



18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Deputy John Curran, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**PQ: 28983/19**

To ask the Minister for Health the way in which links between maternity services and addiction services have been strengthened to date in 2019.

**PQ: 28984/19**

To ask the Minister for Health if the need for additional residential placements for pregnant and postnatal women that need inpatient treatment for addiction to drugs and or alcohol nationally has been quantified; and if so, the action being taken as a result.

Dear Deputy Curran,

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

The specialist Drug Liaison Midwife service has been in operation since 1999 to liaise between the three Dublin Maternity hospitals and the Drug Treatment Services. The experience of this specialist liaison service indicates that it is possible to build effective working relationships between opioid dependent pregnant women and the Obstetric and Drug services involved in their care. An expansion of this service has been planned for CHO 3 and CHO 4. Both posts involving a specialised drug and alcohol liaison midwife are being progressed through the National Recruitment Service. It is hoped that the campaigns may be initiated in August. A next phase of expansion is planned for CHOs 2 and 5 and funding has just recently been released to initiate the recruitment process in both areas.

Where the need arises, pregnant women are prioritized for stabilisation in the inpatient residential units in Cuan Dara and Beaumont. Coolmine Ashleigh House is the national residential Therapeutic Community for women, expectant women and mothers with young children. Ashleigh House utilises the Parenting under Pressure (PuP) programme and also provides a childcare programme in a dedicated crèche, which is accessible to all parents partaking in the programme. This PuP programme combines psychological principles relating to parenting, child behaviour and parental emotion regulation within a case management model. An expansion of this residential model will be considered in the estimates process for 2020.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Joseph Doyle  
National Planning Specialist