



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
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Office of Mental Health Services | Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

Health Service Executive
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10th December, 2021

Deputy Pat Buckley,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 59126/21

“To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the Owenacurra Mental Health centre, Midleton, County Cork; if the building is deemed not fit for purpose, if it will be used for an alternative purpose; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare wish to emphasise that safety is central to the provision of a quality mental health service. The original plan for the Owenacurra Centre was to refurbish the building so as to bring it to a standard that allows for the provision of care and recovery which a modern service should provide and one that matches the care being provided there. However, as we moved to the advanced planning phase for the centre, serious concerns emerged that any level of refurbishment would not bring the building up to the standards required and neither would it be regarded as fit for purpose by our Regulator.

The HSE recognizes the interdependencies of risks, e.g. the relative safety of the service user and staff is dependent on the safety of the environment in which care is delivered. Advice from building experts and our HSE estates function, informed the HSE in its difficult decision to close the centre, given the unacceptable deficiencies in the existing accommodation and the investment of significant funding into a building which would still not bring the unit up to an acceptable accommodation standard for residents. With this in mind, there are no plans to use the Owenacurra building for alternative purposes however I can confirm that the site of the Owenacurra Centre will be used in the future for Mental Health Services.

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. We will continue to seek resources aligned to the proposed model of care as outlined in the ‘*Sharing the Vision*’ document and also aligning our existing resource to do so in as an effective manner as possible.



I trust you find the above clarifies the query raised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Morrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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