

**Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Slainte
Seirbhísi Pobaill (An Cabhán, Dún na
nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán &
Sligeach)
Áras Isacc Butt, Bealach Féich,
Tír Chonaill F93 YV9R

Head of Service Disability

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6th August 2025

Mr Brendan Smith TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 41231/25 – Drumlin House.

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the level of respite services available in Cavan and Monaghan for children and for adults; the further proposals to extend the range of such services in 2025 and 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.” - Brendan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to the above parliamentary question you submitted which has been referred to me for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE Community Services Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo (CS CDLMS) provide Disability Services in Cavan and Monaghan in line with its allocated budget from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) which informs the HSE's National Service Plan and budget. Similarly, capital developments are progressed in line with the national HSE Estates programme as per the Disability Services capital budget made available by DCDE.

Please see below regarding respite services for children and adults from Counties Cavan and Monaghan as requested:

Children's Respite Centre for Monaghan

HSE Estates North East and Disability Services in the Cavan Monaghan service area have identified a premises for sale suitable for the purposes of renovation to develop a HSE respite centre for children. The purchase transaction has been approved and completed. The keys of the premises have been transferred to HSE Estates North East. The premises is located at Drumbear, Ballybay Road, Co. Monaghan. HSE Estates North East are now in the process of identifying an architect to commence the design element of the property. HSE Estates will then complete a capital project to prepare the property to deliver a five bedroom residential respite facility. HSE Estates North East have advised that this project should be completed in Quarter 1, 2026. 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 and determined by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

Interim Children's Respite Centre for Monaghan

Further to engagements with the national HSE Disability Operations lead, HSE CS CDLMS Disability Services secured commitment for funding for an interim, two year residential respite service for children in County Monaghan pending the development of the new HSE facility as referenced in the previous section. The location of the interim Children's Respite Centre for Monaghan is at Urbalkirk, approximately 8kms from Monaghan town. The Talbot Group has been awarded the contract to deliver the interim children's respite service in Monaghan. The interim Children's Respite Centre, called Rainbow Lodge, became operational on 1st October

2024. Retention of this respite centre's services will be dependent on additional funding allocation being provided to the HSE from DCDE.

Alternative respite supports for children in Cavan and Monaghan

Alternative respite services, which includes both day respite and afterschool respite, are available via providers, funded and contracted by the HSE, to provide support to children and their families from Cavan and Monaghan. These services are:

- Kilbixy Day Services (Galro) which is an alternative respite service based in Mullingar, County Westmeath. This service provides Saturday and Sunday day respite services to 27 children.
- Little Wonders Afterschool and Saturday Club is an alternative respite service based in Castleblayney, County Monaghan, and offers after school Monday to Friday and also a Saturday Club. 25 children avail of the service each week with a further 7 children currently on the waiting list.
- Home Based Respite Support Direct Payment Grants are offered and provided to children and their families in County Monaghan.
- While families can access the HSE Home Support Services, there are instances where the service may not fully meet the specific support needs of a child with an extremely complex presentation. In such cases, an Intensive Home Care Package is arranged through the HSE, via Trinity Services and YAP (Youth Advocacy Programme) Services, to provide tailored support to children within their family home.

Proposed Children's Weekend Day Respite

Errigal Truagh Special Needs is funded through a Section 39 Service Arrangement with the HSE. Errigal Truagh Special Needs currently operate a five days per week Day Activation Service for adults aged eighteen years and over with intellectual disabilities and autism. A draft business case proposal has been submitted by Errigal Truagh Special Needs for the development of a weekend Day Respite Service for children. The proposal outlines that the service would operate from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays for forty six weekends per year. Errigal Truagh Special Needs has proposed that children will have full access to all facilities available at its current centre, alongside opportunities for day trips and non-centre based activities. The draft also specifies that the Day Respite Service for children would accommodate up to eight children per day during the proposed hours. The comprehensive draft business case has been submitted and is currently under review by the HSE Disability Service Manager Cavan Monaghan.

Annalee House Respite Centre

HSE Disability Services in HSE CS CDLMS, operate one respite centre, Annalee Respite Centre, in County Cavan. This centre is a five bedded unit that caters for adults and children from Counties Cavan and Monaghan on alternate weeks. Each alternate week there are between eight and eleven children who avail of between one and four respite nights, depending on the assessed individual needs of each child and his/her family. Between thirteen and fifteen adults avail of respite depending on their assessed individual service needs.

Mountain View Respite House, Cavan

This is a new respite centre for adults with physical and sensory disabilities from Counties Monaghan and Cavan. Mountain View Respite House is completed and recruitment of staff for the service is completed. It is planned that it will open in Quarter 3 2025. The respite house is now funded for the delivery of four beds. The HSE is awaiting HIQA registration which is required prior to opening this respite service.

Steadfast House Respite Service

There is an overnight adult respite centre in County Monaghan. Steadfast House is a HSE funded Section 39 provider which had been funded under its Service Arrangement with the HSE to deliver 840 respite nights per annum to adults as per the funding available to HSE CS CDLMS Disability Services. Following the submission and subsequent approval of a proposal for additional respite funding under the National Service Plan in 2024 for an increased respite service, Steadfast House is now being funded by the HSE to provide 1500 respite nights per year. As such Steadfast House has been operational seven nights per week since 2nd of September 2024.

Proposed New Cavan Respite Centre

HSE CS CDLMS Disability Services, in conjunction with HSE Estates North East, prepared capital submission documents for the national HSE Capital and Property Steering Committee, to seek approval and funding to provide for a standalone respite centre for adults with an intellectual disability in County Cavan. This development, if approved, would ensure that there are standalone Residential Respite Centres for adults in both the Counties of Monaghan and Cavan and standalone Residential Respite Centres for children in both counties. Cavan Monaghan Disability Services were advised that this project will be required to go through the new Strategic Healthcare Investment Framework (SHIF) and Common Appraisal Framework (CAF) process for approving the project to proceed as a new capital development. The SHIF realignment assessment has been completed and submitted to the national HSE Property Review Group (PRG). This development, if approved, would ensure that there are standalone Residential Respite Centres for adults in both the Counties of 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,

Edel Quinn

Head of Service Disability Services

Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo

Seirbhísi Pobail An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach