South East Community Healthcare,
Mental Health Services,
St. Canice's Hospital Complex,
Kilkenny
R95P231

28.03.2022

Gino Kenny TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 17017 22

To ask the Minister for Health the plans for the Brook House mental health facility in County Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kenny

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed this matter and the following is the position:

The Brook House Day Service was closed in response to the COVID pandemic. As part of service emergency planning response to Covid there was a redeployment of staff to other areas in order to sustain safe service provision within the approved centres and other 24/7 staffed service areas.
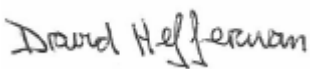
It was not possible to re-open the Brook House Day Service during the initial phase of re-opening of day services due to critical staff shortages across the Waterford Mental Health Service at which time the service management had to risk assess continuation of acute and residential service as a priority within the available staff resource.

Due to the current pandemic wave there remains a critical staff shortage within the Waterford Mental Health Service and a number of in-patient and residential services are currently managing outbreaks of Covid 19 with depleted staff resources as a result of Covid related absenteeism.

The Waterford MHS Management Team are currently reviewing the potential re-opening of the Brook House Day Service but at this time are unable to provide a date for this to happen until such time as it is safe to do so for both staff and service users due to the exceptional levels of Covid 19 currently in circulation.

Should you require any further information in relation to same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

David Heffernan
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David Heffernan
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare