



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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13th December 2022

Deputy Matt Carty,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: matt.carty@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Carty,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 60211/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite care places for children with disabilities in each county or for the lowest available geographic unit; the number on waiting lists for same in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE and its funded Agencies provide respite care to children and adults with disabilities. Respite can occur in a variety of settings for various lengths of time, depending on the needs of the individual service user and their family or carer, and according to available resources. Respite is not always centre-based and can be provided in a number of ways, e.g. Centre based; In-Home; Home-to-Home; Family Support, etc. As a vital part of the continuum of services for families, respite potentially helps prevent out-of-home full-time residential placements, preserves the family unit, and supports family stability.

The HSE is very much aware of the importance of respite service provision for the families of both children and adults with disabilities and the impact the absence of respite service provision can have on other services being delivered.

With regard to respite provision, there is no centrally maintained waiting list for respite services, however the local HSE areas are aware of the need and requirements in their areas and work with the local Service Providers with a view to responding to the level of presenting needs within the resources available.

CHO Areas also put in place a range of alternative respite activities, including Summer Camps, after-school respite services, Saturday Clubs and other community based respite support activities that are designed to meet the needs of children and families, particularly over the Summer Months. This also included in family support and in-home respite support.

With regard to the number of respite care places for children with disabilities, please see the table in Appendix 1 which provides a list of Respite Centres catering for children throughout the nine CHO Areas, taken from the HIQA Register of Disability Designated Centres.



It should be noted that in most respite centres, the occupancy levels as reported to HIQA represents the maximum number of children and adults that could attend the centre at any one time. However, operationally, the actual occupancy levels would generally be lower than the maximum due to the complexities of the people that would routinely be catered for. In addition, occupancy levels have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unmet Need and growing demand

The provision of residential respite services has come under increasing pressure in the past couple of years due to a number of impacting factors such as,

- an increase in the number of children and adults who are seeking access to respite as a reflection of general population increase;
- increasing levels of complexity across the sector due to better and improved health care;
- an increase in the age of people with a disability resulting in people presenting with “changing needs”.

In addition, a significant number of respite beds have been utilised for long term residential placements due to the presenting complexity of the individual with a disability and also due to home circumstances, therefore, the numbers of people with disabilities in receipt of residential respite services and the corresponding number of respite nights has reduced when compared to previous activity.

A further impact to the delivery of respite has been in response to the regulation of service provision as set by the Health Information and Quality Authority regulatory and policy context. HIQA has established and set the way in which residential/respite services is provided requiring the Agencies comply with regulatory standards in order to meet regulation. Standards specify a requirement for personal and appropriate space impacting on the capacity and Statement of Purpose for a Designated Centre. This has had a direct impact on capacity where respite beds are no longer allowed within a residential setting e.g. vacated by residents who go home at weekends or for holidays, can no longer be used for respite. Implementation of the national policy on congregated settings (Time to Move on from Congregated Settings Policy) is also affecting capacity.

2022 Developments

In accordance with the NSP 2022, the key priority areas in relation to Respite Services for people with disabilities and their families are:

- Establish three additional specialist centre-based services to provide 4,032 nights to 90 children, one to be Prader-Willi appropriate and the other two to provide high-support respite for children and young adults with complex support needs, in addition to seven further respite services which will provide 9,408 nights to 245 children and adults in a full year.
- Provide additional intensive respite support packages to children and young adults.

This is a key priority area for the HSE in relation to Respite Services for people with disabilities and their families and follows on from the significant investment in respite services in 2021.

Currently each CHO is working to implement these developments, including tendering where necessary, identifying appropriate facilities, recruiting staff and securing registration with HIQA. This work will influence the location and timeframe for the delivery of the ten additional centre-based respite services in all of the nine Community Healthcare Areas.

Yours sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations



Appendix 1

List of Respite Centres catering for children throughout the nine CHO Areas, taken from the HIQA Register of Disability Designated Centres

Registration_Provider	Title	County	CHO	Adult/ Child	Full/Part Time	Part Time Opening Details (Respite)	Maximum Occupancy of Designated Centre	No of Respite Beds in Designated Centre
Health Service Executive	Killygowan Respite Centre	Cavan	CHO1	Mixed	Full-time		5	5
Health Service Executive	Ballymacool Respite House	Donegal	CHO1	Mixed	Part-time	Open approx 5 nights per week, one of which is a Friday night. In addition, Day Respite is provided x 2-4 days per fortnight.	5	6
Health Service Executive	Drumboe Respite House	Donegal	CHO1	Mixed	Full-time		5	5
Health Service Executive	Riverwalk House	Donegal	CHO1	Mixed	Full-time		3	3
RehabCare	Seaview Respite Service	Donegal	CHO1	Mixed	Part-time	Monday - Friday day & overnight	4	4
RehabCare	Bayview Respite Service	Leitrim	CHO1	Mixed	Part-time	5 nights per week.(Mon-Fri) Children and adults alternately.	5	Max 3 occupants at present. IPC recommendations.
North West Parents and Friends Association for Persons with Intellectual	Sunbeam House Respite Service	Leitrim	CHO1	Child	Part-time	2 weekends per month (Friday - Sunday)	3	Max 2 occupants at present IPC recommendation



Disability								
Brothers of Charity Services Ireland CLG	Cranmor Respite Service	Galway	CHO2	Child			3	3
Brothers of Charity Services Ireland CLG	Crannog Respite Service	Galway	CHO2	Child			5	3
Ability West	Holly Services	Galway	CHO2	Child	Full-time		6.03	6.03
Ability West	St. Teresa's Services	Galway	CHO2	Child	Part-time	Open 15 Nights Per Month	2.21	2.21
Western Care Association	St Stephen's Respite Service	Mayo	CHO2	Child	Full-time		4	4
Brothers of Charity Services Ireland CLG	Yew Services	Roscommon	CHO2	Child	Part-time	7 nights week 14.30pm - 10am	4	4
Brothers of Charity Services Ireland CLG	Woodside	Clare	CHO3	Child	Part-time	Open Wednesday to Sunday	3	3
Enable Ireland Disability Services Limited	Teach Saoirse	Tipperary	CHO3	Child	Full-time		5	5
Enable Ireland Disability Services Limited	Eden Lodge	Clare	CHO3	Child	Full-time		6	6
RehabCare	Redhouse	Limerick	CHO3	Child	Part-time	Funded for 325 Bednights per Year.	5	2
St. Gabriel's School and Centre Limited	St. Gabriel's Children's Respite House	Limerick	CHO3	Child		Closed due to lack of funding	6	
Daughters of Charty Disability	San Joseph Group Q	Limerick	CHO3	Child	Full-time		4	
St Joseph's Foundation	Cooleens House	Cork	CHO4	Child	Part-time	weekends	6	6



St John of God Community Services Company Limited By Guarantee	St. John of God Kerry Services - South Kerry	Kerry	CHO4	Child	Full-time		4	4
St John of God Community Services Company Limited By Guarantee	Saint John of God Kerry Services - North Kerry	Kerry	CHO4	Mixed	Full-time		4	4
COPE Foundation	Cork City North 9	Cork	CHO4	Child			9	8
CoAction West Cork CLG	Dunmanway Residential	Cork	CHO4	Child	Part-time	3 night for 46 weeks per year	6	5
Brothers of Charity Services Ireland CLG	No.1 Heather Park	Cork	CHO4	Child	Full-time	open 46 weeks	6	6
An Breacadh Nua	Aleana House	Wexford	CHO5	Child	Full-time	12 days per fortnight 48 weeks	4	4
Brothers of Charity Services Ireland CLG	South Tipperary Respite Services	Tipperary	CHO5	Mixed	Part-time	7 days per fortnight	10	10
RK Respite Services Ltd	Northfields Respite Centre	Tipperary	CHO5	Child	Part-time	Does s not open Sunday nights	6	
St Aidan's Day Care Centre Company Limited by Guarantee	Mulcahy House (Respite)	Wexford	CHO5	Mixed	Full-time	3 weeks adults 1 week child	7	5
Waterford Intellectual Disability Association Company Limited By Guarantee	Robin Hill Respite House	Waterford	CHO5	Mixed	Full-time	rotated alternate weeks Children/Adults	6	6
Enable Ireland Disability Services Limited	Silverpine House	Wicklow	CHO6	Child	Full-time		5	5
Beechpark Liffeyvale	Liffeyvale	Dublin	CHO6/CHO7	Child	Full-time		5	5
Beechpark Farmleigh	Farmleigh	Dublin	CHO6/CHO7	Child	Full-time		4	4



St Catherine's Association Company Limited By Guarantee	Haughton House	Wicklow	CHO6	Child	Full-time		4	3
St Catherine's Association Company Limited By Guarantee	Ballylusk Cottage and Apartment	Wicklow	CHO6	Child	Full-time		5	3
St Catherine's Association Company Limited By Guarantee	Brambles	Wicklow	CHO6	Child	Full-time		4	4
St John of God Community Services Company Limited By Guarantee	Angels Quest	Dublin	CHO6	Child	Part-time	Under 5 days pw	3	3
Terra Glen Residential Care Services Limited	Rose Lodge	Dublin	CHO6	Child	Part-time	3/7 nights	4	1
The Children's Sunshine Home	The Children's Sunshine Home (operating as LauraLynn Children's Hospice)	Dublin	CHO6	Child	Full-time		14	5
Cheeverstown House CLG	Centre 1 - Cheeverstown House Residential Services (Younger Persons)	Dublin	CHO7	Mixed			20	6
G.A.L.R.O. Limited	Glenullen Breffini cottage	Dublin	CHO7	Child	Full-time		4 x HSE beds CHO7 areas. 1 x outside CHO7	5
KARE, Promoting Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities	Cluain Alainn	Kildare	CHO7	Mixed	Full-time		6	see note



Stewarts Care Limited	Stewarts Care Childrens Home Designated Centre 13 Douchas Lodge	Kildare	CHO7	Child	Full-time	Closed for christmas hols only	5	5
Walkinstown Association For People With An Intellectual Disability CLG	Walk D	Dublin	CHO7	Child	Part- time		6	
RehabCare	Maria Goretti Respite	Louth	CHO8	Child	Part- time	Closed every Monday night, opens 6 days per week.	6	6
St Hilda's Services	Childrens Respite Service	Westmeath	CHO8	Child	Full-time		4	4
St. Paul's Child and Family Care Centre Designated Activity Company	St Paul's Coolatree	Dublin	CHO9	Child	Full-time		4	
St. Paul's Child and Family Care Centre Designated Activity Company	St Paul's Dromawling	Dublin	CHO9	Child	Full-time		4	
St. Paul's Child and Family Care Centre Designated Activity Company	St Paul's Santry	Dublin	CHO9	Child	Full-time		4	
St Michael's House	Donabate Respite 1	Dublin	CHO9	Child	Full-time		6	
Daughters of Charity Disability Support Services Company Limited by Guarantee	OCS-SM	Dublin	CHO9	Child	Full-time		6	

