

26th September, 2023

Mr. Sean Sherlock, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 39505/23

"To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the status of negotiations for a permanent facility for a service (details supplied)."

Details Supplied: The Rainbow Club, Mahon Cork

Dear Deputy,

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.

Cork Kerry Disability Service has been supporting the Rainbow Club, founded in 2015 by Karen & John O'Mahony, since 2021. The Rainbow Club provide social groups, teen supports, adapted sports and additional activities on Saturdays. This includes teens and young people with intellectual disabilities and autism from ages 1 to 18 typically. This service provides respite for parents and a social outlet for children and young autistic people.

The Rainbow Club has been provided with HSE funding under a grant aid agreement since 2022. The HSE contacted the Rainbow Club and other service providers in August 2022 to submit proposals for respite provision in the form of after schools or Saturday clubs. The Rainbow Club sought funding nationally to deliver day respite & after-school support to children in line with the proposal they submitted and they were successful. The additional alternative respite capacity to be provided by the Rainbow Club, will be allocated through HSE Disability Services Cork Regional Respite Forum for Children and is covered by a Service Agreement.

I have reached out to my colleagues in HSE Estates and been advised that they "are not involved with any negotiations regarding a permanent facility for the Rainbow Club in Mahon. The Rainbow Club identified the old Health Centre in Mahon as a building they would like transferred to them for their services however, it was agreed by the HSE (pre-Covid) that the Mahon Health Centre would be transferred to Cork City Council as a swap for a Cork City Council property (St. Mary's Library). HSE took possession of St Mary's Library from City Council and have completed refurbishment works to the property on the basis that the Mahon Health Centre would be transfer to Cork City Council post Covid. This remains the position with Cork City Council in contact with HSE to arrange transfer of the property as soon as possible."

If you have further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

Majella Daly

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

