



Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Slainte
Seirbhísi Pobaill (An Cabhán, Dún na
nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán &
Sligeach)
Áras Isacc Butt, Bealach Féich,
Tír Chonaill F93 YV9R

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26th November 2024

Mr Brendan Smith TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ ref 44333/24 - Provision of Respite Services in Cavan Monaghan

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the level of respite services available in Cavan and Monaghan for children and for adults; the further proposals to extend the range of such services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” – Brendan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

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 HSE Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CDLMS) Disability Services have one respite centre, Annalee Respite Centre, in County Cavan that is operated directly by HSE Cavan and Monaghan Disability Services. This is a five bedded unit that caters for adults and children from Counties Cavan and Monaghan on alternate weeks. Each alternate week there are between eight and eleven children who avail of between one and four respite nights, depending on the assessed individual needs of each child and his/her family. On alternate weeks there are between thirteen and fifteen adults who avail of respite depending on their individual service needs.

Given the significant need for residential respite in the two counties of Cavan and Monaghan, HSE Community Services CDLMS Disability Services, in conjunction with the HSE Estates North East department, 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 premises for sale suitable for the purposes of renovation to develop the respite centre. The purchase transaction has been approved by the National HSE Property Board and HSE Estates North East are now in the process of identifying an architect to commence the design element of the property. Once purchase is complete, HSE Estates will then complete a significant capital project to prepare the property to deliver a five-bedroom residential respite facility. HSE Estates

North East have advised that this project should be completed in the first quarter of 2026. 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 and determined by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

Further to engagements with the national HSE Disability Operations lead, HSE Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo Disability Services secured commitment for funding for an interim, two year residential respite service for children in County Monaghan pending the development of the new HSE Children's Respite facility. The location of the new interim Children's Respite Centre for Monaghan is at Urbalkirk, approximately 8kms from Monaghan town. The Talbot Group has been awarded the contract to deliver the interim children's respite service in Monaghan which became operational on 1st October 2024.

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

The Cavan Monaghan Disability Services management team, in conjunction with HSE Estates North East, have prepared capital submission documents for the national HSE Capital and Property Steering Committee, to seek approval and funding 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. Cavan Monaghan Disability Services have been advised by North East Estates colleagues that, due to a large volume of capital submissions, it may be the first quarter of 2025 before the aforementioned submission will be assessed by the national HSE Capital and Property Steering Committee.

Steadfast House, a HSE funded Section 39 provider organization in County Monaghan had been funded to deliver 840 respite nights per annum to adults as per the funding available to HSE Community Services CDLMS Disability Services. Since the 2nd of September 2024, following the submission and subsequent approval of a Business Case proposal to National HSE Disability Operations for an increased funding allocation to increase its respite service, Steadfast House will now be providing 1500 respite nights per year.

Mountain View is a new four-bedded HSE Physical and Sensory adult disability residential respite centre in Cavan town due to open in Quarter 1 2025, pending recruitment of required staffing by the HSE Human Resources department.

Home Based Respite Support Direct Payment Grants are offered and provided to adults and children and their families in Counties Cavan & Monaghan. While families can access the HSE Home Support Services, there are instances where the service may not fully meet their specific support needs and in these instances the Direct Payment Grants may be more suitable.

Alternative respite services, which includes both day respite and afterschool respite, are available via providers funded and contracted by HSE Community Services CDLMS

Disability Services, to provide support to children and their families from Counties Cavan and Monaghan. These services are:

- Kilbixy Day Services (Galro) which is an alternative respite service based in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. This service provides Saturday and Sunday day respite services to twenty seven children.
- Little Wonders Afterschool and Saturday Club which is an alternative respite service based in Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, and operates after school Monday to Friday and also a Saturday Club. Twenty five children avail of the Little Wonders services each week with a further seven children currently on the waiting list.
- There are two summer camps provided by both Holy Family School and Castleblaney Care Association which children from County Monaghan may attend. The camps are in part supported by HSE CDLMS Disability Services and provide activities for children with complex needs during July each year.
- While families can access the HSE Home Support Services, there are instances where the service may not fully meet the specific support needs of a child with an extremely complex presentation. In such cases, an Intensive Home Care Package is arranged through the HSE, via Trinity Services and YAP (Youth Advocacy Programme) Services, to provide tailored support to children within their family home.

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,



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