

1 August 2024

Mr. Matt Carthy, T.D.,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
D02 XR20

Re: PQ ref 16127/24 - Additional Respite Services, County Monaghan 2024

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the additional respite care services that will be delivered in County Monaghan in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” – Matt Carthy

Dear Deputy Carthy,

I refer to your parliamentary question above which has been referred to me for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

At present, there are two disability respite centres operating in Counties Cavan and Monaghan which deliver centre based respite care. Steadfast House in County Monaghan delivers 840 respite nights per annum to adults as per the funding available to the HSE Disability Services in Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CH CDLMS) and as set out in the Service Arrangement in place between Steadfast House and the HSE.

Steadfast House currently has fifty three active cases receiving respite on a rota basis. Steadfast House currently has six adults on a waiting list for respite. All families whose family member attends Steadfast House for respite care have requested additional respite nights. Steadfast House has submitted a Business Case to the HSE proposing to increase the amount of respite care it delivers on behalf of the HSE to 1500 nights per annum. This Business Case was submitted to national HSE Disability Operations and CH CDLMS Disability Services has recently been advised it is approved which will allow for additional adult respite care to be delivered by Steadfast House, County Monaghan. Steadfast House are progressing with recruitment of additional staff and it is anticipated to have additional respite nights operational by Quarter 3.

The HSE CH CDLMS Disability Services have one respite centre, Annalee Respite Centre in County Cavan that is operated directly by HSE Cavan and Monaghan Disability Services. This is a five-bedded unit that caters for adults and children from Counties Cavan and Monaghan on alternate weeks. Each alternate week there are between eight and eleven children who avail of between one and four respite nights, depending on the assessed individual needs of each child and his/her family. On alternate weeks there are between thirteen and fifteen adults who avail of respite depending on their individual service needs.

Mountain View is a new adult Physical and Sensory Respite unit in Cavan town due to open in Quarter 4, 2024. It is currently funded for two beds and a business case is currently being prepared by CH



CDLMS Disability Services to seek additional funding for a further two beds to meet the needs in the area.

The Cavan Monaghan Disability Services management team in conjunction with HSE Estates North East have prepared capital submission documents for the June National HSE Capital and Property Steering Committee meeting to provide for a standalone respite centre for adults with an intellectual disability in County Cavan. This development, if approved, would ensure that there are standalone Residential Respite Centres for adults in both the Counties of Monaghan and Cavan and standalone Residential Respite Centres for children in both counties.

Home Based Respite Support Direct Payment Grants are offered, and provided to adults, and their families in County Monaghan. While families can access the HSE Home Support Services, there are instances where the service may not fully meet the specific support needs.

Alternative respite services, which includes both day respite and afterschool respite, are available via providers funded and contracted by HSE CH CDLMS Disability Services to provide support to children and their families from Counties Cavan and Monaghan. These services are:

- Kilbixy Day Services (Galro) which is an alternative respite service based in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. This service provides Saturday and Sunday day respite services to twenty seven children.
- Little Wonders Afterschool and Saturday Club which is an alternative respite service based in Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan and operates after school Monday to Friday and also a Saturday Club. Twenty five children avail of the Little Wonders services each week with a further seven children currently on the waiting list.
- There are two summer camps provided by both Holy Family School and Castleblaney Care Association which children from County Monaghan may attend. The camps are in part supported by HSE CH CDLMS Disability Services and provide activities for children with complex needs during July each year.
- Home Based Respite Support Direct Payment Grants are offered and provided to children and their families in Counties Cavan and Monaghan.
- While families can access the HSE Home Support Services, there are instances where the service may not fully meet the specific support needs of a child with an extremely complex presentation. In such cases, an Intensive Home Care Package is arranged through the HSE, via Trinity Services and YAP (Youth Advocacy Programme) Services, to provide tailored support to children within their family home.

I can advise that a submission for a significant capital funding to support the development and delivery of a Children's Respite Centre in County Monaghan to meet the requirement to provide a more appropriate level of respite service in each of the two county areas of Cavan and Monaghan was made. The submission was approved at the February meeting of the National HSE Capital and Property Steering Group meeting. The HSE Estates North East department is continuing to work with Disability Services in the local service area to identify a suitable premises/site for the respite centre. Once purchased HSE Estates will then complete a significant capital project to prepare the property to deliver



a five-bedroom residential respite facility. In order to legally operate as a registered residential respite centre the facility will need to meet the required standards for a designated respite centre which is assessed by the Health and Quality Authority (HIQA).

Further to engagements with national HSE Disability Operations, a commitment was secured for funding to progress an interim two year residential respite service for children in County Monaghan pending the development of the new HSE facility. The Cavan Monaghan Disability Services management team completed a procurement process with existing contracted service providers, to provide the interim children's respite service on the basis that it would be a five bedded residential respite house inclusive of a self-contained apartment. The service will be delivered with full time nursing support and that the service will be operational no later than the 1st October, 2024.

The Talbot Group has been awarded the contract to deliver the interim children's respite service in Monaghan and has secured a property at Urbalkirk, Monaghan, which is approximately 8kms from Monaghan town. The renovation and development works required to the property have been identified and the engaged contractor has commenced the necessary works to the property. This includes a studio style apartment with separate entrance and another ground floor bedroom which will be wheelchair accessible. The respite house will have a further three bedrooms upstairs as well as a relaxation/play room.

The Talbot Group held an open recruitment day for the respite service in the Four Seasons Hotel in Co Monaghan on the 26th June, 2024. The HSE has been advised by the Talbot Group that this was a very successful recruitment initiative with no immediate requirements for further recruitment days.

HSE CH CDLMS Disability Services continue to work closely with the Talbot Group to have the service commenced by 1st October 2024.

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I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edel Quinn'.

Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CH CDLMS
Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar CDLMS