



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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17th December 2024

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

Re: PQ ref 45971/24 - Provision of More Services to Support Children and Adults with Disabilities in Counties Cavan and Monaghan

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will ensure that more services are provided in Cavan and Monaghan to support children and adults with disabilities; 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.

I can advise that the HSE Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CDLMS) Disability Services provide Disability Services in Cavan and Monaghan in line with its allocated budget from the Department of Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) which informs the HSE's National Service Plan.

By way of update on a number of developments, HSE Community Services CDLMS 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. 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 CDLMS 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 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. Assessment and induction processes have been completed with children and families and the interim Children's Respite Centre became fully 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.

HSE Community Services CDLMS Disability Services, 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 and Monaghan Disability Services have been advised by Dublin 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 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 respite service, Steadfast House are now being funded by the HSE to provide 1500 respite nights per year.

Mountain View is a new four-bedded adult Physical and Sensory residential respite centre in Cavan town due to open in Quarter 1 2025, pending recruitment of required staffing. Funding to develop the centre was received through a capital budget allocation. An additional revenue budget allocation to deliver the service has been provided through increased allocation to the Community Services CDLMS Disability Services budget.

Home Based Respite Support Direct Payment Grants are offered and provided to adults and children and their families in Counties Cavan and Monaghan. While families can access the HSE Home Support Services, there are instances where the service may not fully meet their specific support needs. Additional home support budget allocations have been provided in recent years under the National Service Plan allocation to Community Services CDLMS Disability Services.

Alternative respite services, which includes both day respite and afterschool respite, are available via providers funded and contracted by HSE Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo 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 were 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.
- Home Based Respite Support Direct Payment Grants are offered and provided to children and their families in Counties Cavan and Monaghan.
- 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.

Additional alternative respite budget allocations have been provided in recent years under the National Service Plan allocation to Community Services CDLMS Disability Services to enable and increase the aforementioned services.

HSE Community Services CDLMS Disability Services management, supported by HSE Estates North East, completed a comprehensive submission for capital funding for a new Day Service premises to replace the premises based at Rathcorrick, Cavan. This submission to support the development and delivery of a new Day Activation Unit (DAU) in County Cavan, was approved at the February 2024 meeting of the National HSE Capital and Property Steering Group Committee. HSE Estates North East, in consultation with Cavan and Monaghan Disability Services, have identified a site in Cavan town that has been deemed a suitable location, in line with national policy standards, for providing services for a new DAU. Following direction received from Disability Services at national level on the 6th of May to explore a lease option at the green field site identified, HSE Estates North East engaged with the landowners and their professional team. An application was lodged with the Property Review Group in July 2024. The Property Review Group board advised that the submission was classed as a works contract and, therefore, needed to be advertised in line with public procurement guidelines. HSE Estates North East advertised in September 2024 on the E-Tenders platform a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) to identify suitable candidates for the development and lease of a DAU for Adult Disability Day Services in Cavan town.

The approximate timeline will be as follows;

- Procurement of suitable candidate through E-Tenders (10 -12 Weeks)
- Internal approvals / sign off via HSE Property Review Group board (2 weeks).
- Detailed design / statutory approvals (planning permission, Fire, Disability Access Certificate, if required) (12 weeks)
- Construction (12 to 15 months)
- Commissioning and Equipping (6 weeks)

The above timelines are indicative only and the project is subject to HSE Property Review Group board approval. The Capital and Estates Office will be able to give a more definitive timeline once the procurement process to identify a suitable candidate has closed.

In relation to the DAU in Monaghan, HSE Community Services CDLMS Disability Services, supported by the HSE Estates North East 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 in Monaghan town. This submission to support the development and delivery of a new DAU in Monaghan, in line with the national HSE policy of New Directions, was approved at the February 2024 meeting of the National HSE Capital and Property Steering Committee. The Cavan Monaghan Disability Services team in conjunction with HSE Estates North East colleagues, are currently in discussions with the local authority to identify a suitable premises for the DAU.

Drumlin House is a HSE funded Section 39 provider, which provides day services for people from Cavan and Monaghan. Drumlin House Day Services, with support from the HSE, are working towards the development of a new day service location in Cavan, but the existing service location in Cootehill also needs investment for a new building to help increase capacity and help facilitate those school leavers with complex needs through the provision of an appropriate service setting. Drumlin House Day Services have submitted a proposal via HSE Estates North East detailing their new service location requirements in Cootehill. A capital funding proposal was submitted to the National HSE Estates office to develop a bespoke standalone high support facility in Cootehill that will accommodate the current attendees and that will also accommodate the school leavers who have been identified as requiring adult Disability Day Services over the next five to ten years. This submission was approved at the February meeting of the National HSE Capital and Property Steering Committee. The Drumlin House Board of Management has received planning permission for this project. A Joint Working Group comprising of representatives from HSE Community Services CDLMS Disability Services, HSE Capital and Estates Department, Drumlin House Board of Management and their Design Team has been established to provide oversight and monitoring of the new development of Drumlin Day Services.

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,



Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability Services
Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo
Seirbhisi Pobail An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach