

16<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

Ms Niamh Smyth T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ ref 32183/24 - DSPQ22005(10) - Cavan Hydrotherapy Pool**

***“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the status of hydrotherapy at Enable Ireland in Cavan; if is operational; when it became operational; how children can access the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” - Niamh Smyth***

Dear Deputy Smyth,

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

The Enable Ireland Cavan Children’s Disability Network Manager (CDNM) has confirmed that the Cavan Hydrotherapy pool is operational since the beginning of March 2023. To book a slot for children to access the pool, parents can email [poolbooking.cavan@enableireland.ie](mailto:poolbooking.cavan@enableireland.ie) or [admin.cavan@enableireland.ie](mailto:admin.cavan@enableireland.ie). Pool session information is now also posted via Eventbrite pages, and 12 block sessions are emailed to parents regularly with the Eventbrite booking link. The sessions are also promoted in Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT) newsletters and on the CDNT website. At this time the pool attendant is available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, however from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 the pool attendant will be available Monday to Friday.

The Enable Ireland Cavan CDNM has advised that a Senior Physiotherapist commenced post at the end of November 2023, which has been a welcome addition to the team. Cavan CDNT has sourced relevant training for the current physiotherapy staff, including mandatory shallow water training, and informal training support and supervision in relation to providing hydrotherapy for children with complex needs.

Cavan CDNT are commencing the provision of a number of hydrotherapy sessions in September 2024 with sessions running twice a month in September and October and increasing to four times a month in November. There will be three sessions in December given the Christmas break. The Hydrotherapy Service will also continue in 2025. The Hydrotherapy Service sessions are planned by the relevant CDNT therapists based on service user need and following review at clinic. The sessions are then communicated to the families by the therapists or therapy assistants.



Cavan CDNT also ran a very successful theatre production jointly with Anne Newell, Theatre Adventures and Lime Tree Theatre, called 'Sing Me to the Sea'. This was an immersive multi-sensory session for children in the hydrotherapy pool with both the theatre performers and the child's parent or carer in the pool. The sessions offered exploration of a range of aural, visual, tactile and kinaesthetic experiences.

The Enable Ireland Cavan CDN has advised that recruitment of Physiotherapists for Cavan CDNT has presented as challenging. A Clinical Specialist Physiotherapy post, specialising in the area of motor management, was developed and it is envisaged that the development of this position will support further the expansion of the hydrotherapy service in Cavan. Cavan CDNT currently has 2.0 WTE Senior Physiotherapists in post. There is a vacancy of 0.5 WTE Senior Physiotherapist and 1 WTE Staff Grade Physiotherapist and 1.0 WTE Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist. Vacancies have been advertised numerous times but, unfortunately, to date Cavan CDNT has been unsuccessful in recruiting to these roles. Recruitment efforts for all vacancies within Cavan CDNT, including the Physiotherapy positions, are ongoing.

Should parents have any further queries they are welcome to contact Cavan CDNT via telephone on 049 432 6880 or by email at [admin.cavan@enableireland.ie](mailto:admin.cavan@enableireland.ie).

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', written in a cursive style.

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