

12<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Mr. Pa Daly, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 28383/25**

**“To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of the additional funding that has been provided for HSE south west (details supplied); the number of patients this will affect; the number of additional respite places this will provide; the number of patients that are currently on a waiting list; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details supplied:**

**HSE South West confirms enhancement of services for adults with disabilities in Kerry**

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to respond to your parliamentary question submitted to the Minister for response.

HSE South West Disability Services is pleased to confirm that funding has been identified to provide emergency residential placements and increase respite places for adults with disabilities in Cork and Kerry. In 2024 HSE South West was allocated €2,002,000 for emergency residential placements and €2,079,600 for respite (home and centre based).

**Residential Services:**

In Cork and Kerry there are approximately 600 adults with disabilities waiting for residential places. HSE South West continue to work with providers to identify solutions to meet the need of the population insofar as is possible on the basis of the quantum of funding allocated which, regrettably, does not meet all needs nor does it allow for sufficient planning due to the lack of a multi-annual funding stream.

HSE South West has worked with St. John of God Kerry Services to create a solution for three people who require residential placements by converting a day service to a residential service. Ashfield House will provide 24/7 service for a maximum of four people depending on assessed need and compatibility of residents.

### **Respite Services:**

There are two regional respite houses in Kerry, one is now operated by Orchard Care as noted below and one is operated by Dovidá (formerly Home Instead). The house operated by Orchard Care is located in North Kerry and the house 'Cúnamh Iveragh' operated by Dovidá is located in South Kerry. Cunamh Iveragh has four beds and is open three nights per week for 42 weeks per year (excluding bank holiday weekends).

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
- One in Glebe Lodge in Castleisland

These six beds are historical respite beds provided by Kerry Parents and Friends Association (KPFA) and support adults attending KPFA services.

HSE South West carried out a procurement process to identify a provider to deliver the regional residential / overnight respite service previously known as 'Cois na Feile' in North Kerry. The respite service closed at short notice in 2024 when the provider informed the HSE that they could no longer provide the service. Since that time HSE South West have been working with people and families impacted, to provide them with alternative respite until the service could be reinstated.

Following a competitive tender process, Orchard Care Group have been awarded the tender and have commenced meeting with people and their families. All families impacted are being supported to avail of respite in the new house which has opened and will be fully operational next week. The service has four beds and will open 7 nights per week. Once all the impacted families have been met, the service will work with HSE South West to open to new referrals. These will be managed via the Regional Respite Forum to ensure equity of access to respite services for all people residing in the HSE South West region.

In addition to overnight / residential respite HSE South West provide a range of alternative respite models for children and adults. These include afterschool clubs, in home support for children and adults, outreach supports and holiday breaks for adults. These options ensure that respite is provided in the manner which best meets the needs of children / adults and their families.



An example of another new development is the commencement of a weekend club for children in Kerry. The club provides respite to approximately twenty children on a rotational fortnightly basis. Families are free to choose a morning or afternoon session which lasts for approximately three hours.

HSE South West Disability Services continues to invest in respite services, proactively seeking 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 are 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 me.

Yours sincerely,

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**Lorraine Egan,**  
**A/ Head of Disability Services,**  
**HSE South West**

