



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL
CORCAIGH CIARRAI
CORK KERRY
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

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

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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1st February 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2,

PQ ref 1417/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if he projects further reductions in 24-hour staffed residential provision for Cork mental health service users in the next five to ten years as per the arguments put forward at a meeting of the Oireachtas Committee on Health on 14 December 2021 in relation to the closure of the Owenacurra Centre, Midleton, County Cork which according to HSE management are consistent with A Vision for Change; 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 Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The current Mental Health Policy is “Sharing the Vision” which supersedes “Vision for Change”. Similar to “Vision for Change”, the policy focuses on earlier intervention and support in a timely manner within the community to enable people to live independently. With early intervention and intensive rehabilitation, the numbers requiring continuing care residence is expected to decrease. This is dependent on people who are availing of early intervention services and rehabilitation of high-dependency. We also have high-support hostels in the county and these provide a model of 24-7 supportive care.

It is worth noting that “Sharing the Vision” emphasises that many aspects of “A Vision for Change” remain including the need to continue to develop Community Mental Health Treatment Teams based on the staffing professions as detailed in “A Vision for Change” but with some flexibility in staffing, based on local need.

We are committed to delivering on the model of care, as outlined in “A Vision for Change”, where people have early intervention and access to rehabilitation teams. It has been recognised that early intervention can result in recovery. We all know that recovery is not a single point; it is a journey. It is important that people have that support over a period of time.

It is recognised that some individuals will need focused residential rehabilitation. The focus is very much on rehabilitation and having the advantage of experts from different disciplines, it is an important facet of the policy, whether we are talking about community care or care provided in a



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hospital setting. It is important that patients are included in the process and that they see their own care plans devised and delivered.

Service innovation has been matched with financial commitments, with the largest mental health budget on record in 2021 of more than €1.1 billion including the €23 million for implementation of many of the short-term recommendations in "Sharing the Vision."

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,



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