



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú,  
An Mhí Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse  
Sláinte, Oifig Cheantair, Páirc Ghnó  
Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia, Sráid Hale, Baile  
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30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ – 20689/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the status of the proposed Dundalk primary care centre; if a site has been secured; if so, the full list of services that will be provided on-site; the reason for the delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Fergus O'Dowd**

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

The HSE has identified a preferred provider for the provision of a Primary Care facility in Dundalk. The location proposed is the Carroll Village Shopping Centre, The Long Walk, Dundalk. A letter of Intent had been issued to the successful applicant. It had been the intention that a planning application would be submitted by Q4 2018 and with works commencing in 2019 (subject to planning) with an expected opening early in 2020.

However following a request from Disability Services, who advocated for more space in the Primary Care Centre, due to a growth in service demand, this then necessitated a review of the overall project. This resulted in a delay, and whilst disappointing and frustrating, we believe it is the correct strategic move for the long term plans for community care delivery in Dundalk.

The new updated proposal required additional approval from the HSE Property Review Group (PRG) – i.e. the additional space that is now considered required to accommodate the extent of services now planned. The PRG have approved the proposal to lease an increased area to meet the needs of Primary Care, Mental Health and Disability Services. A revised letter of Intent has been issued to the preferred provider. Work on agreeing internal layouts has commenced with service personnel and Estates working with the developers architect to agree on the most appropriate design. This process is expected to take a number of months to conclude.

On the conclusion of this design phase, the developer will be expected to lodge a planning application with Louth County Council. The list of services to be accommodated in the new Dundalk Primary Care Centre will be as follows:

**Primary Care** - The centre will accommodate four Primary Care Teams which cover Dundalk

**Mental Health**

- 2 x General Adult Psychiatric Teams - Currently based at Ladywell Centre, Dundalk
- 1 x Day Hospital - Currently a Day Centre and based at Ladywell Centre, Dundalk.
- Assertive Outreach team - Currently based at Ladywell Centre, Dundalk.
- 1 x Psychiatry of Later Life Team - Currently based at St. Brigids Hospital, Ardee.

**Disability Services** – Currently accommodated in Mounthamilton House and Blackthorn Business Park.

- 0-18 Years North Louth Children's team including new Network Team Manager (30 staff)
- 18 plus years Adult teams ID and Physical and Sensory (20 staff)
- Administrative staff (7 staff)
- Assistant Director of Nursing
- Occupational Guidance officer
- Respite Coordinator

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation