

18th November, 2024

Mr. Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 45742/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of overnight respite beds for children and adults, respectively in Cork in 2019 and 2024, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to respond to your parliamentary question submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response with regard to respite beds in Cork.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) Disability Services chair a Regional Respite Forum which manage the referrals and respite service provision for the Cork population. There is a forum for respite for adults and a forum for respite for children. The purpose of each Forum is to ensure there is equitable access to respite services consistent with each person's assessed needs and preference. HSE personnel and relevant service providers comprise membership of each Forum.

Children's Respite Services Cork

Residential respite services for children under 18 years of age is delivered by a range of organisations namely; Cope Foundation, Enable Ireland, St. Joseph's Foundation, CoAction and the Brothers of Charity. There are a total of 29 beds.

In 2023 CKCH provided funding to Enable Ireland to increase respite for children in the Lavanagh Centre, Curraheen, Cork. This resulted in an increase in bed nights from 138 bed nights in early 2023 to an expected 552 bed nights per annum from 2024 onwards.

Adult Respite Services Cork

Residential respite services for adults in Cork is delivered by Brothers of Charity, COPE Foundation, St Joseph's Foundation, CoAction, Enable Ireland, RehabCare and Abode. 88 residential respite beds comprising 28 full time places and 60 part time places are provided.

HSE Cork Kerry Community Healthcare's (CKCH) Disability Services have worked to improve access to residential (overnight) respite services for adults with disabilities in Cork in recent years. This has resulted in the establishment of a regional respite house for those residing in Cork which provides 5 beds on a full-time basis.

The HSE National Business Intelligence Unit has collected data on overnight respite from 2020 onward and therefore I am unable to provide you with 2019 data.

The following table provides the number of respite overnights delivered in Cork in 2020 and for Quarter 1 to 3 (January to September) 2024. Data for Quarter 4 (Oct – Dec) will be available from mid – February 2025

Number of overnights accessed by people with a disability (ID/Autism/Physical & Sensory Disability) in Cork	
2020 Full Year	2024 (Q1-Q3 Jan-Sept)
7245	7227

In addition to residential respite CKCH provides a range of alternative respite models for children and adults. These include afterschool clubs and in home support for children and outreach supports and holiday breaks for adults. This ensures that respite is provided in the manner which best meets the needs of the child/adult and their families.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) is acutely aware of the demand for respite services and, on receipt of very welcome funding, has significantly invested in respite services in recent years. CKCH continues to invest in respite services, proactively seek alternative respite models and utilise all available funding to provide respite services for all children and adults who require them. CKCH are working with service providers to create new residential and alternative respite supports for children and adults in 2024 and welcomes any additional funding to continue to invest in these vital services.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,





**Ms. Lorraine Egan,
A/ Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare.**

