

02nd June 2022

Ms. Holly Cairns T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 26931/22

"To ask the Minister for Health the status of the development of addiction services in Cork south-west."

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

In 2017/18, the SRDATF (Southern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force) and CLDATF (Cork Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force) commissioned a review of current service delivery of community-based drug and alcohol services against the background of policy developments described in the National Drug & Alcohol Strategy 2017-25, Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery, developments within social inclusion and health service delivery and the changing socio-demographic of the region.

A key recommendation of the review was to align all community drug and alcohol services in a decentralised hub structure with one single employer. Following an expression of interest and interview process, Coolmine was appointed as the service provider. A partnership comprising Coolmine, HSE Addiction Services, SRDATF and CLDATF was established to collaboratively set up, manage, support, provide, and monitor quality drug and alcohol services across the region to meet presenting needs. The West Cork Hub is located in Gabriel Lodge, Ahiohill. While this is the base of operations, satellite locations have also been established to provide 'closer-to-home' services.

Hubs are community-based services where service users can avail of seamless, high-quality, multi-agency, multidisciplinary professional addiction treatment services. The hubs are a welcoming and safe place for all service users. The team in West Cork, includes a Team Leader, 3 Project Workers, 1 Addiction Counsellor and a Clerical Officer. Another Addiction Counsellor is due to be recruited in the near future. The Addiction Counsellors will be supported by a HSE Senior Addiction Counsellor and the service will also be supported by a GP in the coming weeks.

This has been a significant investment in Community Based Drug and Alcohol Services in West Cork.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare