



Oifig Cheannasaí Meabhairshláinte, Feidhmeannacht na Seibhíse Sláinte, Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin, Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara. Éirchód W91KDC2

Office of Head of Mental Health, Health Service Executive, Community Healthcare - Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare. Eircode W91KDC2. ☎: 045 880 416

James Browne T.D.
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

19th February 2019

PQ 5077/19 To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the development and expansion of ACCESS team for Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow based in Parkgate Street. A proposal to increase the service's WTEs is currently under consideration and if he will make a statement on the matter. -James Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Assertive Community Care Evaluation Service (ACCES Team) for Dublin South Kildare & West Wicklow (CHO7) based in Parkgate Street provide specialist mental health care to homeless patients with severe and enduring mental illness, that is patients with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, psychosis with or without substance misuse problems. The team is based in Parkgate Hall since 2004 but does most of its work in an outreach capacity. It also provides educational workshops to frontline staff working in homeless hostels throughout the city.

I wish to advise, since July 2018 the ACCES Team for Dublin South Kildare & West Wicklow (CHO7) based in Parkgate Hall, has not been in a position to accept new referrals as there has been a significant shortage of staff. The HSE is engaging in on going recruitment processes to enable the ACCES Team to reopen the referral process.

The team currently has 0.6 Consultant Psychiatrist, 0.6 NCHD, 1.6 Community Mental Health Nurses and 1 Social Worker. The team currently has 1 WTE Psychologist on Leave and is due back March 2019.

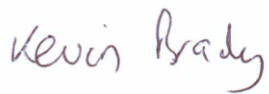
All patients that are currently attending the ACCES Mental Health Team remain active patients and are seen regularly. All patients, both current and those newly presenting continue to receive ongoing mental health support. This includes continued access to the acute mental health units as required. In addition, efforts are made to refer new patients to other support services which included Sure

Steps Counselling, Simon Community along with providing mental health supports through the local community mental health team.

The Management Team for Dublin South Central Mental Health Services has recently made a submission to the Mental Health Division for the homeless service to develop and expand the mental health services for the homeless in our area with the addition of 8.5 WTE's to meet the identified needs. The HSE await a decision with regards to this proposal.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, should you require further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Brady
Head of Mental Health