



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL
CORCAIGH CIARRAI
CORK KERRY
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

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

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Office of Mental Health Services | Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

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10th December, 2021

Deputy Pat Buckley
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 59129/21

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that some residents in the Owenacurra Mental Health Centre, Midleton, County Cork are being left with no choice but to sign up for the fair deal scheme as they are being offered no alternative accommodation within Midleton town’s surroundings; 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.

The priority of Mental Health Services Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) is to ensure that we identify the most suitable placement for every resident of the Owenacurra Centre based on their assessed needs, will and preferences. The process of finding the most appropriate alternative placements for the residents is currently underway and is likely to continue for several more months, so as to achieve our aim of finding the most appropriate placements possible and minimise disruption for each of our 18 residents. This process involves all key persons including the resident, him/herself, their families and the multi-disciplinary clinical team, in order to ensure that the transfer of each individual resident is to the most appropriate setting for each individual. Meetings with family members and residents continue and families will be advised as placement opportunities arise.

At this stage, all of the residents have had their needs assessed. Without in any way identifying individuals or their preferences, it is clear that some people will require ongoing continuing care while others can be facilitated to live in lower support settings and with a plan for ongoing rehabilitative support and potentially a form of semi-independent living. As each placement is specific to the assessed needs and preferences of each of the 18 residents, all feasible options with regards to alternative placements are being explored. In addition to the needs of the individual resident and their own personal will and preference with regards to alternative placement, management have consideration of a number of factors including suitability of the new environments, preference regarding sharing of accommodation, transport issues, etc.

We sincerely regret the fact that the centre needs to close, and in particular we acknowledge and regret the disruption for the 18 residents. The safety and wellbeing of residents is our utmost



priority and concern. We understand that the Owenacurra Centre has been their home, and we will do everything to make sure that their move to a new home is as easy and as smooth as possible.

In relation to your query regarding the Fair Deal Scheme and alternative placements identified which require a Fair Deal Application to be made, I wish to assure you that management are committed to ensuring that no resident will be disadvantaged by the closure of the Owenacurra Centre on their assessed needs if requiring continuing home care.

I trust you find the above clarifies the query raised.

Yours sincerely,



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