

13<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

Ms. Holly Cairns T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ: 14872/23**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the respite services in each LHO of CHO4 for persons with disabilities and their families; the number of respite facilities available; the capacity of each facility to care for individuals who need one-to-one care; the number of people who have used these facilities annually in 2021 and 2022, inclusive, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

**PQ 14873/23**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline his plans for the development of respite services in each LHO of CHO4 for persons with disabilities and their families, including the increase in staffing levels, the facilities that are planned or where works are underway; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

**Respite Services Cork**

**(a.) Children:** A Regional Children’s Respite Forum was established in 2022. The Forum Committee manages referrals and respite service provision in the Cork area. The overall purpose of the Committee is that children up to the age of 18 years with a disability, who are in receipt of services from a CDNT in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) would be eligible to apply for respite and/or home support services. The Forum is still in its infancy however applications are in process and reviewed, assessed and approved based on agreed access criteria; appropriate referral pathway to the committee; assessment based on level of need and the most appropriate provision for each child and thereafter on the basis of capacity and availability of service.

In Cork overnight respite services for children under 18 years of age with an intellectual disability, physical disability or autism is delivered by a range of organisations namely, Cope Foundation, Enable Ireland, St. Josephs Foundation, CoAction and the Brothers of Charity. There are a total of 27 beds however, 10 of the beds are suppressed or suspended due to staffing shortages. There is also a number of sessions of day respite provided to children which consists of a centre based day and outreach services for children.

**(b.) Adult Service:** A Regional Adults Respite Forum for Adults is in place and process applications and allocates respite to adults.

In Cork overnight respite services are provided for adults over 18 years with intellectual disability, physical disability or autism is delivered by a range of organisations namely , Cope Foundation, Enable Ireland, St. Josephs Foundation, CoAction, Abode, Praxis Care, Rehabcare and the Brothers of Charity. There are a total of 39 beds, however, 1 bed is weekends only and 6 beds are suppressed or suspended due to staffing shortages. There are recruitment plans in place to address staffing issues which are a significant issue currently.

Garrettstown regional respite centre opened in early 2022 in Garrettstown, Co. Cork with 5 beds. Services are provided by Brothers of Charity (BOC) and provides overnight respite capacity to 78 people and respite is accessed via the Regional Respite Forum.

### **Respite Services Kerry**

**(a) Children:** There is a process in place for children to access overnight respite services as well as outreach supports via the Children's Respite Forum. An application form is completed and processed via the HSE Kerry Adult Respite Forum. The form is completed primarily by the Social Workers on the Children Network Disability Teams (CDNTs) in consultation with families. This forum manages the delivery of both overnight respite and outreach home support hours to children 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 and CDNTs.

In Kerry, overnight respite services for children under 18 years of age with an intellectual disability is delivered by St. John of God Service (SJOG) at two children's respite houses namely, The Arches in Killorglin (South Kerry) and Abhaile Respite in Listowel (North Kerry). It is provided to them until they reach 18 years, once deemed appropriate. Once the young adult turns 18 years, they may then access HSE Disability Services Adult Respite.

Abhaile Overnight Respite Service operates 7 days a week Monday to Sunday and every second week for children under 18 years. There is a historic arrangement in place where 4 adults that attend SJOG Day Services at Ashfield avail of overnight respite every second weekend.

The Arches Overnight Respite Service Capacity at Abhaile operates 7 days a week Monday to Sunday and provides overnight respite to children under 18 years.

**(b) Adult:** 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 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 do 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. CKCH Disability Services will continue to identify and highlight the needs for overnight respite services in the South Kerry region.

**Developments:**

National Service Plan funding 2022 has been used to fund an approved proposal from Enable Ireland for an increase in Children's respite in the Lavanagh Centre, Curaheen, Cork. Lavanagh House currently offers 138 bednights. The new development will increase this provision by 690 bednights giving a total of 828 bednights. A total of 48 children (referrals through the childrens' respite forum) will benefit in a full year from this development. It will provide an overnight respite service at 6 nights per week (Mon-Sun) over 46 weeks. This will commence on a phased basis in May of this year and staff are being recruited currently to a total of 8.5WTE.

