



Head of Service
Disability Services

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South East Community Healthcare,
HSE, Lacken, Dublin Road,
Kilkenny

t 087 1880042

8th February 2023

Ms. Kathleen Funchion TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 5611/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the respite houses for SOS in County Kilkenny, given that a commitment was made to fund two; if he will confirm that this is the case; if so, when this funding will be released; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Funchion,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

As part of the commitment though the HSE National Service Plan funding allocated for 2022/2023 a new residential service is being planned for three people with SOS to open in 2023. This funding has been confirmed as available to SOS and SOS is currently planning internal reconfiguration to enable this service to open.

Following a meeting with SOS on 25th January 2023, SOS has confirmed they are in the process of de-congregating the Sycamore Home over the next 18 months. The Board of SOS has proposed that this building once vacated will be offered as a potential location for the development of a Respite Centre.

The building is fully accessible to meet all levels of disability, tracking hoists, some en-suite rooms and the building also has space for development if required.

South East Community Healthcare (SECH) and SOS Kilkenny have committed to exploring the opportunity within potential resources available.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Anne Ennis
Head of Service, Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare