



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

St Canices Hospital
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784494

20th May 2020

Ms. Verona Murphy T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 5471/20

To ask the Minister for Health the reason Arden House, County Wexford is not opened; the opening date; if the staffing numbers will meet the standards as set down by the WHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed that matter and the following is the position.

I am pleased to confirm that the Wexford Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Wexford South completed a transfer from Slaney House to new premises at Arden House, Whitemills, Wexford on 5th May 2020.

To enable HSE to occupy the premises and complete the necessary works, a lease was entered into between the respective parties. HSE Estates have advised that this involved extensive negotiation with the landlord in order to agree Head of Terms and Lease documents. In addition there have also been ongoing negotiations to agree layouts and finishes (particularly requirements for clinical services) with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. There were some delays in getting the builder on site and to complete the works. The main capital works required to deliver services at Arden House have been undertaken and were completed in Quarter 4, 2019. After handover additional remedial safety issues were identified to be addressed prior to occupation. There are challenges in securing builders for minor works, however in January 2020 the Architect instructed the Builder regarding works to stairs and access control to side door. The overall works required to be signed off pursuant to Health and Safety requirements following which the premises will be available for use by the CAMHS South Wexford Team.

A Consultant Psychiatrist has been appointed on a temporary basis to Wexford CAMHS South area since March 2020. I can advise that the CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrist has successfully applied for the permanent CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrist post to the Wexford South CAMHS area. This appointment is subject to administrative and statutory recruitment requirements of the Public Appointments Commission for the permanent filling.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Wexford South Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) comprises of staffing across a broad range of Medical, Nursing, Allied Health Professionals inclusive of Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Social Work, Speech and Language Therapy, and Support Staff.

A Vision for Change' is a strategy document which sets out the direction for Mental Health Services in Ireland.

I trust that this clarifies. Should you have further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Heffernan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

David Heffernan
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare