

18<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.

Mr. Michael Healy-Rae, TD.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 48367/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the plans that his Department has put in place to establish a respite house in South County Kerry for school leavers (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details supplied: Minister as you are aware there is no respite house in the South of Kerry for school leavers. The Arches respite house which is run by St John of God in Beaufort Killarney only offers respite till people turn 19 years of age. We know there is a need for respite in South Kerry. Parents are giving 24/7 care to their children and are saving the state a lot of money.**

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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.

There is currently a respite house which provides overnight respite to adults 18 – 65 years with an intellectual disability living in Co. Kerry. It is located at Kilmorna, Listowel, Co. Kerry and the service is managed by Kerry Parents & Friends.

In 2018 Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was approached by a group of families in the South Kerry Area encompassing the Iveragh Peninsula re the development of a respite house in Caherciveen for their adult sons/daughters with an intellectual disability. Disability Services in Kerry have had a subsequent number of meetings with representatives of Cunamh Iveragh since 2018 including a meeting with them in mid-2022.

HSE Disability Services have carried out an analysis of the data of requests for overnight respite from families in South Kerry via the HSE Adult Respite Forum Kerry. The data indicates that the development of an additional respite house for adults with an intellectual disability in South Kerry would need to be located in the Killarney or Tralee area for easier access for families and to meet the respite needs of families in other parts of Kerry and Cork not just those living in the Iveragh Peninsula.

The last number of years has seen an investment in respite services within Cork Kerry Community Services which was very welcome and provided beneficial supports for families within CKCH. An additional 5,000 outreach support hours was allocated in 2020 to families that benefit from the support in Kerry. The Outreach Model initially allocated 50 individuals with 3x8 week blocks of 4 hours per week each year. Further funding was provided to increase the number to 75 individuals in 2021. The hours are either delivered by the lead agency attached to person or alternatively an appropriate provider sourced by CKCH.

CKCH Disability Services will continue to identify and highlight the need for additional adult overnight respite services in South Kerry. Should funding become available to develop a second respite house for adults with an intellectual disability in South Kerry, the location will be carefully considered as it would not be practicable/feasible to expect families to travel to meet the needs of those families.

HSE Disability Services Kerry fully appreciate the level of stress that families are experiencing due to the lack of full time residential placements and limited overnight respite services within the county.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



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**Ms. Majella Daly,**  
**Head of Disability Services,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

