



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara &
Iarthar Chill Mhantáin

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,
Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC

Head of Service, Disabilities
Dublin South Kildare and West
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11 January 2023

Deputy Emer Higgins
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 61344/22

Re: Respite Services

“To ask the Minister for Health the steps that his Department is taking to address the long wait times for respite services for people with intellectual disabilities in the CH07 area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

-Deputy Emer Higgins

Dear Deputy Higgins,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response. I requested that a Disability Manager examine the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Head of Service for Disabilities in Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow (DSKWW) in consultation with voluntary partners are initiating a respite review to address issues with respite provision for people with disabilities as follows:

- To ensure maximum utilisation of existing respite resource.
- Understand presenting needs by age cohort/presentation to facilitate effective respite service planning.
- Re-orientate the current service models to provide a more diverse service not limited to traditional overnight respite.
- Deliver a more equitable/streamlined referral system through implementation of standardised assessment.
- Ensure effective and fair outcomes for the individual based on their level of disability and level of need within current capacity.

DSKWW New Respite Service Developments:

- Two large bespoke overnight respite services (Children’s & Adults) specifically designed to minimise the impact of challenging behaviour on occupancy levels.
- Afterschool respite
- Saturday Clubs

- Alternative respite-Share a break
- Short breaks respite

Children’s Respite centre – KARE, Ardscull based in Athy Co. Kildare.

- The respite service will be for children and families with moderate to high support needs aged from 4 to 18 years (inclusive) with physical, intellectual and neurodevelopmental disabilities presenting with complex needs. The house has five bedrooms – one is a self-contained apartment that will meet many of the complex needs of children with challenging behaviour, while also allowing for quick response to emergencies which we don’t have the capacity for at present.

Ardscull will operate using the following skill mix:

- Social Care Workers
- Social Care Assistants
- Staff Nurse
- Behaviour Therapy Support
- Play Therapist
- Clinical Nurse Manager.

The property is divided to facilitate the provision of 3 different overnight respite services from one location

Young Adult Respite centre – Talbot Group “The Ranch”, Newtown Donor, near Naas.

- Provided by Talbot group for adults aged 18+ with physical, intellectual and neurodevelopmental disabilities presenting with complex needs. Service will have 6 bed availability, 4 bedrooms in the main house and two self-contained apartments for adults presenting with complex needs.

The Ranch will operate with the following clinical/Social care supports:

- PIC
- Social Care Team Leaders
- Nursing HCA’s
- Therapeutic supports to include
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- PBS
- Occupational Therapy
- Play/Music Therapy

Afterschool / Saturday Service Dublin & Kildare:

- Alternative model of day time respite which runs from 2.30 to 8pm in the evenings.
- For children aged from 4 to 18 years (inclusive) with physical, intellectual and neurodevelopmental disabilities presenting with complex needs
- Provided in two locations.
 - Kildare (between Newbridge and Naas – Toughers Business Park), (children will be collected from school and returned home at 8pm).
 - Dublin (between Tallaght and Clondalkin - Rivercourt).
- Saturday Club

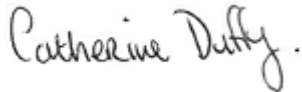
Weekday & Weekend Service Includes:

- Full Kitchen for cookery, teaching independent living skills depending on the age group
- Art Room to explore children's creative side and have messy play
- Lego Wall for all the brick and lego lovers for hours of fun
- Chill out room which has Sofas, TV, Bean Bags, Foosball Table, Computer and Library.
- Training Room with access to individual computers.
- Multi-Sensory Room for low arousal stimulation.
- Other community activities.

I trust this information is of use to you. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

P.P

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Duffy." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the "P.P" text.

Deborah Jacob

Head of Service, Disability Services

Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.