



Seirbhís Míchumais

Cúram Sláinte Pobail Thoir, Bloc B, Lárionad
Cathrach, An tSráid Mhór, Bré, Co. Chill
Mhantáin, A98 X329

Disability Service

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31st July 2024

Minister Catherine Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 31987/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the future plans in place to increase bed capacity and resources for respite services in Wicklow.

Dear Minister Murphy,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Representation. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

Adult Respite Provision:

In Quarter One 2024, Adult respite service providers delivered 772 respite bed nights in addition to 164 respite days to service users.

In 2024, HSE Disability Services Community Healthcare East have undertaken to provide additional respite services in conjunction with services providers as outlined below:

Respite Services in Bakers Corner under NSP '21 and '22 (€850k p.a)

- Baker Corner was handed over to the HSE in June '24 following extensive renovations and refurbishment
- HIQA registration is in progress
- Plan to be operating a limited service by August '24 as despite numerous recruitment drives the full staff team are not fully recruited yet.

Respite Services in SHS Hall Lodge:

- Hall Lodge Reopening – subject to the de-congregation of 1 residents and funding.
- Additional funding required per resident €500k
- Plan to deliver 100 bed nights for approximately 40 adults with complex physical needs and other presentations
- Hall Lodge will provide respite 7 nights per week, 48 weeks per year



Respite Services in SJOG’s Wyattville:

- Reopening of Adult respite house Wyattville, subject to recruitment
- Service users of Wyattville currently being provided respite with alternative provider
- Once re-opened, Wyattville will provide 5 beds, 7 nights per week, 52 weeks of the year equating to 1820 bed nights annually

I can assure you that the HSE continue to liaise with SHS and SJOG’s in order to ensure the reopening of respite at the earliest opportunity. Where possible alternative respite including respite holiday breaks are being provided as an interim measure.

SHS and SJOG’s continue to keep families up-to-date on this matter also.

Supported Holidays:

Supported holidays were established back in 2022 following the need to use one of SJOG’s respite houses as a residential designated centre for one particular service user following a high order.

The individual remained in the respite house until a new residential service could be commissioned and operationalised by SJOG (Dec 2023).

The individuals (64) impacted by the loss of a respite service were all offered supported holidays with Disability & Home Supports Wexford and the majority have availed of this service on numerous occasions throughout 2022, 2023 and will continue in 2024 until such time as the respite house has sufficient staffing recruited to re-open.

Supported holidays have also been commissioned for service users of SHS Hall Lodge respite services, along with service users aligned to Bakers Corner and other service users who may not have been suitable for existing respite services. Table below outlines the activity and costs associated.

Year	No. of Service Users availing of Supported Holidays	No. of nights respite provided	Cost
2022	56	187	€248,277.89
2023	162	271	€373,101.93
2024 to date	84	279	€174,630.99
Estimated costs May – Dec 2024	61	361	€366,163.03
Total:			€1,162,173.84



Emergency Respite Provision:

In April 2024, HSE Disability Services were advised that a SHS service user was no longer able to return home, in response to this HSE Disability Services have been supporting the service user with emergency respite until a residential placement can be procured.

June 2024, saw the initiation of emergency in-home respite for a service user whose main carer was hospitalised for emergency care.

Emergency respite supports remain in place for both service users to date.

Children's Respite Provision:

In Quarter One 2024, Children's respite service providers delivered 1,607 respite bed nights.

In 2023, HSE Disability Services established the provision of day respite services for children – Sánas Alternative Respite.

Sánas Alternative Respite Wicklow under NSP '23 and 24(€1.6M p.a)

HSE Disability Services Community Healthcare East opened Sanas Alternative Respite in November 2023, and is now operating at full capacity since July 2024. The referral pathway is through our Children's Disability Network Team's (CDNT's), and referrals are processed by the HSE to Sanas for assessment.

Sánas centres operate an after school and weekend respite service weekly Mon to Fri, with sessions on Saturdays, Sundays and throughout bank holidays and school holidays. HSE Disability Services are particularly cognisant of the cohort of neurodivergent children for whom community access and specialised support services can be limited.

Currently there are 96 children active in Sánas, with a further 42 children in varying stages of assessment. Children can engage in group activities, 1:1 sessions or with their siblings / friends, and access the playground and multiple outside spaces in the local community.

Feedback from families, our colleagues in the CDNT and the children themselves has been very positive, with families noting the additional weekly helps to maintain the child's placement in the family home.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Kind Regards,

**Patricia McEvoy,
Head of Service,
Disability Services, CHO6**

