

10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Ms Niamh Smyth TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ ref 32599/24 - Update Request, Day Services and Respite Centre for Young Adults in Monaghan**

***“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for an update on a new facility for day services, respite centre for adults with disabilities and a new building to locate same in Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” – Niamh Smyth***

**Details**

***SNAP in monaghan fighting for day services, respite centre for adults with disabilities and also a dedicated national school which is with the Dept of Education***

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.

In relation to the Day Activation Unit (DAU) in Monaghan, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CH CDLMS) Disability Services, supported by the HSE North East Estates department, completed a comprehensive submission for capital funding for a new day services premises to replace the Monaghan DAU premises based on the St Davnet's campus. This submission, to support the development and delivery of a new DAU in Co Monaghan, is in line with requirements under the national HSE New Directions policy and was approved at the February 2024 meeting of the National HSE Capital and Property Steering Group Committee. CH CDLMS Disability Services, in conjunction with HSE Estates North East colleagues, are currently in discussions with the local authority to agree suitable premises for the DAU.

Given the need for additional residential respite in the two counties of Cavan and Monaghan, CH CDLMS Disability Services completed a submission for capital funding to support the development and delivery of a children's respite centre in County Monaghan to meet the requirement to provide a more appropriate level of respite service in each of the two county areas of Cavan and Monaghan. The submission was approved at the February 2024 meeting of the National HSE Capital and Property Steering Group meeting. HSE Estates North East and Disability Services in the local service area have identified a suitable premises/site for the respite centre. The HSE purchase of the premises/site is now at the legal and contractual phase. Once purchase is complete, HSE Estates will then complete a significant capital project to prepare the property to deliver a five-bedded residential respite facility. In order to legally operate as a registered residential respite centre the facility will need to meet the



required standards for a designated respite centre which is assessed by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

Further to engagements with the national HSE Disability Operations lead, CH CDLMS Disability Services secured commitment for funding to progress an interim, two year residential respite service for children in County Monaghan pending the development of the new HSE facility. CH CDLMS Disability Services can advise that the location of the new interim children's respite centre for Monaghan will be at Urbalkirk, approximately 8kms from Monaghan town. CH CDLMS Disability Services continue to work closely with the Talbot Group to have the service commenced by 1st October 2024 with pre-admission assessments and preparations under way.

The provision of additional respite services in a dedicated County Monaghan children's respite service will increase the capacity at Annalee House Respite Centre to better meet the respite needs of other children and adults already accessing this service and those on its waiting list.

Steadfast House, a HSE funded Section 39 service provider organization, in County Monaghan, currently delivers 840 respite nights per annum to adults as per the funding available to CH CDLMS Disability Services in its allocated budget. CH CDLMS Disability Services submitted a proposal to National HSE Disability Operations to increase the amount of respite delivered by Steadfast House from 840 nights to 1500 nights per annum. Under the 2024 service plan development funding, CH CDLMS was advised in June 2024 it is approved the required additional funding to increase the Steadfast House respite service to 1500. Steadfast House is progressing with the recruitment of additional staff and it is anticipated to have additional respite nights operational by end of Quarter 3 2024.

CH CDLMS Disability Services, in conjunction with HSE Estates North East, prepared capital submission documents for the June National HSE Capital and Property Steering Committee meeting seeking approval to provide for a standalone respite centre for adults with an intellectual disability in County Cavan. This development, if approved, would ensure that there are standalone residential respite centres for adults in both the Counties of Monaghan and Cavan and standalone residential respite centres for children in both counties.

HSE CH CDLMS Disability Services are unable to comment on areas that fall under the remit of the Department of Education, thus, this part of the PQ is not dealt with in this response.

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'.

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