



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

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24th April, 2025

Deputy Pearse Doherty
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 11613/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth when it is planned that full-capacity respite services for children and young adults will recommence at a location (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Doherty,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response.

Having examined the matter, I can confirm that Drumboe Respite House closed to respite on 24th March 2020 due to the need to provide emergency residential accommodation for four people with disabilities who would otherwise be homeless. Plans to transition the adults who currently reside in Drumboe Respite House to Community Group Homes are at an advanced stage.

It is expected that the transition of these adults will be completed in the first quarter of 2026, following which Drumboe Respite House will be in a position to reopen. Five respite places will then become available for children and young adults seven nights every other week.

In the meantime, the following alternative options are available to families and services users who are affected by the closure of respite services in Drumboe Respite House:

- Residential Respite is available in one of the three other Respite Centres directly delivered by Donegal Disability Service or funded to deliver Respite Services on behalf of Donegal Disability Service as follows:
 - Ballymacool Respite House provides respite services for five children for six nights on alternative weeks.
 - Seaview Respite House provides respite services for four children for seven nights on alternative weeks.
 - Riverwalk Respite House resumed respite services for three children for three nights on alternative weeks on the 03.04.2025.
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- Laura Lynn Children's Hospice in South Donegal are funded to deliver a range of services to children with life-limiting conditions and their families throughout Ireland free of charge.
 - These services inclusive of Residential Respite are available to Children with life-limiting conditions and their families in Donegal as required.
- Day Respite and Home Support Services are provided by a number of agencies who are funded to deliver services on behalf of Donegal Disability Service, Tusla and directly by families through direct payments as follows:

- Bluestack Special Needs Foundation - are funded to provide group activities and recreational clubs as well as direct supports to children and their families and carers.
- iCARE - are funded to provide support, respite care and training to families of children with Autism in Inishowen
- Spraoi Agus Sport - are funded to provide services and activities for families, children, as well as young people that are inclusive of disability and/or autism.
- Home Support Agencies - number of which are funded to provide in home and outreach respite support services to children their families and carers.
- Tusla - provide in home and outreach respite support services to children, young adults their families and carers.
- Direct Payments - families and carers of children and young people with disabilities are directly paid by Donegal Disability Service to provide bespoke alternative respite and in home respite packages.

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,

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