



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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25th September 2023

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

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

PQ: 37740/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 634 of 13 July 2023, the location of each respite centre that was created in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form.

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.

The provision of residential respite services has come under increasing pressure in the past number of years due to a number of impacting factors such as:

- an increase in the number of children and adults who are seeking access to respite as a reflection of general population increase;
- increasing levels of complexity across the sector due to better and improved health care;
- an increase in the age of people with a disability resulting in people presenting with “changing needs”;
- a significant number of respite beds have been utilised on longer-term basis due to the presenting complexity of the individual with a disability and also due to home circumstances, which prevents availability of the bed to other respite users;
- the regulation of service provision as set by HIQA, which requires Service Providers to comply with regulatory standards in order to meet regulation. Standards specify a requirement for personal and appropriate space which impacts on the capacity and Statement of Purpose for a Designated Centre. This has had a direct impact on capacity where respite beds are no longer allowed within a residential setting e.g. vacated by residents who go home at weekends or for holidays, can no longer be used for respite.
- Implementation of the national policy on congregated settings (Time to Move on from Congregated



Settings Policy) is also affecting capacity.

Increased Investment

The table below provides information on the funding for respite services over the last 5 years:

Respite	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Funding for Respite Service Provision as per National Service Plan across disability services	€53,595,000	€56,212,000	€70,677,000	€87,423,000	€96,465,000

There has been increased investment in Respite Service over the last number of years that includes additional allocation in successive National Service Plans to develop:

- In 2021, nine additional centre-based respite services, providing some 10,400 additional respite nights along with a range of alternative respite projects including Saturday clubs, breakaway schemes, and summer schemes. The majority of these services are now in place.
- In 2022, three additional specialist centre-based services to provide 4,032 nights to 90 children, one to be Prader-Willi appropriate and the other two to provide high-support respite for children and young adults with complex support needs, in addition to seven further respite services which will provide 9,408 nights to 245 children and adults in a full year.
- In 2023, five additional respite services and one enhanced service from part time to full time opening to provide 7,872 additional nights to 278 people in a full year. Along with, the provision of 27 additional in-home respite packages to children and young adults in a full year and 265 day-only respite packages to 180 people in a full year.

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 people's lives. Respite is a key priority area for the HSE for people with disabilities and their families and we have seen significant investment in respite services in the last few years. In this regard, the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

The following shows how this increased investment has impacted positively on the level of service delivered in successive years:

- **2020 - 87,177 overnights were accessed by people with a disability** (The delivery of Respite Services continued to operate during the pandemic, albeit at a reduced capacity; some centres remained open, while others were temporarily re-purposed as isolation facilities. The number of respite overnights operated at just over 50% of the NSP target for 2020; while the number of day only sessions operated at 62% of 2020 target. This was mainly due to necessary precautions to maintain physical distancing and to adhere to infection prevention and control requirements. Throughout the pandemic, staff and resources associated with closed or curtailed services were redeployed where possible to support residential provision and to provide for targeted in-home, community and tele-/online supports for service users and families based on prioritised needs.)
- **2021 – 94,606 overnights and 16,306 day only sessions were accessed by people with a disability** (the number of respite overnights operated at 10.9% ahead of the target for the year of 85,336, which is reflective of the easing of restrictions during the second half of 2021.)
- **2022 - 131,057 overnights and 28,369 day only sessions were accessed by people with a disability** (the number of respite overnights was 41.6% ahead of the target for the year of 92,555, and which is reflective of the gradual return to pre-pandemic levels of service. The number of day only sessions (28,369) was also significantly ahead of the target of 22,474 for 2022.)
- **2023 (Quarter 2) – 76,994 overnights and 21,947 day only sessions were accessed by people**



with a disability in Q2 (the number of respite overnights is 19% ahead of the target for the period of 64,705 and 23.6% up on activity for same period last year; while the number of day only sessions is 79.5% ahead of the target of 12,229 for Quarter 2, 2023.)

Future Planning

With regard to centre based respite, the Disability Capacity Review informs of up to €10 million in additional provision per year is required (20% additional quantum – 26,200 approx. additional overnights per year).

