



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

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31st October, 2019

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

RE PQ ref 41754/19: To ask the Minister for Health the availability of child dental services in Ardee and mid County Louth due to reports of children having to travel to Nobber for services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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

Louth Meath Dental Service targets paediatric patients in specific classes in primary school, and offers oral health assessments and treatment to children in these classes. Children in these age groups have been targeted because of certain dental developmental milestones. In addition to the targeted approach, an emergency service is available for all children under the age of 16.

Currently there are three locations where oral health care is being provided for children in County Louth, namely Dundalk Community Care Centre, The Boyne Primary Care Centre in Drogheda and Muirhevnamore Health Centre, in Dundalk.

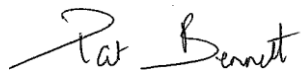
Prior to November 2017 HSE Dental Services were also provided in Ardee, County Louth, however following an engineer's report the building was deemed unsafe for patients and staff due to health and safety concerns. Following the closure of that clinic patients were initially seen in the HSE Dental clinic in Nobber and more recently in Dundalk Community Care Centre.

A recent decision has been made to return Ardee patients to Nobber for their oral health care, this was based on the fact that Nobber is closer to Ardee, than Dundalk, there is more capacity for patients in the Nobber clinic and patients will be seen earlier and the dentist who was originally based in Ardee is now working in Nobber and will be familiar with many of these children and their families.

Any decision to return dental services to Ardee in the future will be dependent on the progression of the Ardee Primary Care Centre and development of clinical space in St Bridget's Hospital Ardee.

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 horizontal line underneath it.

Pat Bennett
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation