



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannán Cúraim Shóisialaigh – CHO 1

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30th June 2020

Deputy Pearse Doherty
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 11767/20

To ask the Minister for Health the allocation of funding for the establishment of a school leavers disability hub in the Gweedore area of County Donegal; the plans in place to progress such a facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Doherty

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 the following outlines the position.

As part of the national school leaver process, the HSE recognises the need to develop a small number of new locations on an annual basis to accommodate a day service for people in areas where there are no other options. In the absence of capital funding, the HSE allocates a small amount of the overall school leaver funding towards the rent/lease of premises for new developments.

CHO 1 was allocated €143,150 full year cost to rent/lease property for new developments for school leavers in 2020 and to create capacity for school leavers over the coming few years. The disability teams working with school leavers in the respective areas of CHO1, i.e. Donegal, Sligo/Leitrim and Cavan/Monaghan, identified the priority locations for new developments to accommodate the 2020 leavers and beyond. Due to the increasing costs in rent/lease this will secure only one development in each of the three respective areas.

After an analysis of the home location of each 2020 leaver, information on leavers over the coming few years and a knowledge of capacity within all existing services, Dungloe was identified as the location for the new development in Co Donegal. A total of €50,000 per annum rent/lease cost has been allocated for the Dungloe project.

HSE Donegal Community Inclusion Training Services (DCITS) are currently developing the plans and will be delivering the Day Service when completed. Suitable premises have been identified in line with the guidance from the New Directions Policy which outlines the requirements for new service developments. DCITS has liaised with HSE Estates and the

Landlord to devise a floor plan for the new development. This has now been agreed and Estates are liaising with the Fire Safety on the plans.

The onset of COVID-19 has had an impact on the rate of progress of this development; however, DCITS is currently in the process of identifying a suitable temporary premises which will be used until the permanent premises is completed. The service is also planning for the recruitment of staff and planning day service programmes and supports which will be safe for all concerned and in accordance with public health guidance.

I trust that this clarifies the matter, but please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Denise Curran
General Manager,
Social Care CHO 1

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