The forthcoming Disability Action Plan will detail the mix of overnight and alternative respite that will be provided in the short term, and will aim to maximise the impact and reach of these services.

It is proposed to increase the level of respite provision by around a third, through a mix of:

- Provision of alternative respite options including in-home respite, after-school and day respite programmes, host families, summer programmes;
- Using existing overnight residential capacity to the maximum extent;
- Providing additional overnight respite capacity where this is needed.

Respite Centres

With regard to the question asked, listing of locations of Respite centres is not routinely compiled, however a report was compiled on the Respite Houses developed in each CHO Area utilising the funding provided for this purpose from the NSP 2021 allocation and the 2022 allocation.

NSP 2021

Additional respite provided was as follows:

- In CHO 1, the NSP 2021 respite funding was utilised to provide alternative day respite services, holiday breaks, in home respite support & to contract additional overnight respite service from an existing provider in the Sligo/Leitrim area.
- In CHO 2, approximately 1,824 overnight respite was provided across locations in CHO 2. It is important to note that additional in home supports were also provided as part of the respite plan in 2021 within Galway Mayo and Roscommon.
- In CHO 3, additional overnight respite was provided in Limerick and Co. Clare.
- In CHO 4, additional overnight respite was provided in Kinsale.
- In CHO 5, additional overnight respite was provided in Carlow.
- In CHO 6, increased recruitment was used to increase activity in childrens' respite services.
- In CHO 7, increased respite services was provided in Athy, Co. Kildare.
- In CHO 8, increased Respite was provided in Longford and Portarlington.
- In CHO 9, increased respite services was provided in Balbriggan.

NSP 2022

As mentioned earlier, in accordance with the NSP 2022, the key priority in relation to Respite Services for people with disabilities and their families was to:

- Establish three additional specialist centre-based services to provide 4,032 nights to 90 children, one to be Prader-Willi appropriate and the other two to provide high-support respite for children and young adults with complex support needs, in addition to seven further respite services which will provide 9,408 nights to 245 children and adults in a full year.

This was a key priority area for the HSE in relation to Respite Services for people with disabilities and their families and followed on from the significant investment in respite services in 2021.



It was always envisaged that most of the new Respite Houses would not be in place until later in 2022. The CHO Areas worked throughout the year to implement these developments, including tendering where necessary, identifying appropriate facilities, recruiting staff and securing registration with the HIQA.

At end of 2022 there were 4 new centre-based respite houses in place as follow:

- In CHO 2, Greenpark Galway
- In CHO 3, Respite Centre operated by RehabCare increased capacity from 4 nights to full-time. St. Gabriel's Centre sourced additional Nursing Staff to allow the respite overnight service to open 7 nights per week.
- In CHO7, Ardscul, Children's Respite Centre opened in May 2022.
- In CHO9, The Maples, a 5 Bed Respite Service operated by Talbot Group opened fully in Quarter 4 2022.

In addition, the following additional respite was provided:

- CHO 5 used the 2022 allocation for Respite Services to enhance existing services rather than developing a new house.
- Centre-based respite services were also expanded and enhanced in other CHO Areas.
- There was also increased alternative respite support put in place across all CHOs.

During 2023 and utilising the 2022 allocation, CHO areas are progressing plans to develop a further 5 new centre-based respite houses to be delivered during the course of the year as follows:

- CHO4, Lavanagh House, which came on stream in September.
- A Children's Respite Service in CHO8 operated by St Christopher's.
- Disability Services, Community Healthcare East (CHO 6) continue to provide emergency respite through private providers. CHO 6 is working with 2 new providers to have enhanced adult respite established in 2023 subject to staffing.
- The National Prader Willi Syndrome appropriate respite service has completed tendering, and subject to achieving next stages of operationalising, the agreed proposal, incl. recruitment and HIQA registration, aims to be operational in Q4 2023 in CHO 7 area;
- A Specialist Respite House for Children with Complex Needs in the CHO2 Area (Galway) – no date for delivery yet.

Yours Sincerely,



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

