



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare
Health Service Executive
Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny
R95NV08

Telephone 353 56 7784319

28th September 2020

Mr Johnny Mythen TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 24529/20

To ask the Minister for Health if he will increase the funding for adult care centres particularly to a Saoirse Day Centre, Gorey Co Wexford.

Dear Deputy Mythen

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 the matter and the following is the current position.

For the safety of service users, their families, staff that support them and the general public, planning to resume the provision of day service supports has to be approached with extreme caution and must be underpinned by continued Public Health Guidance and the Government's planned phases for reopening the country.

The phased resumption for reintroducing a full five day service for all day service recipients will be completely dependent on the activity of COVID and the public health guidance. It is hoped that during the next two months, service providers will strive to maximise the service they provide to individuals within the resource available at the moment.

The Framework for the Resumption of Adult Disability Day Services and the Guidance to support that framework provides clarity in regard to the fact that the quantum of service provided to any individual will be reduced as service providers have to operate within COVID guidance.

The HSE recognise the need for additional resources to assist with the re-opening of Day Services and this consideration will form part of the 2020/2021 Winter Planning process that the HSE is currently engaged in.

HSE Disability Services and Service Providers are mindful that any return to services is planned and managed in a manner that is safe for service users and staff. As services resume, prevailing public health

guidance and social distancing requirements will have an impact on capacity across the system. To date evidence shows that Covid-19 has been managed much better within smaller units of service with reduced numbers of service users and reduced contacts with support staff. In this regard Day Service capacity will be reduced and supports will need to be provided in a different way.

The HSE understands that it is a very difficult time for all clients and their families and will continue to provide available supports to them.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janette Dwyer".

Ms. Janette Dwyer
Head of Service, Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare