

2nd February 2022

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2,

PQ ref 1945/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if a series of matters in relation to mental health services (details supplied) will be examined and addressed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: “Minister, the local Youth Reach service in Cahersiveen and Killorglin was closed by Kerry ETB, this was an excellent service for young people who had fallen out and off of the mainstream system Why can't the National Learning Network provide outreach services in local rural communities? Why don't we have enough Occupational Therapists serving in local rural communities. Why don't we have an Mental Health Service that is integrated into the rural community. Why don't we have a system of integrated supports between the HSE and Kerry ETB and the National Network with the local community. Why don't we have equal access to all services in rural communities compared to urban communities.”

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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 refer to the above PQ in relation to mental health services for young people in Kerry. Please note, Kerry Mental Health Services are not in a position to provide information in relation to Kerry ETB or the National Learning Network.

With regard to our current Occupational Therapy WTE compliment, I wish to confirm there is 1 Occupational Therapist on the South Kerry Adult Community Mental Health Team in South Kerry and 1 with the Killarney Adult Community Mental Health Team. Furthermore, there is 1 Senior Grade OT and 2 recently recruited basic grade OT's working with the South Kerry CAMHS team. There are no unfilled posts currently, although at times health care workers might avail of unexpected leave.

It is important to note, Occupational Therapists working with Kerry Mental Health services are always supportive when clients attending them seek to engage with Kerry ETB or the National Learning Network. It is hoped that under Slainte care Mental Health services are closely aligned to community healthcare networks in primary care. This will allow for the further integration with primary care, community and voluntary services.

I trust this clarifies the query raised.

Kind regards,



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