

Deputy Stephen Matthews
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

30th November, 2020

PQ 36889/20

Details: Lily of the Valley, Day Care Service, St Colman's Campus, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow

Question: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the closure of a centre (details supplied); and the alternative arrangements that will be made available in the immediate term to provide assurances to those that rely on this service.

Dear Deputy Matthews,

In response to your parliamentary question of 12th Ult., in respect of Lily of the Valley, Day Care Services on St Colman's Campus. Below I will provide an outline of the HSE's position in this regard and confirm the same information has been provided to the Minister for Health.

The ASI's decision to withdraw services from St Colman's campus was an independent decision taken by that agency in the context of significant historical challenges associated with the sustainability of services on site in Rathdrum. The ASI had engaged with the HSE in this regard during a time where all day care services were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a consequence of the ASI's decision to withdraw services from the 'Lily of the Valley' Day Care Centre, the HSE made a decision in agreement with the ASI to safeguard day care services for people living with dementia in the region and in that context the HSE has agreed to take over the direct operation of the service in South County Wicklow (based at the Nolan House, Rathdrum). The decision to undertake this take-over of service was guided by factors such as the profile of the ageing population within the region and the lack of alternative service options available to the client cohort in Co Wicklow specific to Dementia Services.

It is important to clarify that the opening of the new service, a dementia specific day care service within St Colman's Campus is not an initiative linked with the proposed St Colman's hospital build. Rather the delivery of the service will occur in line with HSE and public health guidance for the reopening of day care services nationally. To date, the HSE have invested both in staffing and facilities within St Colman's campus in order to provide a sustainable and long term approach to service provision for specific dementia related services and we are confident this approach will strengthen and increase service delivery for people living with dementia and their families to the future.

The HSE continues to work closely with ASI, who have to date, highlighted their continued commitment to the delivery of the day care service within the Bray region. In withdrawing from services in Rathdrum, the ASI also highlighted to the HSE their plans to develop services within the south of the county and the HSE await concrete plans for same.

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In addition, the ASI Dementia Adviser post, funded by the HSE through the SláinteCare Enhanced Community Care Fund, is a further development for dementia services in Wicklow. A Dementia Adviser is a point of contact for people who are concerned about their cognitive health or who have a diagnosis of dementia. Dementia Advisers enable people to take control of their own lives by providing practical assistance, advice and information, and signpost people with dementia and their carers to appropriate services and supports.

I trust the above highlights the HSE's position and commitment to Dementia Services in Wicklow and in collaboration with all stakeholders we are moving towards a more comprehensive pathway of care for people living with the condition.

If you have any other queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Hammond', written in a cursive style.

Fiona Hammond
General Manager, Social Care for Older Persons
HSE Community Healthcare East