

28th November 2024

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

PQ ref 45743/24

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the funding provided to Cork Kerry Community Healthcare for child and adult respite, respectively, in each of the years from 2019 to date in 2024, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response.

The HSE and its funded agencies provide respite care for children and adults with disabilities. Respite can occur in a variety of settings for various lengths of time, depending on the needs of the individual service user and their family or carer, and according to available resources.

In 2022 Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) Disability Services established a Children's Regional Respite Forum and an Adult Regional Respite Forum. Each forum manages the referrals and respite service provision for the Cork or Kerry population. The overall purpose of each forum is to ensure there is equitable access to respite services consistent with each person's assessed need and preference. Service provider representatives and HSE personnel comprise membership of the fora.

Children's Residential Respite Services:

Cork

Residential respite services for children aged between 6 and 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, with a total of 29 overnight respite 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.

Kerry

Residential respite services for children aged between 6 and 18 years of age is delivered by St. John of God. There are two residential respite houses, one in North Kerry and one in South Kerry. Each house has 4 respite beds and operates 7 days per week with planned closures during the year.

Adult Residential 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, Praxis Care and Abode. 88 residential respite beds comprising 28 full time places and 60 part time places are provided.

Kerry

Residential respite services for adults in Kerry is delivered by KPFA and Home Instead with a total of 14 beds operated on full and part time basis. Procurement to operate a house (which closed temporarily in January as provider ceased operating service) comprising four of the beds is an advanced stage with plans to reopen by March 2025. Alternative respite (day, residential in other locations and in home) has been put in place for those impacted.

Note: Some historical arrangements which are provided for specific people only is not included in this data as they comprise in effect, a part time residential placement rather than respite which is available for allocation to those requiring respite.

Alternative Respite Models

CKCH also provide a range of alternative respite models for children and adults. These include afterschool clubs, in home support for children, 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.

Funding for Respite Services in Cork and Kerry

| Year | Children | Adult |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2024 | €5.8m | €6.6m |
| 2023 | €5.1m | €4.8m |
| 2022 | €4.4m | €4.6m |
| 2021 | €4.1m | €3.8m |
| 2020 | €4.1m | €3.2m |
| 2019 | €4m | €2.4m |

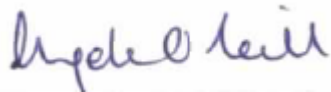
**Funding amounts based on Service Arrangement documentation - residential respite and centre-based day-respite services.*



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 is 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,



Angela O'Neill
Head of Disability Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

