



Mr John Brady TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

23rd March, 2021

Re: PQ ref 15973/21

Dear Deputy Brady,

I write in response to your Parliamentary Question to Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly in relation to **'the reopening of the former Wicklow District Hospital as a care facility; his plans to open day care services at the premises'**.

HSE Community Healthcare East can confirm that refurbishment works of the former Wicklow District Hospital are complete. It is intended, that under the Management of our Social Care for Older Persons division that the refurbished premises will be opened as Wicklow Community Nursing Unit. The Unit will be an 18 bedded short stay facility for the rehabilitation and convalescence of older persons who may require additional support following an acute hospital stay. It will also provide short term respite for older persons living in the community.

A successful campaign to recruit nursing and care staff is being completed at this time. It is our intention to induct and train staff during the month of May to allow for first admissions to Wicklow Community Nursing Unit in June 2021.

Alongside the Community Nursing Unit, work is currently underway to refresh the former Wicklow Day Services building on Glenside Road, which had been used for Community Covid Testing and a Community Assessment Hub until recent weeks. Per national guidance as restrictions are lifted for older persons attending community services, our team will gradually reopen the Day Services as it is deemed safe to do so with all infection prevention controls in place.

In the meantime our staff have continued throughout the pandemic to maintain contact with families and service users who are missing access to Day Services. As appropriate a number of families and individuals continue to avail of additional Home Support hours and Meals-on-Wheels services to supplement their loss of Day Services.

Yours sincerely,

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