

7th June 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 26239/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the exact location of the new property proposed for purchase by the HSE in east County Cork to be used as a mental health facility; the cost of the property; the planning permission status of the property; the number of residents who will be accommodated; the level of service provision it will involve; if the service will be staffed on a 24-hour basis; the reason that the purchase is being pursued without consultation with the residents of a centre (details supplied) and their families regarding its location; the staff members in the HSE who decided on this purchase; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Details supplied: Owenacurra Centre

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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

A 10 bed rehabilitation unit is in line with the Model of Care which is part of government policy for Mental Health Services. As the Deputy will be aware, a commitment to source a community house in Midleton town was made by the Chief Officer to facilitate any current resident of Owenacurra that may be suitable for this facility or any service user in East Cork. While the HSE has commenced the process of sourcing premises no contracts have been arranged for a specific location at this stage. Therefore the cost of the property, planning permission, number of resources or service level agreements can be determined. The model for this service would be rehabilitation focussed, with healthcare professional staff supporting the residents.

Once a community house in Midleton has been identified and purchase process completed, the HSE will engage with residents and their families to assess their suitability, needs and preference for a supported living model for people with mental health needs in the community. The service remains committed to providing the best possible solution for all residents of the Owenacurra Centre.

I trust you find the above clarifies the query raised.

Kind regards,



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