

3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023.

Mr. David Stanton, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 17511/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 6 and 19 of 30 March 2023, if he will ensure that young adults with intellectual disabilities in the Cork area are eligible for a personal assistance service in order to travel safely to further education or training centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Stanton,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for response.

HSE Disability Services in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is provided with funding for the provision of Rehabilitative Training Programmes and Day Services to young adults leaving school who require an appropriate HSE funded service. This funding is allocated via the National School Leaver/RT Exit process and is used for the placement cost and is fully expended in the provision of staff, materials and all overheads and where necessary the rental of suitable premises. Based on the support needs identified for the individual, the funding may be used for 1:1 support in their Day Service.

It is the position of the HSE National Office that the provision of transport is a matter for the Department of Transport. The HSE has no statutory obligation to provide transport services and no funding is allocated for this via the National School Leaver/RT Exit process. Disability Service remains open to solutions to address transport needs experienced by service users within available resources.

As part of the process of investigating suitable day placements for young adults post-secondary level education, Day Services Opportunities Officers (DSOO) work to support young adults to complete the National School Leaver Process and to secure a suitable Day Placement. Person centred planning is at the heart of Day Services and Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and DSOO identify suitable additional supports and services needed.

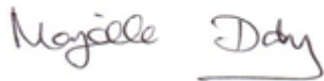
DSOO meet with the School Leaver/RT Exit and their family to discuss service opportunities available within their geographical location and as transport provision is not provided under National School Leaver Funding, this needs to be factored into the decision making. During the profiling process, preference for services are discussed and it is agreed where referral(s) will be sent on behalf of the young adult. Once service providers receive the referrals they

will complete assessments and decisions regarding allocation of places comes about annually in late April. Discussions tend to be completed in May and Disability Services are then in a position to confirm details of placements with families.

Cork Kerry Disability Services acknowledges that transport has been raised as an issue regarding young adults travelling to and from day services and this has been flagged with agencies for consideration. At the profiling meeting, and as outlined above, it was explained that the National School Leaver Funding provides for the provision of day places and regrettably this does not include funding for transport.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Majella Daly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

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

