



Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta,
Bóthar na Modh Feirme, Corcaigh, T12 XHT4

Office of Mental Health Service
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

Caha House, Business & Technology
Park, Model Farm Road, Cork,
T12 XHT4

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

T 021-4868268
E MHSCorkKerry@hse.ie

9th May 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 19459/23

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 170 of 9 February 2022, how the HSE's Capital Plan for Cork residential mental health services can be in accordance with either the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities or the HSE's own Model of Care for People with Severe and Enduring Mental Illness and Complex Needs when it involves replacement of facilities for 'continuing care' residents on the grounds of St. Stephen's Hospital, Glanmire and St. Finbarr's Hospital, Cork, as opposed to the further development of community-integrated services for this cohort of service-users; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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

The HSE recognises that within Article 1(Purpose) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that people with certain mental health needs are encompassed as follows:

‘Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.’

Within the Convention Article 19, provides for *Living Independently and being included in the community* setting out the requirements for the following:

- (a) *Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;*
- (b) *Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;*
- (c) *Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.*

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Mental Health Services provide a range of residential services (including both community residences and continuing care residences). It must be recognized that people with mental health care needs require different levels of support, often at different stages of their lives and for varying periods of time. These care needs are assessed by clinical staff. People may also vary in terms of their ability to live independently and require different levels of care across the continuum of care necessitating the need for a range of residential services – i.e both community based and continuing care. Whilst there is an increased move towards Community Rehabilitation and Recovery Services within Mental Health Services



there are also service users who will require the on-going support and structure of a community residence geared towards continuing care.

Staff work with and support service users in terms of exercising their will and preference for the services best suited to meet their care needs within available residential and community options. In line with the HSE Model of Care for People with Severe and Enduring Mental Illness and Complex Needs, Community Rehabilitation Teams will provide a range of interventions based on the changing needs of the individual service user both in the community and in residential settings as appropriate. It is expected that service users will progress across levels of care. Where appropriate Teams will support service users in obtaining appropriate independent community accommodation and will link with local authorities and voluntary housing associations to advocate for access to appropriate housing for service users. They will develop the capacity to provide support for service users who transition to independent community accommodation and develop links with other tenancy support and visiting services.

In terms of the current provision of community and continuing care residential services the following is the position in Cork and Kerry:

Community Residences

At present there are ten community residences in Cork and four in Kerry. An additional property has been purchased in Midleton for resident of Owenacurra which will support a community living model. CKCH MHS and HSE Estates continue to explore options for a second property in the area.

Continuing Care

In Cork there are 7 MHS continuing care units which it should be noted are regulated by the Mental Health Commission in Cork and Kerry as follows:

- Four continuing care units within St Stephens Glanmire
- One in Owenacurra, Midleton which is closing and will be replaced in 2024
- One St Catherines on the Douglas Road
- Kerry has one Continuing Care unit – Deerlodge which opened in 2017

Owenacurra is due to close and will be replaced with a ten bedded unit due for construction in 2024

There is a requirement for replacement of St Catherine and St Stephens Units which have been included in CKCH MHS capital submission for Capital Funding.

In early 2022 CKCH MHS convened a working group with a project lead and seconded nurse planner to deliver a Cork Mental Health Services Strategic Capital Plan, 2022. The Plan is for the medium term and sets out the requirements of CKCH to deliver acceptable, recovery orientated acute and semi acute environments. Key services for improvement were outlined in the plan needing a commitment to on-going investment including:

- Plans to rebuild appropriate residential services in St Stephen's in Glanmire
- Refurbishment of the Acute Unit at the Mercy Hospital
- Replacement of the St Catherine's facility at St Finbarr's

Included in the plan are also capital works to the following Acute Mental Health Units

- Options Appraisal for Centre for Mental Health Care & Recovery, Bantry
- Refurbishment of the Carraig Mor Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit

The HSE welcomes the inclusion of continuing care in St Stephens Hospital in 2023 National Capital Plan.

CKCH MHS are also reviewing other community residential settings across Cork and Kerry, many of them also requiring refurbishment. This strategic review of mental health settings will require a multi-annual capital investment programme and we will need support to make it a reality over the next decade.



I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Julie O' Neill
Interim Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare