

11th April 2022

Deputy David Stanton
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 16875/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the future plans for the Owenacurra Mental Health Centre and site in Midleton, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Stanton

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare wish to emphasise that safety is central to the provision of a quality mental health service. The original plan for the Owenacurra Centre was to refurbish the building so as to bring it to a standard that allows for the provision of care and recovery which a modern service should provide and one that matches the care being provided there. However, as we moved to the advanced planning phase for the centre, serious concerns emerged that any level of refurbishment would not bring the building up to the standards required and neither would it be regarded as fit for purpose by our Regulator.

The HSE recognizes the interdependencies of risks, e.g. the relative safety of the service user and staff is dependent on the safety of the environment in which care is delivered. Advice from building experts and our HSE estates function, informed the HSE in its difficult decision to close the centre, given the unacceptable deficiencies in the existing accommodation and the investment of significant funding into a building which would still not bring the unit up to an acceptable accommodation standard for residents. With this in mind, there are no plans to use the Owenacurra building for alternative purposes however I can confirm that the site of the Owenacurra Centre will be used in the future for Mental Health Services.

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 and this process continues. The model for this service would be rehabilitation focussed with visiting 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 and can confirm an interim service is operational.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



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