



14th May 2024

Mr. Mattie McGrath TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 24548/25

To ask the Minister for Health the additional respite care services being provided in south Tipperary over the past three years; the plans to increase respite care services in south Tipperary for both adult and children services; the number receiving respite care monthly in south Tipperary; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

Adult Disability Services- Tipperary South

Adult overnight respite services in Tipperary South are provided by La Verna, Brothers of Charity Services. The service is currently open seven nights per week. From January 2025 to March 2025, 94 overnight sessions were provided to approximately 40 individuals. There are 70 individuals on the wait list for this service.

Moorehaven Centre is opening a Regional Respite House, planned for Quarter 4 of 2025, to alleviate the wait list for adult respite in the regions, initially planned and level of funding is for a four night per week service.

In addition, six individuals from South Tipperary attend the Delta Centre in Carlow for overnight respite.

Children's Disability Services – Tipperary South

Children's respite services in Tipperary South are provided by two service providers:

1. St. Rita's, Brothers of Charity Service

On average St. Ritas opens sixteen nights per month plus two Saturday Clubs (10am to 5pm) and two day evenings (2pm to 8pm). Over the school holidays St. Ritas opens more often but this is dependent on staff availability. Each child receives approximately 12/14 nights per year which is broken down as follows:

- 126 night respite sessions, 27 individuals supported
- 52 day respite sessions, 17 individuals supported

This service is provided in line with Service Level Arrangement funding

2. Northfields Respite Centre – RK Respite

Northfields opens over seven days/five nights per week. Currently no overnight Sunday and Thursday. This is due to staff availability as staff who work in the centre also work in Scoil Chormaic Special Education School. 25 individuals access overnight sessions – 11 receive two nights every four weeks and 13 receive two nights every six weeks. One individual receives six nights every four weeks (this is a bespoke opening to support this individual). Eight individuals access day respite once a month. This service is provided in line with Service Level Arrangement funding.



Day respite is also received by individuals every week in Action Connections Ember Camp in Cahir, Co. Tipperary. There are twenty places for individuals supported 1:1 each weekend, however higher support need individuals are allocated two staff which take two places as required. Camps currently run 32 weekends of the year and Camps were also run four days over Easter. Camps are run four weeks of four days per week over Summer and there are forty places available subject to support needs. In 2024 a Halloween Camp ran three days and was deemed a success. It is hoped to run this Camp again in 2025 pending funding availability.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Cleary
General Manager – Children's Disability Services
IHA Carlow Kilkenny/Tipperary South
IHA Waterford Wexford

Yours sincerely,

Karen Fitzgerald
General Manager – Adult Disability Services
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