



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

19th October 2021

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Green Party
Dublin

PQ ref 47837/21

“To ask the Minister for Health if the clinical risks, for example, symptom regression, deterioration of mental state, decline in functioning and quality of life, associated with the proposed closure of the Owenacurra Centre for residents has been assessed; the way these risks are being monitored or managed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

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 Centre is a Mental Health Services continuing care unit in Midleton Co. Cork. It is registered with the Mental Health Commission to provide a service for 24 people for Psychiatry of Later Life, continuing mental health care, and mental health rehabilitation. There are currently 18 people resident in the Centre.

The original plan for the Owenacurra Centre was to refurbish. However, once planning work for this refurbishment began, and based on commissioned reports, it was established that refurbishment would effectively mean demolishing the building, as a full refurbishment in itself would not guarantee that the building would meet building requirements or be regarded as fit for purpose. The difficult but necessary decision to close the unit was then made in consultation with our Estates colleagues.

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.

Our priority is to make sure that we identify the most suitable placement for every resident based on their assessed needs, will and preferences. As acknowledged in communications to date, the process of finding the most appropriate alternative placements for all residents of the Owenacurra Centre will continue for several more months, beyond October 31st, so as to achieve our aim of finding the most appropriate placements possible and minimise disruption for residents.

With regards to your query as to the management of clinical risks, as is the case with any resident of the mental health services, all members of the multi-disciplinary clinical team play a role in ongoing



monitoring and management of mental state and functioning. With regards to the Owenacurra Centre itself, psychiatry doctors are on site twice weekly, including Consultant Psychiatrist one day per week. Residents are reviewed medically at these times. Residents also continue to have access to 24 hour mental health nursing staff on-site. Each resident is assigned a key nurse, with whom they link on an on-going basis. There is individualised monitoring and management of mental state and risk. Additional inputs from Allied Health Professionals on the multi-disciplinary clinical team are available as appropriate.

I trust you find the above clarifies the query raised.

Yours sincerely,



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