

18th March 2025

Mr. Michael Cahill, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 10042/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if she will request the HSE and other disability service providers in County Kerry to put long-term plans in place to ensure respite centres and other essential services (details supplied) remain open, even in the face of challenges and that a plan is put in place to provide additional greatly-needed respite beds in towns around Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: Cois na Féile in Listowel

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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.

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.

Children’s Residential Respite Services:

Kerry residential respite services for children aged between 6 and 18 years of age is delivered by St. John of God Kerry Services. 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:

Kerry respite services are available to adults who are aged 18 years to 65 years (at the age of entry) with a disability and satisfy the access criteria for HSE South West Disability Services. Adults must be resident in Kerry and referrals are made via health and social care professionals and client services managers (or equivalent) in the HSE or other relevant agencies.

There are two respite houses for adults in Kerry; Cois na Féile in Listowel (North Kerry) and Cúnamh Iveragh in Caherciveen (South Kerry). Cúnamh Iveragh opened in December 2023.

With regard to Cois na Feile; HSE South West Disability Services is working to ensure that Cois na Féile respite house re-opens as soon as possible. The process to select a provider for the service is progressing. It is estimated that the procurement process will be completed in mid-2025, and progressing thereafter to HIQA registration of the service.

HSE South West Disability Services have worked to identify alternative interim supports for those impacted by the temporary closure. All those who requested alternative supports have been provided with a quantum and type of respite to meet their needs while awaiting the re-opening of the Cois na Féile respite house. HSE South West Disability Services will continue to ensure all those impacted by the temporary closure of Cois na Féile respite house are provided with updates on this matter.

Cúnamh Iveragh, which opened in December 2023, has four bedrooms and is open three nights a week for 42 weeks per year (excluding bank holiday weekends). This is based on the current funding allocation. Cúnamh Iveragh is operated by Home Instead. All persons residing in the catchment area of South Kerry and who were attending the North Kerry respite house have been offered a referral to Cúnamh Iveragh.

In addition to the two regional respite houses for Kerry there are an additional six beds for adult respite, four in Brook Lodge in Listowel, one in Tearmann Lodge in Rathmore and one in Glebe Lodge in Castleisland. These respite beds provided by KPFA are in place historically and provide supports for adults attending KPFA services.

Day Respite Services:

Respite does not always involve an overnight stay. It can be provided in a number of ways including centre based Day Only Respite. As a vital part of the continuum of services for families, respite potentially helps prevent out-of-home full-time residential placements, preserves the family unit, and supports family stability.



HSE South West Disability provides 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.

HSE South West Disability Services 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. HSE South West Disability Services 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. HSE South West Disability Services is working with service providers to create new residential and alternative respite supports for children and adults 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 my office.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms. Angela O'Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
HSE South West**

