Services

All day services are currently operational with the exception of the Owenacurra Centre in Midleton. The Owenacurra facility housed a day centre on the grounds of the Owenacurra Approved Centre which provides long term care for residential patients. In response to restrictions in place throughout 2020 in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic and to ensure adherence to the national guidelines in relation to Covid 19, access to the day centre was suspended in March 2020 so as to protect long term residents of the Owenacurra Approved Centre. Whilst the day centre itself was effectively closed, continuity of service has remained in place, with community mental health teams actively and regularly in contact with service users who would normally have availed of the day centre. In addition, service users also have access to the Owenacurra Day Hospital which is located on the grounds of the Midleton Community Hospital. Mental Health Services are liaising with our Estates colleagues to explore and identify a suitable location in Midleton for a new and enhanced day centre service.

Mental Health - Respite Services

There is currently 1 respite beds closed in St Colemans House, Macroom. This facility is a 24 hour community residence which provides long term care for residential patients. In response to restrictions in place since 2020 in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic, and to ensure adherence to Infection Prevention and Control and social distancing guidelines (particularly in regards to single occupancy rooms) the service suspended 1 respite bed in this facility. All 10 beds remain fully occupied and therefore, in light of the ongoing pandemic and public health guidance, there are currently no plans to reinstate this at this point in time.

Disability Services - Day Services

This process has been guided by the HSE National Resumption of Day Services framework which has been circulated to all service providers. Service providers are resuming services on a phased basis and in line with public health guidelines. They actively engage with our department regarding the resumption of services and complete regular local reviews regarding the quantum of services being delivered.

At present, the framework for resumption of services recommends 100% return to services and the majority of the services providers have restored services to this level. If individual clients have specific queries regarding the quantum of service being provided, they should speak directly to the service provider to seek resolution in their personal case.

Disability services - Respite Services

All respite services are operational in Cork; albeit at reduced capacity, with the exception of Cooleens Children's Respite Service in St Joseph's Foundation, which remains closed, due to recruitment issues. This respite service is currently operating alternative services; such as outreach supports, Saturday Clubs, etc. to Priority One and Priority Two children. Three weekend breaks in Trabolgan Holiday Centre were also provided by St Joseph's as a form of Alternative Respite, this was available to all families.

Brothers of Charity Respite Centre in Garrettstown is operating at reduced capacity and will be re-opening fully in coming weeks, pending the recruitment of staff. This centre has recently underwent a significant capital expansion plan and group respite has commenced on a part time basis. It was envisaged that by late November more intensive respite would commence, however due to Covid related staff shortages, this may be delayed.

Respite services in Brooke Lodge, Listowel which were suspended to upgrading works to the building, have been re-commenced as the works have recently been completed. Kerry Parents and Friends are once again in a position to provide overnight respite to clients who were availing of respite services now that these works have been completed.

Wave 4 of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the provision of disability services, where many services were and are suspended due to Covid outbreaks among clients and staff and this is a constantly evolving situation. Agencies frequently need to re-deploy staff from day services and respite in order to maintain and ensure safe staffing levels in residential settings. As one of the key priorities for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is to restore disability services impacted by the presence of COVID-19 to optimum levels, we have prioritised the booster vaccination programme for healthcare workers and clients in line with government direction and guidance.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People