

31st March 2022

Deputy Pat Buckley
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 14320/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that if the Owenacurra Health Centre, Midleton, County Cork is to be closed by the HSE that there will be a loss of 24 long stay residential beds and respite facilities for persons with severe and enduring mental health difficulties in east County Cork; the plans of the HSE to retain these services in Midleton, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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.

We sincerely regret the fact that the centre needs to close, and in particular we acknowledge and regret the disruption for the residents of the Owenacurra Centre. The safety and wellbeing of residents is our utmost priority and concern. We understand that the Owenacurra Centre has been their home, and we will do everything to make sure that their move to a new home is as easy and as smooth as possible. The priority of Mental Health Services Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) is to ensure that we identify the most suitable placement for every resident of the Owenacurra Centre based on their assessed needs, will and preferences. This process is currently underway and engagement is underway and ongoing with residents and their families.

A commitment to source a community house in Midleton town was made to facilitate any resident of Owenacurra that may be suitable for this facility or any service user in East Cork. The model for this service would be rehabilitation focussed with healthcare professional staff supporting the residents. In addition we have provided assurances that we will explore options to relocate and reinstate the day service in the town as soon as possible.

We will also be entering into discussions with the local authority and housing bodies regarding the use of the site for the purposes of providing appropriate community housing with support to people from the community with mental health needs in the future.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



Mr Kevin Morrison

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