Head of Disability Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Health Service Executive,
Rathass, Tralee, Co Kerry
Eircode: V92 YA25
066-7195633

8th February, 2023

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

PQ ref 5999/23
"To ask the Minister for Health if a respite facility will be made available in the greater Killarney area of County Kerry as a matter of urgency (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter."
Details Supplied: Minister I recently raised a question on the issue of respite service for people particularly in the greater Killarney area in Co. Kerry. These parents with special needs young adults are weary and tired and in urgent need of a proper respite facility be made available for their family members. Would the Minister please give me an even more accurate update than the Taoiseach did on the 21st of January about the matter.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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

The Adult Respite Forum is in place for adults to access overnight respite services as well as outreach supports. An application form is completed and processed via the HSE Kerry Adult Respite Forum. This forum was established in Kerry in 2020 and manages the delivery of both overnight respite and outreach services to adults with a disability that meet the criteria of the Standard Operating Procedure of Cork Kerry Disability Services. This allows Kerry Disability Services to provide a coordinated approach to service delivery in collaboration with service providers in Kerry. Membership of the forum includes HSE Disability Services and representatives from relevant disability agencies.

Adult overnight respite services are provided to adults over 18 years with an intellectual disability in Kerry at Cois na Feile, Kilmorna, Listowel, Co. Kerry. Kerry Parents & Friends Association (KPFA) is the service provider and there are 4 adult respite beds in Cois Na Feile, Listowel (Regional Respite House). KPFA also have one respite bed in Brooke Lodge, Listowel, one respite bed in Tearmann Lodge in Rathmore and one respite bed in Glebe Lodge in Castleisland which are in place historically and for adults attending KPFA services.

At present, HSE Disability Services Kerry does not have an overnight respite service in the Killarney/Mid Kerry region. CKCH Disability Services Kerry fully appreciates the impact on families due to the limited overnight respite services within the county.

We are acutely aware of the demands on respite services and 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 3 x 8 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 a person or alternatively an appropriate provider sourced by CKCH. Under

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alternative respite St. John of God was also funded additional capacity to provide alternative respite for day service users as a pilot in 2022. This has been very successful and, subject to funding, further developments will be looked into in 2023.

CKCH Disability Services will continue to identify and highlight the needs for overnight respite services in South Kerry. Should funding become available through the National Service Plan to develop a second respite house for adults with an intellectual disability in South Kerry, the location will be carefully considered in terms of a feasible distance to travel to a new respite house.

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

Yours sincerely

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

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