

15th March 2024

Mr Matt Carthy, T.D.,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
D02 XR20

Re: PQ ref 55508/23 - DSPQ19079(45) – Children’s Respite Services

Details

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the current capacity of respite care in counties Cavan and Monaghan for children with disabilities; the number of children that are provided with respite care each week in these counties; and his proposals to increase this capacity. - Matt Carthy.

Dear Deputy Carthy,

I refer to your parliamentary question above which has been referred to me for response. I have examined the matter and the following table outlines the position.

At present, Cavan Monaghan Disability Services have one Respite Centre, this is Annalee Respite Centre, Cootehill, County Cavan. This is a five bedded unit that caters for adults and children from counties Cavan and Monaghan on alternate weeks. Each alternate week there are between eight and eleven children who avail of between one and four respite nights, depending on the assessed individual needs of each child and his/her family.

The Disability Services Manager has advised that there are currently thirty-four children availing of respite nights in the Annalee Respite Centre, Cootehill, County Cavan, and all of the families of these children are seeking additional respite nights. There are a further forty-nine children on the waiting list for respite. Alternative respite support in the form of after school and weekend services are also provided to children with disabilities and their families. Additional respite is given by way of a Service Arrangement with Klaine Childcare who provide after school day services for 25 children per week and GALRO who offer children day respite on Saturdays and Sundays to 14 children per day.

Unfortunately, due to the accommodation limitations of Annalee House Respite Centre, it is not possible to provide respite to all children and families who are seeking same and a managed Children’s Respite Service waiting list is in place. In this regard, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo Disability Services, through HSE Estates North East made a capital submission to



national HSE Estates to include the development of a standalone respite service for children on its capital plan. This submission has now been considered by national HSE Estates and has been approved to progress. Disability Services are not currently in a position to provide a time frame for the delivery of the new respite service, but will continue to work closely with colleagues in Estates to ensure the respite development is progressed as a priority.

Please note that responses relating to PQ/Reps were held due to the Forsa Industrial Action which has now been suspended.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edel Quinn'.

Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CH CDLMS
Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar CDLMS