



**Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar**
ag freastal ar Ghaillimh,
Maighéo agus Ros Comáin

**Community
Healthcare West**
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

Oiling an Bhainisteora Ginearálta
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18th February 2025

Albert Dolan TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 4430/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to provide an update on the progress made toward achieving the main aims of the Action Plan for Disability Services 2024-2026; and to list the specific changes that have been achieved in County Galway to date”.

Dear Deputy Dolan

I refer to PQ 4430/25 uploaded on the PAD System on the 6th February 2025 and due for response on the 25th February 2025 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth in the above regard. The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

At this time, six Children's' Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are aligned to the geographical area in County Galway and are providing services and supports to children aged from birth to 18 years of age with complex needs. Each CDNT in County Galway covers a specific geographical area with some also covering areas in County Roscommon.

Action Plan for Disability Services 2024 - 2026 – PDS (Children's Disability Services):-

A number of key actions have been implemented to date:

- Family Forums take place every quarter since 2023 for the 6 CDNTs.
- Family Representation Groups are in situ.
- Alignment of CDNTs with Community Healthcare Networks have taken place
- Part role out of the CDNT IMS system
- Development of a CHO Action Plan
- Replacement & Specific Purpose Posts authorised by REO.
- Some actions are contingent on national approval e.g. four additional posts for Galway under the pilot scheme for special schools.
- Recent national and local campaigns have been successful in reducing vacant posts across CDNTs in Galway with additional campaigns scheduled.
- The continuation of the Assessment of Need Waiting List Initiative, announced by Government in May 2024, will enable the procurement of private assessments for long waiting families in 2025.

Action Plan for Disability Services 2024-2026 - Adult, Respite and Residential Services:-

Respite Services:

Respite services across Galway, Mayo and Roscommon were expanded across all models of support in 2024. A total allocation of €190,000 was provided to Agencies per month to enhance respite in CHW 2024. The opening of Summer Lodge Respite Centre in Claregalway has offered 1444 additional respite nights per year to 21 adults. Funding will be provided in respect of the full year costs associated with 2024 development costs and further development of respite services, including support for a range of day respite/alternative respite options as well as centre-based options where feasible.

Residential Services:

Residential Services is an area for which demand is consistently greater than provision. Given the significant demand for housing across a number of specialist disability services, and the challenges with regard to funding and staffing, disability services will focus on high emerging placements, decongregation and responses to U65s in nursing homes. Disability Services in CHO2 supported 25 people with Residential Placements in 2024 and a further 3 placements have been identified in the NSP for 2025.

Personal Assistance (PA)

Approximately 261,495 PA Hours were delivered in Galway 2024 supporting 321 people in 2024. Personal Assistance services, to provide for the incremental cost of moving the additional hours delivered in 2024 to the higher rate in 2025, will come into effect from the 1st April 2025. New development funding will be provided for the progressive alignment of Personal Assistance rates with Home Support.

Neuro-rehabilitation Team in West

Disability Services have received funding for 12 WTE's for the Neuro Rebab Team which will serve the IHAs Galway Roscommon and Mayo. Recruitment is ongoing and it is expected this team will be in place by Quarter 4 2025

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely

Dr Aoife O'Donohue
Head of Disability Services