

12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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

**Re: PQ 20021/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth whether the overnight Respite Services in Cavan caters for children and adults with autism; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – M 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.

The Director of Nursing for Disability Services Cavan Monaghan has advised that the following criteria is used for children and adults requesting access to respite services in Annalee View Respite Centre:

- A child must have an appropriate psychological assessment confirming the presence of intellectual disability and/or autism (complex needs and currently accessing the Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT)).
- An adult must have an appropriate psychological assessment confirming the presence of moderate to severe intellectual disability and is accessing the Adult Intellectual Disability Team.

If the child/adult meet the above criteria they will be eligible for respite services, however, I can advise that there is a limitation on the current resources available for respite and a waitlist is in place. The waitlist is managed taking into account the level of need of the individual and every effort is made to accommodate respite requests, however, due to the volume of requests and limited recourses, emergency cases are prioritised.

A capital funding submission was made by HSE Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Monaghan Sligo (CH CDLMS) Disability Services to support the development and delivery of a Children's Respite Centre in County Monaghan. The submission was approved at the February meeting of the National HSE Capital and Property Steering Group meeting. HSE Estates North East and Disability Services in the local service area have identified a suitable premises/site for the respite centre which was for sale. The HSE purchasing of the premises/site is now at the legal and contractual phase. Once the purchase is complete, 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 respite facility.



The Cavan and Monaghan Disability Services Management Team has completed a process to identify a provider to provide a five-bedded residential respite house inclusive of a self-contained apartment. The procurement process set out the requirement that the respite service would be delivered with full time nursing support and that the service must be operational no later than 1st October 2024. The Talbot Group is identified as the successful provider and has commenced work on a detailed project plan which will be supported and monitored closely by CH CDLMS Disability Services Management Team. The Talbot Group has procured a property, renovation/development works have commenced and recruitment for staff for the residential respite centre is under way.

I can advise that CH CDLMS Disability Services plans for respite include the provision of an additional adult respite centre in County Cavan and, in this regard, a submission was made to HSE Capital Estates for their consideration and seeking national HSE approval to progress. This development, if approved, would ensure that there are standalone Residential Respite Centres for adults in both counties 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'.

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