



14th October 2025

Deputy John Paul O'Shea,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 50272/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of respite care facilities operated by HSE or funded partners which are available to children with disabilities in Cork and Kerry; the capacity of each centre, in tabular form; to confirm if these centres are operating at full capacity; the wait list for each centre; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy O' Shea,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to respond to your parliamentary question submitted to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality.

HSE South West Disability Services provides funding to agencies to provide residential respite care for children and adults with disabilities.

HSE South West Disability Services operate separate Children and Adult Regional Respite Forums. Each forum manages the referrals and respite service provision for the population of the region. The overall purpose of each forum is to ensure equitable access to respite services, consistent with each person's assessed need and preference. Service provider representatives and HSE South West Disability Services personnel comprise membership of the Regional Respite Fora.

Residential respite services for children aged between 6 and 18 years of age in Cork and Kerry is delivered by Horizons, Enable Ireland, St. Joseph's Foundation, CoAction, the Brothers of Charity and St. John of God Services, as set out in table 1 below.



Table 1. Respite Beds for children in Cork and Kerry

Agency	Location	No of Beds	Operating Service
St Joseph's Foundation	Cooleens House, Charleville	6	Due to re-open from November, 2025
Horizons (formerly Cope Foundation)	An Síreach	8	7 nights
Brothers of Charity	Bawnleigh	6	6 nights
CoAction	Dunmanway	8	4 nights
Enable Ireland	Lavanagh House	3	6 nights
St. John of God	Abhaile, North Kerry	4	7 nights
St. John of God	The Arches, South Kerry	4	7 nights
Total		39	

The operational capacity of a residential respite centre is influenced by the complexity of the needs of the children receiving respite at any given time. Groupings within the centres are determined based on both the compatibility of the children and the level of support required, ensuring safe and appropriate delivery of care. Therefore the capacity of a residential respite facility can vary based on the needs of the children attending at a given time.

There are currently 94 children on the waitlist for overnight respite in Cork and Kerry. Children are matched against the next most suitable bed as it arises so the list is not accessed in a strict chronological order. Disability Services does not keep a waiting list per provider/ facility.

HSE South West continue to work with service providers and families to develop additional respite services and continue to support as many people as possible within the allocated quantum of funding available. On receipt of further funding HSE South West will develop further respite services to meet the needs and locations of all people who require respite support. HSE South West remain committed to ensuring that respite is available in the quantum and service type to meet the needs of all those who require respite.



If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms. Angela O'Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
HSE South West.**