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Michael McGrath T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 54508/18

“To ask the Minister for Health the plans of the HSE to ensure the continuation of services to young persons availing of the youth health service which is being transitioned into the HSE social inclusion portfolio; if young persons using the service will continue to have a service in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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.

The Youth Health Service (YHS) is a holistic sexual health service for young people 23 and under. It is a free, confidential (within guidelines) and non-judgemental service. Young people are offered a broad range of services under the one roof. The service provides health information, supports and services for young people based on their needs, using referral pathways where required. YHS offers the following services to young people:

- STI clinic
- Contraceptive Clinic
- Unplanned Pregnancy Counselling
- Pregnancy Information & Support
- Post Abortion Medical Check-ups and Counselling
- General counselling
- Youth work
- Drug and alcohol counselling

In January 2019 a reorganisation of the governance structure of the YHS took place. This will not impact in any way on the range of services provided or the access criteria for these services.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa O' Donovan
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare