



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Príomhoifigeach ECSP Ceantar 8  
Baile Átha Cliath & Lár Laighin  
Oifig an Cheantair  
Bóthar an Ardáin  
An Tulach Mhór  
Co Uíbh Fhailí

*Chief Officer CHO Area 8*  
HSE Area Office,  
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**PRÍOMHOIFIGEACH ECSP CEANTAR 8**  
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29<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

Deputy Gerry Adams  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

RE: PQ ref 49237/19: To ask the Minister for Health if a dedicated addiction service for persons under 18 years of age operates in County Louth; if so, the location from which it operates; if not, his plans to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Adams ,

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 outline the position as follows.

The HSE established a dedicated substance use treatment service for under 18s in Louth and Meath in 2016. Two full time staff members are employed full time to form a dedicated team to the two counties - a clinical nurse specialist in adolescent substance use and a counsellor.

Their primary location is the new social inclusion building on Donore Road, Drogheda. However they provide an outreach service and see clients in other locations in the country too. In particular from St. Bridget's Complex in Ardee and Dundalk Youth Service. However they have also seen clients in other schools, youthreaches and youth services in the county.

Approximately 28 clients from Louth have been seen so far in 2019 by this service. There is no waiting list in accessing it with appointments normally offered within two weeks of referral. Referrals are welcome from families directly as well as health professionals and information is available on [www.drugs.ie](http://www.drugs.ie) as well as from the HSE's Drugs Helpline 1800 459 459.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'P' and 'B'.

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Pat Bennett  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation