

13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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

**Re: PQ ref 8191/24**

*“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth when a respite centre for children will be provided in County Cavan; 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.

At present, Cavan Monaghan Disability Services have one Respite Centre, this is Annalee Respite Centre, Cootehill, County Cavan. 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.

The Cavan and Monaghan Disability Services Manager has advised that there are currently thirty-four children availing of respite nights in the Annalee Respite Centre, Cootehill, County Cavan, and all of the families of these children are seeking additional respite nights. There are a further forty-nine children on the waiting list for respite. Alternative respite support in the form of after school and weekend services are provided to children with disabilities and their families. Additional respite is given by way of a Service Arrangement with Klaine Childcare who provide after school day services for 25 children per week and GALRO who offer children day respite on Saturdays and Sundays to 14 children per day. There are two summer camps provided by both Holy Family School and Castleblayney Care. The camps provide activities for children with complex needs during July each year.

Unfortunately, due to the accommodation limitations of Annalee House Respite Centre, it is not possible to provide respite to all children and families who are seeking same and a managed Children's Respite Service waiting list is in place

I can advise that Cavan and Monaghan Disability Services completed a submission for capital funding to support the development and delivery of a Children's Respite Centre in County Monaghan to provide an improved level of access to residential respite in the area. The submission 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 local Disability 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 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 by the Disability Services Management team and the Cavan and Monaghan Respite Co-ordinator. The interim respite service is to be operational by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

The provision of additional respite services in a dedicated County Monaghan children's respite centre will increase the capacity at Annalee House Respite Centre in County Cavan and better meet the respite needs of other children and adults already accessing this service including those on the waiting list.

Future respite plans of the Cavan and Monaghan Disability Services Management Team include provision of an additional adult respite centre in County Cavan and in this regard, a submission was sent to the National HSE Capital and Property Group for the June 2024 meeting seeking approval to progress. 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.

Please note that responses relating to PQ/Reps were held due to the Forsa Industrial Action which has now been suspended and as such I apologise for the delay in issuing this response.

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'.

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