

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

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

**Re: PQ ref 13511/24 - Progress to Date Respite Services County Monaghan**

***“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the progress to date in improving respite services for children and adults in County Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” – Brendan Smith***

**Details**

***the need to improve services in Co Monaghan for children and adults with a disability through improved and additional services including: Need to develop standalone respite centres for children and adults in Co Monaghan; Need to improve access to respite services; Need to expand and improve access to Day Services; Need for upgrading and expansion of Drumlin House and provision of satellite hubs***

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.

I can advise that 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 in each of the two county areas of Cavan and Monaghan was made. The submission, prepared by HSE Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, 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 National HSE Disability Operations, commitment has been 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 residential respite service provider. The successful provider has commenced work on its detailed project plan which will be supported by the CH CDLMS Disability Services Management team. The interim respite service is to be operational by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

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

- Little Wonders Afterschool and Saturday Club. This provider is an alternative respite service based in Castleblayney, Co Monaghan and offers after school Monday to Friday and also a Saturday Club. Twenty five children avail of the Little Wonders services each week.
- There are two summer camps provided by both the Holy Family School and Castleblayney Care Association which children from County Monaghan may attend. The camps provide activities for children with complex needs during July each year.
- Kilbixy Day Services (Galro) is an alternative respite service based in Mullingar, Co Westmeath. This service provides Saturday and Sunday day respite services to twenty seven children
- Home Based Respite Support Direct Payment Grants are provided to families in County Monaghan.

In relation to Respite Services for adults in County Monaghan, I can advise that there is one respite house in Carrickmacross, namely Steadfast House. Steadfast House delivers 840 nights respite per annum, 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. Planned respite at Steadfast House is arranged for the year in agreement with HSE Disability Services with ongoing meetings throughout the year. Steadfast House also provides emergency respite cover for urgent cases. Steadfast House has submitted a Business Case to the HSE proposing to increase the amount of respite to 1500 nights per annum. This is currently being considered by National HSE Disability Operations and if funding is approved this would allow for additional adult respite to be delivered by Steadfast House, County Monaghan.

A submission for capital funding to support the development of a standalone respite centre for adults with an intellectual disability in County Cavan has been made by HSE CH CDLMS Disability Services and HSE Estates North Estates. The submission has been forwarded to the National HSE Capital and Property Steering Committee for consideration for funding. 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.



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 in a cursive style.

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