

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County Bainisteoir Ginearálta Cúram Príomhuil Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Saoráid Cúram Sláinte Bhaile Munna Baile Munna, Baile Átha Cliath 9.

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General Manager Primary Care Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County Ballymun Healthcare Facility Ballymun, Dublin 9.

Ms. Róisín Shortall TD Dáil Éireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2

1st April 2022

PQ 15922/22 To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the Public Health Nurse (PHN) service at a centre (details supplied) in Dublin 11; the number of staff currently on the team at this location including their grades; if any of the team are on leave; if cover is in place; the level of service currently being provided by the team for parents of babies and young children; and if he will make a statement on the matter $-R\acute{o}is\acute{n}$ Shortall TD

Details Supplied: Ballygall Health Centre, Seamus Ennis Road, Dublin 11. Local residents maintain the following: mothers of young babies are concerned at the lack of contact and support from the public health nurse team here; they cannot get through to the Health Centre; they need the urgent reinstatement of supports and home visits.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position presently at HSE Ballygall Health Centre, Seamus Ennis Road, Dublin 11.

By the way of background, from the period March 2020 until 1st March 2022, the Public Health Nursing Service across Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) ran a Priority 1 Service. The Public Health Nursing Team were available to everyone who contacted the service, which included caring for the post-natal mother and infant; new born screen tests; child protection concerns; wound care; palliative care and urgent assessments of vulnerable adults. Parents who contacted the Health Centre with queries on their children's developmental screening were also managed,

I am pleased to confirm that a full service for mothers, infants and children has now resumed but the latest surge in Covid-19 since 21st March 2022 has unfortunately impacted the service currently provided due to illness.

I can advise that if any of the team are on leave cross cover is provided by all members of the Nursing team on a daily basis. Local redeployment is also in place between health centres to ensure sufficient resourcing is in place



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There are 10 nursing positions in Ballygall Health Centre, five Public Health Nurses and five Registered General Nurses (RGN). An Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing is also based in the Health Centre. An RGN position has been vacant since August 2021, this position has been prioritised to be filled and interviews have taken place. The centre is supported by both a full time administrator and porter. Both are present daily. All phone messages are passed to the Nurses on duty on a daily basis.

For instances where specific issues have been identified, if the contact details are passed on, we will ensure that they are followed up.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Forde

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General Manager Primary Care