



Mr. Alan Farrell TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**PQ 7908/22** To ask the Minister for Health the status of the efforts to improve community health services in Fingal, County Dublin in line with growing population centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter. **Alan Farrell TD**

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Community Health Organisation Dublin North City & County (CHO DNCC) provides community based health and social services to a population of **621,405** (2016 census) which incorporates all of Fingal and the north part of Dublin City. These services include primary care services, social inclusion services, health and well-being services, services for people with disabilities, older persons and people who require specialist mental health supports. These services are delivered through the HSE and its funded agencies to people in local communities, as close as possible to their homes.

The expansion and development of the Integrated Care of Older Persons Teams (ICPOPs) continues at pace, while the Ambulatory Care Hub based at Chapel View on St Mary's Hospital Campus has now opened and team members have taken up residence. A works programme at St. Clare's to accommodate the Chronic Disease Management teams is also underway

Within the Community Health Networks in CHO DNCC of which 5 are located in Fingal (Balbriggan Area, Swords Area, Coastal Area, Blakestown Area, Blanchardstown Area) a number of key issues have been identified and are outlined below which will improve the health of the community and progress Community Health Services in Fingal, Co Dublin in line with the growing population.

- Physical infrastructure to support local access to community based health and social care facilities. The Health Service Executive is currently in advanced negotiations for the delivery of a new Primary Care Centre in Swords under operational lease. Within the Fingal areas of Balbriggan, Corduff, Blanchardstown and Portmarnock, Primary Care Centres have been delivered in recent years to help improve physical infrastructure in the Fingal Area.
- Opportunities to reduce health inequalities by focusing resources in areas of disadvantage.
- Optimising opportunities for integration of facilities e.g. disability and mental health supports with local sports and recreation developments.

Our primary focus for this year is the rollout of the Enhanced Community Care (ECC). Under this reform programme, each Community Healthcare Network in CHO DNCC will serve approximately 50,000 people. The networks provide structures that enable the professional staff and teams to work together in a more coordinated and consistent way, based on the assessed needs of the local population enabling integrated care across hospital and community services. CHNs will provide a clear pathway of care for patients, into and out of the acute hospital setting.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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Tom O'Brien  
Head of Service Primary Care