



1st May 2024

Mr. James O'Connor TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 14949/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the current overnight respite services in place catering for adults with special needs in the catchment area of Lismore & West Waterford and asking if there are any plans to expand these services to ensure more respite places are available families of adults with special needs.

Dear Deputy 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.

Carriglea Cairde Services provides respite services for adults with an Intellectual Disability in the West Waterford area (Lismore and West Waterford).

Currently there are two respite locations in operation:

1. The permanent location – White Strand Respite Services based in Dungarvan/Abbeyside off the Clonea Road, Dungarvan. This service is currently providing services to one fulltime respite attendee until September 2024. White Strand Respite Services will then return as the single respite location.
2. The second location is a temporary setting until September 2024 – St. Bridget's Respite Service (based on campus) with a capacity for four attendees at any one time. This location will close in September 2024 when respite will return to White Strand Respite Services.

People who attend Day Services in Carriglea Cairde Services (110 people) predominantly reside at home with family and avail of short planned respite services or at times emergency Respite in response to a specific issue in their place of residence.

White Strand Respite Services is a five bedroomed registered Designated Centre with HIQA. An adjoining/connecting respite apartment has been developed in the last number of months and the outcome of a most recent HIQA inspection has approved that the apartment to be registered and services are planned to commence from this location in June 2024 subject to lodgement of the registration details.

Carriglea Cairde Services is planning to build respite capacity in 2025/2026:

1. Provide up to 2,000 nights of respite per annum (current quantum 900 nights annual pro rata)
2. The White Strand Respite location including the soon to be commissioned apartment will have the capacity to provide 1,100 respite nights.
3. The new location identified will have capacity to provide 900 nights respite.



4. Respite Groups availing of respite in any one offering of respite are now no more than four people and can vary in group size from one person through to four people although individualised respite going forward is planned to be provided from the soon to be commissioned apartment.

Respite attendees who have lower support requirements are offered respite in groups of up to four people and are generally supported with one to two staff members during the day and evening hours with a sleepover staff during the nights.

People with higher support requirements are offered respite on an individualised basis or up to two people and can require supports of up to two and three staff with walking night cover. The group size of people with higher supports requires a greater staffing input to support people with complex needs.

Carriglea Cairde Services work collaboratively with the HSE in prioritising those in greatest need and work to meet those needs.

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
General Manager – Adult Disability Services
South East Community Healthcare