

16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Ms Pauline Tully TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ ref 35003/24 – Update on the Capital Funding Proposal for a Children’s Respite Centre, County Monaghan**

***“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for an update on the progress of the capital funding proposal that was submitted to the national HSE office for a bespoke stand-alone respite service facility in Cavan-Monaghan for children up to the age of 18 with an intellectual disability and high-support medical and complex needs.” – Pauline Tully***

Dear Deputy Tully,

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.

Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CH CDLMS) Disability Services, in conjunction with HSE Estates North East, 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 it is now at the legal and contractual phase. 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. 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 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. The location of the new interim children's respite centre for Monaghan is at Urbalkirk, approximately 8kms from Monaghan town. HSE CH CDLMS Disability Services are working closely with the Talbot Group to have the service commenced in October 2024. Assessment and induction processes have commenced with children and families.

The provision of additional respite services in a dedicated County Monaghan children's respite service will increase the capacity at Annalee House Respite Centre, Cootehill, 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 had prepared capital submission documents for the June National HSE Capital and Property Steering Committee meeting 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. The adult respite centre for Monaghan is at Steadfast House which further to additional funding secured this year by CH CDLMS Disability Services can now be funded to operate on a full time basis. Previous funding allocation covered the provision of 840 nights respite service provision to adults by Steadfast House.

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**