



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

9th March 2023

Deputy Michael Lowry,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: michael.lowry@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Lowry,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ 9308/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number and location of summer camp-based specialist services for children with complex support needs that will be established in County Tipperary for summer 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 9309/23

To ask the Minister for Health the projected cost of establishing specialist summer camp-based services for children with complex support needs in County Tipperary throughout the summer months; if such services are included in the HSE Service Plan for 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE and its funded Agencies provide respite care to children and adults with disabilities. Respite can occur in a variety of settings for various lengths of time, depending on the needs of the individual service user and their family or carer, and according to available resources. Respite is not always centre-based and can be provided in a number of ways, e.g. Centre based; In-Home; Home-to-Home; Family Support, etc. As a vital part of the continuum of services for families, respite potentially helps prevent out-of-home full-time residential placements, preserves the family unit, and supports family stability.

Children's Disability Services routinely provide a range of alternative respite activities, particularly during the summer holiday period. This includes Summer Camps, after-school respite services, Saturday Clubs and other community based respite support activities that are designed to meet the needs of children and families, particularly over the Summer Months. This also includes family support and in-home respite support.

The HSE is very much aware of the importance of respite service provision for the families of both children and adults with disabilities and the impact the absence of respite service provision can have on other services being delivered. In this regard, the HSE was allocated funding for additional respite services in 2021 and 2022. This is being used to develop additional centre-based respite services, along



with a range of alternative respite projects including Saturday clubs, breakaway schemes, and summer schemes.

The delivery of Respite Services continued to operate during the pandemic, albeit at a reduced capacity due to infection prevention and control and physical distancing requirements. Nevertheless, during 2022, the number of respite overnights (131,057) was 41.6% ahead of the target for the year of 92,555, which is reflective of the easing of restrictions in 2022. The number of alternative/ day only sessions (28,369) was also significantly ahead of the target of 22,474 for 2022.

Please see below for specific information on the alternative respite services that were provided for children in 2022, particularly over the Summer Holiday period, in Community Healthcare Area 3 and Community Healthcare Area 5, both of which CHOs include Co Tipperary.

CHO 3 and CHO 5

Number and locations of summer camp activities	Dates For Camps	Number of Children are being supported in each Camp
Enable Ireland Nenagh Children's Services		
Nenagh Equestrian Centre	11 th -15 th July	5
Aglish Summer Camp	25 th -29 th July	15
Nenagh Star Camp	8 th -12 th August	10
Adventure world Summer Camp	11 th -13 th July	6
Derg Athletic Camp	11 th -13 th July	10
Nenagh Lets Go Summer Camp	2 nd – 5 th August	8
Thurles Lets Go Summer Camp	July 11 th -15 th	6
The additional allocation of National Service Plan 2022 funding of €600,000 for respite has been focussed on increasing capacity in current provision. Each county in CHO 5 was allocated €150,000 ongoing from National Service Plan to increase current respite capacity from providers with emphasis on building current services with section 38 and 39 providers.		

The Department of Education informs that this year, in 2023, all primary schools can offer a summer programme for pupils with complex special educational needs and those at risk of educational disadvantage.

There are two schemes available in the 2023 Summer Programme for mainstream primary schools:

- The Primary School Scheme – for pupils in enrolled in special classes, as well as pupils in mainstream classes who have special educational needs, and those who are at risk of educational disadvantage.
- Literacy and numeracy summer camp/campaí samhraidh for pupils in DEIS schools.

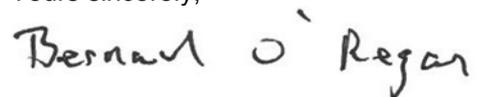


Please see weblink below which provides further information:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ab25e-summer-provision-school-based-programme-in-primary-schools/>

With regard to summer camp-based specialist services for children with complex support needs that will be established in County Tipperary for Summer 2023, the National Service Plan 2023 has not yet been published, however, it is envisaged that there will be additional funding provided for Day Only/ Alternative respite services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Bernard O'Regan
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations