

7th May, 2024

Mr. Michael Healy-Rae, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 14573/24

"To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth his plans to replace a service (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Detail Supplied: "Minister I write on behalf on service users of Cois Na Féile in Listowel which is closing, Minister this place is used by over 200 clients and now they will have nowhere to go for respite. What are the government plans to replace this service which is needed urgently"

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for response.

Cois na Féile was operated by Kerry Parents and Friends Association (KPFA) since 2018. This house provides four adult respite beds on a seven day week basis. In January 2024 CKCH Disability Services met with the KPFA Board of Management to discuss their ongoing challenges securing staff for the respite house. At that meeting KPFA provided notice to CKCH of their intent to cease operating the service.

CKCH has commenced a procurement tendering process to identify an alternative provider to operate the Cois na Féile respite house. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) Disability Services remain committed to the re-commencement of the service as soon as possible.

CKCH Disability Services continues to work to identify alternative interim supports for those impacted by the temporary closure. Every effort has been made to identify alternative services to support those impacted. A CKCH Disability Services representative met with families on February 28th and on April 17th. At the meeting on April 17th the CKCH representative assured families that those impacted by the temporary closure of the respite house would receive a letter outlining alternative available supports. The letter was sent to families on Friday April 19th.

CKCH Disability Services will continue to ensure all those impacted by the temporary closure of Cois na Féile respite house are provided with updates on this matter.

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

Yours sincerely,



Angela O'Neill

**Ms. Angela O'Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

