



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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23rd March 2023

Deputy Sorca Clarke,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 9581/23 To ask the Minister for Health If he will provide details of all autism-specific services available for adults in County Westmeath; the types of services available; and the waiting list for each service for each appointment type – Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

HSE Disability services have a range of community based services which is subject to assessed individual needs and the needs of their families. The services will be offered in line with availability, capacity and suitability. Referrals are accepted by disciplines within the HSE, self-referral or other agencies.

Models of supports include:

- **Community Supports:** Day respite and Outreach support funded by HSE and delivered by HSE governed services or HSE funded private agencies. Community supports includes programmes and supports specifically targeted towards the inclusion and active participation of service users in mainstream community programmes and activities. This includes participation in educational opportunities, sport and recreation involvement, social events, local partnership projects and advocacy initiatives. A range of supports that promote and facilitate inclusion are provided to individuals and groups, such as accessing services, liaison, planning, co-ordinating and supporting attendance and active participation by service users.
- **Home Sharing/Share a break:** model of service provided by Muiriosa Foundation. A home sharing - shared living registered family provides full-time care to a person with a disability in their home in the community and cares for that person as a member of their family on a permanent arrangement (with short breaks to another home sharing family or the person's own family if necessary). A Share a Break placement can be afternoons, days, overnights, weekends or holidays. It is based on what the person with an intellectual disability wants and what the Host Family can provide.



- **Full time or part time HIQA Residential services:** There are 32 people on the residential waiting list which covers the geographical area of Co. Westmeath. The names are not numerically waitlisted and applicants are considered for vacancies as they arise taking suitability and compatibility of the placement into consideration.
- **Residential respite:** There are 5 adults with a disability on the residential waiting list with Rehabcare and one adult with autism on the residential waiting list with Galro which covers the geographical area of Co. Westmeath.
- **Day service provision:** When an individual turns 18 years they are profiled by the Day Opportunity team. They are provided with guidance on the best possible options for them based on the outcomes of the profiling assessment and their need. This service does not have a wait list.
- **Transport is available in some services:** Specialised door to door accessible transport services funded by HSE Disability Services.
- **Other Services:**
 - Allied health professionals such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Behaviour supports - Service users with a moderate severe/profound ID and or ASD diagnosis can be referred for assessment/ interventions. The waitlist for access will depend on clinical prioritisation of the service user's needs.
 - Mental Health Intellectual Disability Services.
 - Social Work.
 - Case Management and Liaison Officer Support.

All cases are managed on an individual basis and every effort is made to meet need of service users in a timely way.



I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written in a cursive style.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation