



Seirbhís Míchumais

Cúram Sláinte Pobail Thoir, Bloc B, Lárionad
Cathrach, An tSráid Mhór, Bré, Co. Chill
Mhantáin, A98 X329

Disability Service

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14th April 2022

Deputy Neale Richmond
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re PQ 17223/22:

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the lack of access to St John of Gods respite services in Dun Laoghaire due to emergency situations requiring a takeover of the respite services; if he will take steps to ensure that emergencies can be addressed while also allowing for the continuation of the respite services for St John of Gods service users; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Richmond,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

Disability Services in Community Healthcare East (CH East) can confirm that a service user of St John of God Disability Services (SJOG) required an emergency residential placement in February 2022. Following intensive interagency meetings to develop an urgent safe environment for the individual, SJOG identified the only location they could support the emergency placement, as an interim placement, was in the respite house which was fully staffed. The unfortunate negative impact in this regard was the sudden cessation of regular respite for SJOG Service Users. I can confirm Disability Services and SJOG attempted to find alternative accommodation, however the requirement for the immediate recruitment that would be necessary proved extremely difficult due to the current recruitment challenges identified in the area.

CH East Disability Services have committed to funding the new residential placement and SJOG have assured this department that recruitment is advancing and their Approved Housing Body is developing a location for the residential placement that will ultimately result in respite allocations resuming in Wyattville as quickly as possible.

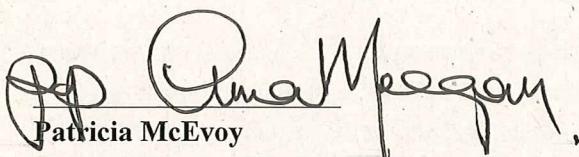
Disability Services acknowledge the impact that these cancellations have had and continue to have on service users and their families, especially following restricted access to regular respite during COVID-19. Disability Services are committed to supporting these service users with alternative respite options during the period of respite closure by funding supported holidays



from an alternative service provider. SJOG have collated detail of individual profiles, compatibility and needs assessments and have communicated directly with all service users and their families in this regard and I can confirm the supported holidays commenced in March 2022.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely


Patricia McEvoy
Head of Service, Disability Services