

14th February 2025

Mr. Eoghan Kenny, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 2788/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of permanent residency spaces currently available for persons with disabilities in Cork and Kerry; the number of beds that are projected to be needed for 2025-2035; the assessments or reports that have been carried out to assess the number of beds that will be required to address the perceived shortages; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) currently fund 1,160 residential placements for people from this region.

All Disability Services residential placements are managed via the CKCH Disability Services Adult Residential Forum which ensures equity of access to funded residential placements in Cork and Kerry. The Residential Forum is chaired by CKCH Disability Services and the membership comprises CKCH Disability Services and the not for profit service providers who are funded to provide residential placements in Cork and Kerry.

The purpose of the Residential Forum is to ensure that existing and emerging residential vacancies are identified and that referrals to the available places are made on the basis of assessed need. All requests for a residential placement are recorded and managed through the Residential Forum and cases are referred to the Forum for assessment of suitability. A system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSAMT) is used which serves to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent.

In respect of the number of people waiting on a residential service, CKCH is aware of approximately 600 people awaiting/ requiring residential services in Cork and Kerry at present. CKCH Disability Services are aware there is significant unmet need and every effort is being made to develop further residential capacity and indeed interim supports such as respite (residential and outreach) and personal assistant services for those with physical and sensory disabilities to ensure people are supported to live as independently as possible for as long as possible.

The Disability Capacity Review published in 2021 suggests that nationally an additional ninety residential places are required each year between 2020 and 2032.

It is regrettable that the demand for residential placements in Cork and Kerry exceeds availability. Funding to further develop services in Cork and Kerry has not been allocated and, as a result, expanding the number of residential placements in Cork and Kerry has not been possible. CKCH recognise the impact this has on people and their families and welcomes the new Government's commitment to explore funding disability services on a multi-annual basis. CKCH will work with the relevant Departments and Ministers to ensure that any funding allocated is utilised to create much needed capacity to meet the need for all additional disability services and supports in Cork and Kerry.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms. Angela O'Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare.**

