



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara &
Iarthar Chill Mhantáin

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,
Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC

Head of Service, Disabilities
Dublin South Kildare and West
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15th February 2024

Response finalised: **19 December 2023**

Patricia Ryan TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 50007/23

Re: KARE, Athgarvan Road, Newbridge Co. Kildare

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth what measures, if any, are in place for the provision of space/venues for sports and fitness activities for those with intellectual disabilities in Kildare, as groups which provide such activities are having problems sourcing suitable venues, and are experiencing difficulty in providing this essential service (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

-Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to the Health Service Executive for direct response. I have requested the Chief Executive Officer for KARE to examine the matter and the following outlines the position.

In response to your query, KARE delivers a wide range of community-based supports to children and adults with intellectual disabilities across South Kildare, West Wicklow and East Offaly. We try to include service users in those activities that have value for them with a focus on inclusive opportunities.

As part of our delivery of services, KARE provide a sports and recreation programme to our adult service users. We do not have a purpose-built sports facility within KARE, and the programme is provided through hiring of community-based facilities and at times, by permission without payment by a number of local clubs.

Year on year we have had issues with securing community facilities, but face challenges accessing these during the day as they are also being sought by other community groups e.g. local schools. Pricing for some venues also limits our access to some facilities. A further challenge is that sessions are adapted to be managed within the venues available rather than

providing full opportunity e.g. skills-based sessions rather than match or competition practice. One way we have met these challenges is through use of sports facilities in Portarlinton, Co. Laois i.e. outside our natural area of operation. This naturally is more challenging in travelling to sessions and attendance levels are lower as a result.

The facilities we access within Kildare are listed below.

Sport Specific facilities

- Hire - Red Lane Golf Centre Naas for Golf Skills
- Permission - Clane Golf Club, Clongowes Wood College, Clane or on-course Golf
- Hire - Newbridge Sports Centre, Station Road Newbridge for Badminton
- Hire - KBowl Bowling centre, Newhall, Naas for Bowling
- Permission - Clane Athletics club for athletics track
- Hire - Athy ARCH Centre for basketball
- Permission - Scoil na Trionoide Athy for Basketball
- Hire - Naas K-Leisure swimming Pool for swimming

Multi-use facility not sport specific

- Permission - Round Towers GAA club Kildare Town for multi-sports activities
- Hire - Newbridge Town Football Club for Floorball Skills on Monday evening

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Deirdre Murphy
Chief Executive Officer
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I trust this information is of use to you. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

P.P



Margaret O'Neill,
Interim Head of Service, Disability Services
Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.