



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care
Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal

☎: +353 (0)47-30449
Email: dermot.monaghan@hse.ie

18th February, 2019

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

Ref: PQ 5688/19 To ask the Minister for Health his plans to provide additional resources for dental services in counties Cavan and Monaghan.

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Primary Care Dental Services targets children in Primary School and are 6th, 2nd class and 4th class, in that order. Emergency dental care for relief of dental pain, dental infection or dental trauma is available to all children up to the age of 16. The Dental Service is not solely, a school based service but also provides services to eligible vulnerable groups and individuals such as those with special needs and who are medically compromised; including care under general anaesthesia and since 2018, care under relative analgesia (nitrous oxide sedation).

The level of current direct service provision has improved significantly since 2017 with recruitment of a replacement Dental Surgeon and a Dental Nurse in 2018. A campaign is underway to recruit an additional Senior Dental Surgeon.

The provision of a broader and more comprehensive service in more rural areas such as Cavan Monaghan requires additional resources. Dental Services in Cavan Monaghan has as part of the yearly service planning processes, identified the need for additional Dental Teams over and above existing upcoming vacancies. These additional posts will enable the service to assess all three priority cohorts of primary school children and eligible adolescents. In addition, Cavan Monaghan Primary Care Dental Service firmly believes that early intervention and targeting will reduce the disease burden, the need for more complex treatment due to the progression of untreated disease (if left to targeting the later age group), a subsequent reduction in the demand for emergency care and this is also a priority for Cavan Monaghan Dental Services in the 2019 Service Plan.

The new national oral health policy is due to be published shortly and will determine how dental services will be delivered and resourced for the future.

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,

Dermot Monaghan,
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
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