



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

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,
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**Emer Higgins
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

Ref: PQ 27553/22

Re: “To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the crisis situation regarding the provision of respite disability services in CHO7; the measures that are being taken to resolve this problem; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

- 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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

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.

An increase in Respite service provision is a priority area for action in the 2022 National Service Plan. The Disability Capacity Review to 2032 clearly identifies the benefits of, and need for increased provision of Respite Services nationally. It also identified the gaps in respite services nationally with at least ¾ of families of people with an Intellectual Disability(ID), not currently receiving any respite service and there is a year on year increase in the numbers requiring ID specialist services.

The provision of 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;
- An increase in the number of people with a disability presenting with “changing needs”
- A number of respite beds have been utilised for emergencies

A review of current respite service across DSKWW is currently underway and the following respite services are being expanded/introduced in DSKWW for 2022;

- Residential respite
- Alternative respite-Share a break
- Short breaks respite
- Afterschool respite services
- Evening clubs/weekend day care

In addition to current respite services we have a number of additional respite services opening in 2022.

A new children's respite house opened last month. The respite service is 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 property is divided to facilitate the provision of 3 different overnight respite services from one location. A self-contained apartment will meet many of the complex needs of children with challenging behaviour, while also allowing for quick response to emergencies which we do not have the capacity for at present.

Maximum number of overnight sessions per annum based on a two week closure period is 1755.

A second respite house for adults has been secured and is scheduled to open at the beginning of August 2022. This service is for young adults aged 18 – 26 years with physical, intellectual and neurodevelopmental disabilities presenting with complex needs. This new service can provide an additional 1803 respite nights per year.

Work is also underway to set up Alternative respite services e.g. Share a break respite, afterschool respite services and evening clubs/weekend day care. These will be operating in 2022.

I hope this answers your query, if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

P.P



Deborah Jacob
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