

26th May 2022.

Mr Michael Healy-Rae, TD.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 23942/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the way that the Government intends to assist parents who are in need of respite care for their children in the greater Killarney, County Kerry area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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 Health for response.

In Kerry, overnight respite services for children under 18 years of age with an intellectual disability are delivered by St. John of God Services (SJOG) at two children’s respite houses. One house is based in North Kerry, namely Abhaile Respite in Listowel and the second house is based - namely, The Arches in Killorglin. Abhaile Respite Services have four respite beds and has capacity for 25 children and 5 adults (there is a historic arrangement whereby 5 Adults have availed of overnight respite every second weekend for many years). This residential respite service operates 7 days a week Monday to Sunday. The Arches Respite Services have four respite beds and has capacity for 30 children. This residential respite service operates 7 days a week Monday to Sunday.

The last number of years has seen an investment in respite services within Cork Kerry Community Services which was very welcome and provided beneficial supports for families within CKCH. An additional 5,000 outreach support hours was allocated in 2020 to families that benefit from the support in Kerry. The Outreach Model initially allocated 50 individuals with 3 x 8 week blocks of 4 hrs per week each year.

Further funding was provided to increase the number to 75 individuals in 2021. The hours are either delivered by the lead agency attached to the person or alternatively an appropriate provider sourced by CKCH. Outreach respite for adults with an ID is provided by various agencies funded by the HSE and each client receives approximately 96 hours per year. This is delivered in blocks of 4 hours per week x 8 weeks, three times per year to provide social support to the individual to access the community.

The HSE Disability Service team are reviewing needs for respite across Cork and Kerry currently and are developing a plan to increase respite capacity- both residential and home based or alternative respite, which will be subject to funding through the Estimates and National Service planning process.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Majella Daly,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

