

28th June 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 30696/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the managers that decided to close Owenacurra Centre in June 2021; if they consulted with any other HSE managers or stakeholders before arriving at the decision; the managers whose service plan it was to remove and not replace all 24-hour staffed mental health placements from east Cork that have been provided by the centre; the number of 24-hour staffed mental health placements that local management aim to provide as part of current service plans for east Cork; the timeframe for this plan coming into effect; 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.

Mental Health Services received a letter from HSE Estates on 18th June 2021 with a set of reports relating to Owenacurra Centre.

On the 22nd of June 2021, the Chief Officer Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH), HSE Estates and Mental Health Services had a meeting to explore the options available to it in light of the available information. On foot of this discussion, the Chief Officer CKCH made the decision to close the Centre. This decision was formally communicated to residents and staff of the Centre on the 28th June 2021.

With regard to 24-hour staffed mental health placements that local management aim to provide as part of current service plans for East Cork, I wish to advise that we will provide a new 10-bed rehabilitative residential unit in Midleton town. This service will have 24 hour staffing, and will have a focus on support people to return to their homes and communities. We will appoint a development team which will conduct an options appraisal, and engage with people using mental health services in the area. The Owenacurra site will be among the possible locations considered.

In addition to the above, we will also provide at least one community residence in Midleton town, for three or four residents. This will have 24-hour staffing and will be available to anyone in need of residential mental health services who's needs are assessed (by a psychiatrist) as being met by a service like this.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



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