



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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4th May 2022

Deputy O'Rourke,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ – 19051/21 To ask the Minister for Health the respite facilities in County Meath for children with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Rourke

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 outlined the position as follows.

Meath Disability Services provides residential respite to children with disabilities from the following residential services locations.

Residential Respite:

RehabCare, The Meadows, Navan, Co Meath.

- Children's Services
- 5 beds (ID & PS) 6/7, 1380 bed nights.
- The Meadows, RehabCare currently provide access to residential respite to 59 children and 15 young adults.
- In the last quarter of 2021 they provided 207 bed nights and 97 day only respite.
- Bed night capacity is operating at 100%.

Non-Residential Respite Services Meath Children:

Meath Disability Services also provide Alternative Home-Share Models of respite; non-residential outreach; respite home support services and day respite clubs:

- **RehabCare Navan** - Outreach respite home support service (children).
- **RehabCare Navan** - Horizons evening & weekend club. (14 – 21 years old).
- **Mo Shaol Home Share** and Short Day Break Respite (Adults & Children).

REHABCARE OUTREACH: €90,000 funding for non-residential respite was allocated in 2018 to develop an Outreach Respite Home Support Service for children who present with behaviors that challenge. There are 35 hours home support available a week from this service. At present there are nine children who access this service.

The residential and outreach services are currently operating at 95% capacity as government restrictions have lifted, Service provision is in line with Government IP&C guidelines to minimize risk of Covid 19 infection and allocation is based on children's ability to social



distance, school bubbles, siblings etc. There is ongoing review of service provision in line with public health guidelines.

REHABCARE HORIZONS: €50, 000 non-residential respite funding was allocated in 2018 to develop alternative respite services such as community respite and weekend clubs in Meath. The Horizons weekend club commenced in January 2019 and offers non-residential respite for 14 – 21 year olds in Navan on Friday evenings (5.00 – 9.00pm) and Saturday (10.00am – 5.00pm) each week. 38 children have used this service (one session per four weeks) and there are 21 people waiting to commence.

MO SHAOL HOME SHARE (POSITIVE FUTURES PROVIDER) Homeshare and Short Day Break Respite: Mo Shaol home share respite model has been developed by Meath Disability Services in partnership with Positive Futures. In 2018 Meath submitted a successful application for funding via the Service Reform Fund.

Host families have successfully been recruited and matched to support service users with respite.

There are 10 active short break placements for children, (5 x overnights, 5 x social day breaks) and 1 placement currently matched and in assessment and development. At the time of this report there are 21 children on the waiting list for which funding is being sought.

The Meadows Children’s Respite /RehabCare Day Respite Club:

Day Respite in the form of afterschool, evening & weekend day respite clubs was developed using funding from CHO time related savings and was run as a pilot scheme for the 3 month period July- September 2021. 45 children who were on a waiting list for overnight respite were offered places on the pilot scheme. On review of the pilot scheme 26 children transitioned to overnight respite with 19 children/families wishing to avail of day respite. The commitment to ongoing funding has opened up the service to new referrals from November 2021. Meath Disability Services have provided funding to sustain this service for a further year.

MLM CHO continues to seek additional funding to further develop the respite service in Co Meath. There is ongoing dialogue with service providers to look at avenues to increase the availability of respite in the county to support service users and their families. The HSE are continually looking at opportunities to meet individual service user needs and to maximize the available resources to provide the service.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Des O’Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation