

**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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4th April 2025

Mr Brendan Smith T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 11532/25 - Level of Respite Services in Cavan Monaghan and proposals to extend same in 2025

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

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to your parliamentary question above 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) Disability Services provide Disability Services in Cavan and Monaghan in line with its allocated budget from the Department of Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) which informs the HSE's National Service Plan. Similarly capital developments are progressed in line with the national HSE Estates programme as per the Disability Services capital budget made available.

Please see below updates on the reference respite development as requested:

Children's Respite Centre Monaghan:

HSE Estates North East and Disability Services in the Cavan Monaghan service area have identified premises for sale suitable for the purposes of renovation to develop the respite centre. The purchase transaction has been approved and completed. The keys of the premises have been transferred to HSE Estates North East. 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 Q1 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 above. The location of the new interim Children's Respite Centre for Monaghan is at Urbalkirk, approximately 8kms from Monaghan town.



The Talbot Group have been awarded the contract to deliver the interim children's respite service in Monaghan. Assessment and induction processes have been completed with children and families and the interim Children's Respite Centre, called Rainbow Lodge, became operational on 1st October 2024.

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. On alternate weeks there are between thirteen and fifteen adults who avail of respite depending on their assessed individual service needs.

Steadfast House Respite Service:

This is a HSE funded Section 39 provider in County Monaghan which has been funded under its Service Arrangement with the HSE to deliver 840 respite bed nights per annum as part of the funding available to HSE CD CDLMS Disability Services. Following the submission and subsequent approval of a proposal for additional respite funding under the National Service Plan in 2024 by National HSE Disability Operations for an increased respite service, Steadfast House is now being funded by the HSE to provide 1500 respite nights per year. Steadfast House has been operational 7 nights per week since 2nd of September 2024.

Mountain View Respite House, Cavan:

Mountain View is a new four bedded adult Physical and Sensory residential respite centre in Cavan town due to open in Quarter 2 2025, pending recruitment of required staffing. Funding to develop the centre was received through a capital budget allocation. An additional revenue budget allocation to deliver the service has been provided through increased allocation to the CS CDLMS Disability Services budget. Recruitment of a Person In Charge, a position that is required to operate as a registered centre under the Health Act, 2007, was required. The Social Care Leader post required to perform the Person In Charge role has now been approved for recruitment and a panel has been completed. The Primary Notification number for the Social Care Leader has been received from National HSE. Once recruitment has been completed, the HIQA registration application for Mountain View will be submitted to the Authority. Once the centre is registered by HIQA, respite service delivery can be commenced.

Proposed New Cavan Respite Centre:

I can advise that 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 have been advised by Dublin North East Capital and Estates office that this project will be require submission to the new Strategic Healthcare Investment Framework (SHIF) and Common Appraisal Framework (CAF) process for review and approval as a new capital development. The national Capital and Estates



offices held a meeting with the Department of Health on the roll out of these new documents. Currently we do not have a date as to when these will be issued to the Dublin North East Capital and Estates office.

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 32 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.

These services continue to be provided and funded by HSE Cavan Monaghan Disability Services.

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,

Mary McGroarty
A/Head of Service Disability Services
Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo
Seirbhísi Pobail An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach