

27th October, 2022

Deputy Michael Healy Rae
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 50994/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if more residential places will be offered for teenagers in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Details supplied: Minister with regard to Children in their early teenage years who have psychological and other issues there is no residential facility in Co Kerry for children with these challenges. At present I have a constituent aged 13 in a residential centre in Dublin and place can be secured in Co Kerry for this person. He is now completely separated from his family, siblings etc. Surely this is not right and we should be in a position to take care of the needs in their own home county.

Dear Deputy Healy Rae,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

In recent years there has been a move away from congregated and group residential facilities for young people. The emphasis in CAMHS and the Adult Mental Health Services is on working with other services and stakeholders to support parents and young people to remain living in their own homes and communities if at all possible.

On occasion young people with a moderate intellectual disability, ASD, ADHD and/or severe challenging behaviours may require placement in residential services where there are specialised MDT services to meet the young persons’ complex needs if the family and local services cannot meet their needs. While there are some respite places available in St John of God services Beaufort, unfortunately there are no residential services for this cohort of children in Kerry currently.

Kind Regards,



Mr Kevin Morrison
A/Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare