

12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Deputy Thomas Gould, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 19477/20:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of day care centres in north central areas of County Cork that have now reopened; the number that will be reopened by September 2020; the number that will not be in a position to reopen by September 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

**Services for Older People**

I wish to advise that preparatory work is on-going in advance of the reopening of Day Care Centres. A framework for the resumption of Day Care Services for Older People has been issued with guidance relating to the safe reopening of day services for older people. A risk assessment of services will be done locally and, if viable, day services will resume in the next few months where safe to do so and public health guidance can be maintained, regarding infection control and social distancing. A training session for all Day Care Co-ordinators on this framework document is being scheduled in the coming weeks.

Not all day services will be suitable for reopening due to the physical nature of some buildings. Once we know what services are unsuitable for reopening we will plan to deliver a service using alternative delivery models. Dates have not been finalised for the reopening of Day Care Centre but our priority is to open the services which are suitable without delay.

**Mental Health Services**

With regards to the situation in relation to Covid 19, considerable work has been underway and will continue across all parts of the service with regard to preparedness and response planning across the health sector.

Mental Health Services strive to offer the best patient outcomes and the best use of available resources to support our patient population and these efforts were continued during the difficult and challenging situation with regards to the Covid 19 pandemic. With this in mind, I can confirm that day centres across Cork North Mental Health Services remained open throughout the pandemic. The service continues to ensure that national guidelines in relation to Covid 19 are implemented and adhered to across all locations.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact either of the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



**Gabrielle O'Keeffe**  
**Head of Services for Older People,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**



**Mr Kevin Morrison**  
**Acting Head of Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**