

12th July 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 33787/22

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 685 of 31 May 2022, the date that a meeting in relation to the placement needs of the residents of a centre (details supplied) and persons took place; the date that a second meeting took place; the reason that no minutes were taken of either meeting given the significance of the residents' situation; if any records outside of formal minutes exist; and if he will make a statement on the matter..”

Details supplied: Millfield House; the north Lee clinical director, assistant director of nursing, occupational therapy manager, principal clinical psychologist, principal social work and area administrator; second meeting between the same managers, as well as the executive clinical director, consultant psychiatrist, senior occupational therapist and acting general manager

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.

At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Cork Kerry Management along with relevant Clinical Directors formed a Mental Health Services Covid-19 steering group to discuss issues as they arise during the outbreak of the pandemic. One of the many matters discussed was the need for single room accommodation for residents in Millfield House, a high support hostel. Residents were sharing small multi-occupancy rooms and every effort was made to source more suitable, safer accommodation from an Infection, Prevention and Control perspective. Garnish house was sourced which allowed single room occupancy for all Millfield House residents and also single rooms for a number of residents from other community residences.

I note in PQ 27515/22, I had outlined that a meeting took place on 12th April in relation to transfer of Millfield residents to other facilities. After seeking further clarification and undergoing document searches, I am advised that this meeting scheduled for 12th April did not take place due to the availability of relevant staff. Notwithstanding this, I can further confirm that teleconferences took place on the 27th April 2020 and 30th April 2020 with the above Mental Health Services Covid-19 steering group in which the transfer of residents from Millfield House to Garnish House was discussed. I can also confirm that minutes were taken at the above meetings and were issued to the group the same day.

I am also advised the other meeting referenced in PQ 27515/22 took place on 17th August 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the introduction of a Therapy program for the former

residents of Millfield House in the context of the ability to use the ground floor of the Millfield house to provide space to commence small groups again in the context of Therapeutic MDT input and if other outdoor programs could be considered walking groups etc.

The provision of community residence accommodation and its infection prevention and control measures remain a priority for the service, and in that context the community residences within CKCH continue to be evaluated.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



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