

18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Mr Brendan Smith T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: PQ ref 8189/24**

***“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth when a respite centre for children will be provided in County Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” – Brendan Smith***

Dear Deputy Smith,

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.

A submission for 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 to children and families in each of the two county areas of Cavan and Monaghan was made. The submission, prepared by the HSE Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Monaghan, Sligo (CH CDLMS) Disability Services and HSE Estates North East, was approved at the February meeting of the National HSE Capital and Property Steering Group meeting. HSE Estates North East are 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 the national HSE Disability Operations Lead, 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 and Monaghan Disability Services Management Team has completed a process to identify a provider. The successful provider has commenced work on its detailed project plan which will be supported and monitored closely by the CH CDLMS Disability Services Management Team and the Cavan and Monaghan Respite Co-ordinator. The interim respite service is to be operational by the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

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 County 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 27 children.
- Little Wonders Afterschool and Saturday Club is an alternative respite service based in Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan and offers after school Monday to Friday and also a Saturday Club. 25 children avail of the Little Wonders services each week with a further 7 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 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 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 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 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', written over a horizontal line.

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