



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL
CORCAIGH CIARRAI
CORK KERRY
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach | Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Páirc Gnó Model | Bóthar na Modh Feirme | Corcaigh
T12 HT02

Office of Mental Health Services | Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

Health Service Executive
Model Business Park | Model Farm Road | Cork
T12 HT02
T:021 4928724 / 021 4928581
E: MHCorkKerry@hse.ie

30th November 2021

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 55477 / 21

“To ask the Minister for Health if the projected cost saving to the Cork/Kerry community healthcare budget that would result from the proposed closure of a centre (details supplied) after all residents and staff have been transferred from the facility and it is no longer in operation will be used to cover other costs within the Cork/Kerry adult mental health services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: Owenacurra Centre, Midleton

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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

The Owenacurra Facility located in Midleton comprises of a day centre and also the Owenacurra Approved Centre which is a continuing care unit registered with the Mental Health Commission to provide Psychiatry of Later Life, continuing mental health care and mental health rehabilitation services. In addition, the Owenacurra Day Hospital is located on the grounds of the Midleton Community Hospital.

The budget assigned to Mental Health Services in Owenacurra is €3.1m for 2021. This includes pay and non-pay costs such as payroll, cleaning and sensitisation, catering, utilities, maintenance, etc. The process of finding the most appropriate alternative placements for all residents of the Owenacurra Approved Centre is underway and will continue for several more months to achieve our aim of finding the most appropriate placements possible and minimise disruption for residents. There is no plan to reduce staffing levels during this process and therefore there will be no reduction to service costs / budget assigned to the Owenacurra Centre in 2021.

Having consideration for the process underway with regards to identifying the most suitable placement for every resident based on their assessed needs, will and preferences it is not possible at this point to confirm what savings may be made within the Mental Health Services budget at the point in time the centre becomes non-operational. Notwithstanding this, I wish to assure you that Cork Kerry Community Healthcare recognises community services as a valuable resource in dealing with many health problems, including mental health problems and we welcome the governments ongoing investment in community based mental health services. The Governments mental health policy A Vision for Change sets out the framework for Irelands mental health services and guides the



development of our mental health services towards a model of service delivery which is service user centred, flexible and community based. I can confirm that the engagement is underway with regards to securing an alternative location for the Owenacurra Day Service. In addition, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare have given a commitment to retain the current site of the Owenacurra Centre to be used in the future for Mental Health Services and will review what healthcare services are required in the area so as to maximize the use of the site to the benefit of the local public.

I trust you find the above clarifies the query raised.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Morrison,
A/Head of Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare