

**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 June 2025

Mr Matt Carthy T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 24420/25 - Respite Services for Children in County Monaghan

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the current provision and location of overnight respite care for children with disabilities in County Monaghan; the plans and timeframe for additional capacity; if this will include the maintenance of the current interim facility; and if she will make a statement on the matter.” - Matt Carthy

Dear Deputy Carthy,

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) 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 from County 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. This is a five bedded unit (one of which is self-contained). Retention of this respite centre's services will be dependent on additional funding allocation being provided to the HSE from DCDE.

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.

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