National Service Plan funding 2023: HSE Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Disability Services has since received its letter of allocation of new development funding under NSP 2023 and the funding for expansion of respite services to CHO 4 is less than 50% of the usual annual development funding allocated to CHO 4 for respite services and no funding for residential respite. Undoubtedly this will impact on what can realistically be achieved within budget and in consideration of competing priorities for respite funding in both Cork and Kerry.

Details of respite services, from performance data available, in CHO 4 are attached to this letter. Our providers have advised that 1:1 support is not always available as a standard as, in general high support and low support clients are grouped so that resources and services can be maximised. To provide 1:1 support would require additional resources.

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

Yours sincerely,

*Majella Daly*

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



**Respite Services: CHO4  
- Cork**

Registration_Provider	Title	County	Service Type	Adult/ Child	Full/Part Time	Maximum Occupancy of Designated Centre	No of Respite Beds in Designated Centre	Can facility provide 1:1 care	No of people that used facility in 2021	No of people that used facility in 2022
RehabCare	Bantry Respite	Cork	Respite	Adult	Part-time	4	6	n/a	155	147
Enable Ireland Disability Services Limited	Ard na Mara	Cork	Respite	Adult	Part-time	5	6	n/a	126	188
Enable Ireland Disability Services Limited	Lavanagh House	Cork	Respite	Child	Part-time	3	3	n/a	7	116
Doorway to Life Ltd	Abode Doorway to Life CLG	Cork	Respite	Adult	Part-time	2	3	n/a	6	27
COPE Foundation	Overall	Cork	Respite	Adult	Full-time	4	8	Yes, however would result in reduced service users on nights 1:1 facilitated n/a	640	644
					Part-time	5	13			
COPE Foundation	Overall	Cork	Respite	Child	Full-time	9	8	Yes, however would result in reduced service users on nights 1:1 facilitated	207	252
CoAction West Cork CLG	Skibbereen, Bantry, Castletownbere Residential	Cork	Respite	Adult	Full-time	5	8	Yes, however would result in reduced service users on nights 1:1 facilitated n/a	65	127
					Part-time	7	12			
CoAction West Cork CLG	Dunmanway Residential	Cork	Respite	Child	Part-time	3	3	n/a	66	78



Brothers of Charity Services Ireland CLG	Garretstown, No.2 Heather Park	Cork	Respite	Adult	Part-time	5	7	n/a	115	217
Brothers of Charity Services Ireland CLG	Ban Laoi, No.1 Heather Park	Cork	Respite	Child	Full-time	2 to 3	6	n/a	119	162
St Joseph's Foundation	The Comhar Centre	Cork	Respite	Adult	Part-time	1	1	n/a	15	15
	Cooleens House			Child		0	6		68	31
RehabGroup	Bantry Respite	Cork	Physical & Sensory	Adult	Part-time	8 Day 6 Night	6 Funded for 4	With additional funding	35	40
Praxis Care	Crobally House*	Cork	Respite	Adult	Part-time	4	4	n/a	95	103

\*Due to an emergency situation that arose in September 2022 requiring a full time service user residential placement, respite provision at this facility has been more limited and which has caused distress for service users that had availed of more regular respite. Disability Services has requested and are awaiting a proposal from Praxis Care to provide an alternative residential placement for the resident who is currently in Crobally Respite House. Once this has been received and if within available funding, Disability Services are aiming to progress the necessary works with a view to re-opening the Respite House to its full capacity. Unfortunately we do not have a definite timeline at this stage.



**Respite Services: CHO 4 - Kerry**

Registration_Provider	Title	County	Service Type	Adult/ Child	Full/Part Time	Maximum Occupancy of Designated Centre	Number of Respite Beds in Designated Centre	Can Facility provide 1:1 care	Number of people that used facility in 2021	Number of people that used facility in 2022
Kerry Parents & Friends Assoc.	KPFA - Listowel - Tralee	Kerry	Respite	Adult	Full-time	8	8	yes	60	60
St John of God Community Services Company Limited By Guarantee	Saint John of God Kerry - North - South	Kerry	Overnight Respite	Adults	Full-time	5	4	Yes, however would result in reduced service users on nights 1:1 facilitated	5	5
				Children		4	4		47	45

