



1st March 2024

Ms. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 49580/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the steps being taken to improve disability services in County Kilkenny; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

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 Services

At present across Carlow/Kilkenny the following services are delivered by Adult Disability Services:

- There are 262 Residential placements for adults spread across thirteen agencies
- Delta Services Carlow provide 24 x 48 night beds per year depending on the persons need
- 731 adults in receipt of Day Services with six adults on a waiting list for 2023
- 408 adult receiving Home Support hours to a total of 3,502 hours per week with eight adults on a waiting list

Disability Services continue to work with our partners in Section 38/39 to grow these services for 2024. There is currently planning in place to provide extra Respite Services in Kilkenny with an estimated commencement date of Quarter 1 2024. Alternative models to enhance Disability Services in the community by way of increased support hours within the home setting. Increasing capacity within current respite services and offering alternative models of delivering Respite Services will be prioritised.

Children's Services

HSE Children's Disability Services has undergone significant reform and restructuring over the past two years and the implementation of the Progressing Disability Services (PDS). The core focus of this change is to ensure that children and their families, with complex interdisciplinary needs, will receive an appropriate and accessible family centred service.

In Kilkenny, there are two Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs). One of these teams is located in Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny and is led by the HSE. The second team is located in Kilkenny City and is led by Enable Ireland. Across both teams there are 723 children with complex disabilities registered for Clinical Services. 493 of these children have active Individual Family Support Plans (IFSPs). 226 children are waiting on an initial contact. All children are prioritised for services based on clinical risk and within available resources.

Filling of vacant clinical posts across both teams is the HSE and Enable Ireland's top priority in order to address the children's needs on waiting lists and to provide clinical services to new applicants once accepted to the teams. South East Community Healthcare (SECH) under the



current embargo and HSE disability services recently received a derogation to interview and recruit all vacant clinical posts. These interviews were completed on Friday 16th February 2024 and job offers from this recruitment campaign are in train. As a section 39 organisation, Enable Ireland continue to recruit.

In Kilkenny, Family Forums have commenced to provide information to families on the services they are providing and the resources they have available to them. These forums also provide information on the CDNTs universal and targeted supports that include information sessions and workshops to support families either in the absence of direct clinical supports or to compliment direct clinical supports.

The CDNTs in Kilkenny continue to receive referrals and continue to grow their service provision by sharing resources and looking for new and alternative models of service delivery to extend their current services to all children in need of a clinical service.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fitzgerald".

Karen Fitzgerald
A/Head of Service – Disability Services
South East Community Healthcare